

# Public Document Pack

**Sefton Council** 

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: 5 March 2024

TIME: 18:30

VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

## Member

Councillor  
Cllr. Liz Dowd (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. 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  
Telephone: 0151 934 2068  
E-mail: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

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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 - 14)

Minutes of the meeting held 19 February 2024

## 4. Housing Standards Team - Damp Mould and Condensation

(Pages 15 - 32)

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

## 5. Sefton Economic Strategy Update (March 2024)

(Pages 33 - 62)

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

## 6. Social Value and the Growth and Strategic Investment Programme

(Pages 63 - 172)

Report of the Executive Director of Place

## 7. Refuse and Waste Recycling

(Pages 173 - 180)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

## 8. Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

(Pages 181 - 210)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

- 9. Cabinet Member Reports - January 2024 to March 2024** (Pages 211 - 238)  
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, SOUTHPORT  
ON MONDAY 19TH FEBRUARY, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Dowd (in the Chair)  
Councillors Corcoran, Dodd, McKee, Catie Page,  
Sir Ron Watson and Webster

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Fairclough, Keith, Pugh and Veidman

### 38. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Harvey, Lloyd-Johnson and Christine Maher.

### 39. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

### 40. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 16 January 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 41. ADOPTION OF HESKETH ROAD CONSERVATION AREA APPRAISAL AND MANAGEMENT PLAN (WITH BOUNDARY CHANGE)

The Committee considered (a) the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer, which set out the decision of the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control in relation to the Adoption of Hesketh Road Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (with boundary change) and the reasons why the decision had been called-in; and (b) the report of the Chief Planning Officer which was considered by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control in relation to this matter.

The decision taken by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control on 22 December 2023 in relation to this matter was as follows:

#### Decision Made:

- (1) the adoption of the Hesketh Road Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan as a background planning document where there contents will be a material consideration in the determination of planning applications, be approved; and
- (2) the proposed amendments to Hesketh Road Conservation Area

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shown on the plan appended as Annex 2, under the provisions of Section 69 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990, be approved.

### **Reason for Decision:**

That Cabinet Member approves the documents to fulfil the Council's statutory duties under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990.

### **Alternative Options Considered:**

The alternative options are:

-That no Conservation Area Appraisal nor Management Plan are carried out which would not be in the best interests of preserving and enhancing Hesketh Road Conservation Area.

-That the proposed boundary extension is not approved which means that the current boundary will be retained as it is.

The decision was subsequently called-in by Councillors Lloyd-Johnson, Keith and Pugh.

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

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

Councillor Keith, on behalf of Councillors Lloyd-Johnson and Pugh addressed the Committee and outlined and amplified the reasons for the call-in as follows:

- (1) Bearing in mind the significant legal complications and consequences of this decision we seek to gain better understanding of the decision and its implications.
- (2) We wish to question the manifestly weak and unsubstantiated reasoning. We therefore wish to question the soundness of the decision based on facts taken or not taken into account.
- (3) We believe an unnecessary outcome has been arrived at without adequate scrutiny and therefore conflicts with existing frameworks and policies and prompting us to question whether the decision conforms with agreed policies.

Councillor Veidman, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control explained the decision and the reasons why it was taken by him. Councillor Veidman indicated that the Council had a statutory duty to preserve and enhance the conservation area; that this was an on-going process and that the views of all stakeholders were taken into account during the appraisal; that many discussions were held with the golf club but that ultimately a decision had to be taken to introduce further protections to the conservation area; and that he did not consider that his decision would in any way hinder the golf club from carrying out its activities. Councillor Veidman concluded that he was pleased to hear of the golf club's intention to preserve buildings on its site.

Derek McKenzie, Chief Planning Officer reported on the issues and the reasons for his recommendation and advice to the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control. Mr. McKenzie agreed with Councillor Veidman's comments and indicated that the Council had a statutory duty to designate and review conservation areas under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 and had a good track record of meeting this obligation in order to preserve the Borough's heritage; That he considered that the proposed conservation area extension met all of the criteria for making such designations, and that the Council had been consistent in its arguments for this; that he believed that the Council had followed the correct procedure for making such designations, and had gone over and above in terms of assisting the golf club by extending the consultation period to accommodate a formal objection, meeting members on site, the Council's tree officer giving advice on trees, and agreeing to a number of textual changes in the appraisal, and making a balanced recommendation to the Cabinet member; and that the particular objections by the Golf Club had not been ignored, it was just that they were not material or relevant to the decision-making process.

No questions/comments were posed by Members of the Committee in relation to the call-in.

Councillor Veidman, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control then summed up his position. Councillor Veidman indicated that his decision delivered objectives to preserve and enhance the conservation area; and that he considered that there was no negative impact on the golf club undertaking its activities.

Councillor Keith, on behalf of Councillors Lloyd-Johnson and Pugh summed up the position of the call-in Members. Councillor Keith acknowledged that there was a good relationship between the Council and the golf club but that more dialogue was needed for clarity as to how the Management Plan would work; that there was no danger to the Ireland buildings as the Council owned them and these could therefore be protected under the terms of the lease; and that there was also a covenant in place that the buildings could not be demolished.

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

The Democratic Services Officer officiated the vote and the Chair declared that the Motion was carried by 7 votes to 0 and it was unanimously

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the validity of the call-in be accepted; and
- (2) the Committee is not concerned and accepts the decision made by the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control in relation to the Adoption of Hesketh Road Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan (with boundary change).

## **42. NORTH SOUTH ACTIVE TRAVEL ROUTE IN SOUTHPORT – NEXT STEPS**

The Committee considered (a) the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer, which set out the decision of the Cabinet Member – Locality Services in relation to the North South Active Travel Route in Southport – Next Steps and the reasons why the decision had been called-in; and (b) the report of the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) which was considered by the Cabinet Member – Locality Services in relation to this matter.

The decision taken by the Cabinet Member – Locality Services on 11 January 2024 in relation to this matter was as follows:

### **Decision Made:**

That

- (1) the retention of the current Southport route be approved;
- (2) the progression of the further work identified within the report to explore short, medium, and longer-term improvements to the route, including better incorporating active travel provision within wider public realm improvements within the town centre be supported;
- (3) the commissioning by the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) of a Stage 4 Road Safety Audit for the routes be approved, and implementation of any minor modifications recommended;
- (4) an application to the Secretary of State for an extension of the current Temporary Traffic Regulation Order, to allow the period of consultation and consideration relating to a permanent Traffic Regulation Order to be completed, be supported; and



- (5) the process for advertising Permanent Traffic Regulation Order as set out in the Report be approved.

### **Reason for Decision:**

Cabinet Member had previously approved the scheme noting that they would be delivered using Temporary Traffic Regulation Orders (TTRO) and be subject to monitoring and evaluation prior to any decision over whether they be retained as permanent. The current TTRO expires in early 2024 and therefore it is appropriate to now determine whether the scheme is retained, modified or removed, in order to enable the formal consultation process associated with any permanent TRO to be undertaken.

Should Cabinet Member accept the recommendations identified above, then resources can be allocated to progressing the further actions identified and included within the development of a Pipeline of projects to help inform the City Region Combined Authority in their bid for future funding.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

The option of removing the scheme in its entirety has been considered. This option has not been recommended as the data captured shows substantial use of the facility by cyclists since implementation, and very substantial numbers of pedestrians and motor vehicles, supporting the need for safe, and attractive provision for people walking, cycling and wheeling, as well as those driving motor vehicles within our town centres. The report also demonstrates a strong link to national, regional and local strategy objectives.

It is acknowledged that some improvements could be made, further improving safety, attractiveness and addressing some of the issues raised. Proposed actions are set out in the report, but these will take time and funding to develop and deliver. As such it is considered sensible to retain the scheme in its current form whilst these improvements are developed.

The decision was subsequently called-in by Councillors Pugh, Shaw and Brodie-Browne.

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

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

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Councillor Pugh, on behalf of Councillors Shaw and Brodie-Browne addressed the Committee and outlined and amplified the reasons for the call-in as follows:

- (1) Bearing in mind the significant complications and consequences of this decision we seek to gain a better understanding of the decision and its implications.
- (2) We wish to question the manifestly weak reasoning behind the decision given the report does not adequately address the crucial issues of modal shift, traffic diversion and business impact.
- (3) We believe the decision has been made on the basis of a consultation process that provides only limited support for retaining the status quo and is itself flawed.

Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services explained the decision and the reasons why it was taken by him. Councillor Fairclough advised that his decision authorised the retention of the current North-South Active Travel Route in Southport; that the route runs between the junction of Park Road and Queen’s Road in the north, through the town centre, to the junction of Talbot Street and Aughton Road in the south; that it was made up of a mix of “share with care” areas, quiet streets and segregated cycle lanes, depending upon the nature of the roads and the highway space available; and that a decision had been taken to authorise short, medium and long-term work to explore and implement improvements, including addressing the few areas of dissatisfaction and improving the appearance of the route as part of better public realm.

Councillor Fairclough explained the reasoning behind his decision which included the Council declaration of a Climate Emergency and its commitment to reduce carbon emissions, by making the Council’s activities net-zero by 2030 and ensuring all strategic decisions were in line with this; that research had shown that most car journeys were less than 5 miles and in urban areas, more than 40% were under 2 miles and that for many people, these journeys could be walked or cycled; that the Council’s Climate Change Emergency Plan committed the Council to explore the expansion of sustainable transport networks and facilities, such as cycle routes; and that his decision was not just about carbon reduction though, and aimed to improve air quality and public health.

Councillor Fairclough concluded that there was a need to create better balanced towns, with safer, more convenient and more enjoyable walking, wheeling and cycling, facilities, particularly for shorter journeys and everyday activities; that the scheme was introduced in 2020 with government funding, as part of a national programme to create temporary “pop-up” routes to help people to continue with everyday activities during the Covid-19 Pandemic; and that, unfortunately, government requirements, and the urgency to act, prevented any meaningful consultation prior to implementation and this undoubtedly contributed to some initial objection to the scheme.

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Peter Moore, Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) reported on the issues and the reasons for his recommendation and advice to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services.

Mr. Moore indicated that the first reason for the recommendations to retain and improve the scheme was the good strategic fit with key local, regional and national climate change, transport and public health strategic objectives; that this linked in to the Southport Town Deal commitment to create new, accessible, well-connected, high quality, public spaces, providing priority for walking and cycling, in support of clean growth; and that this commitment was a direct response to feedback from people who said they wanted to be able to walk and cycle more easily and safely in the town, and it was believed this scheme could contribute to that, particularly if the scheme could be integrated into improved public realm.

The second reason for the recommendations was the use of the scheme. The Monitoring and Evaluation Plan for the scheme was developed and undertaken in line with Department for Transport Guidance for assessing Active Travel schemes and this included the timing of the evaluation, which was in line with changed government guidance. The resultant monitoring and evaluation data was predominantly positive, and it was believed that the few areas of dissatisfaction could be addressed. The data showed that the route was well used, with approximately 2.3m pedestrian journeys, 1m vehicle journeys and 157,000 cycling journeys; grouped together, 72% or more than 7 in 10 of the journeys in this area, were Active Travel Journeys; this level of use supported the need for good, safe walking, wheeling and cycling infrastructure; the substantial number of vehicle journeys on shared sections, specifically supported the retention, and improvement of the segregated section on Houghton Street, and the traffic reduction measures on other sections, in order to adequately protect cyclists; that looking at the times and reasons, showed that the majority of these active travel journeys (64%) were everyday journeys to the shops, services, work or education; that people walking, wheeling and cycling on the route were surveyed and more than 80% were happy with the route and 25% said they were encouraged to use the route more since the scheme was put in; and that it was predicted that the presence of the current infrastructure, and future improvements, would encourage more users over time.

The third reason for the recommendations was improved road safety. The report compared road accident data in the three years prior to and since implementation; and the data showed that there had been a 40% reduction in injuries on Houghton Street and a 75% reduction on Queens Road since the scheme was introduced. In both periods, all but one of the injured people were cyclists, so this represented a reduction from 10 injured cyclists to 3. The injuries that had occurred with the scheme in place, were all at junctions, and Members should note from the proposed short, medium and longer-term actions, that this would be a specific focus for enhancements. The scheme has made it easier, safer and more comfortable for people to do these active travel journeys and the removal of the scheme would have the opposite effects.

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The final reason was the realistic scope for further improvement and opportunities to address the few areas causing dissatisfaction; and the Cabinet Member's decision authorised officers to explore and implement short, medium and longer-term actions, and officers were confident that through these actions they would be able to address the few points of dissatisfaction and the suggested areas for improvement identified through the consultation and engagement undertaken.

Councillor Pugh, lead call-in Member, Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services and Peter Moore, Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) responded to questions/comments posed by Members of the Committee in relation to the call-in concerning:

- the pressure of Covid-19 driving the introduction of the Active Travel Route schemes
- the Department of Transport stipulation that funding would be clawed- back, or future grant payments being adjusted downwards, if work was not started within four weeks of receiving the allocation; and the monitoring regime in place by Active Travel England
- statistical information containing multiple counting of pedestrians, cycles and vehicles making repeated journeys
- the on-going revenue implications for the maintenance of cycle lane schemes and the impact on other highway maintenance budgets
- business closures were occurring all over Southport and not just in areas where cycle lanes had been introduced
- the impact of the cycle lanes in Hoghton Street on parking provision for patrons of the Southport Little Theatre
- School Streets pilots as part of the active travel scheme
- Improvements to the Coastal Road cycle path
- Improvements to infrastructure to ensure everyone had an attractive and safe choice to walk, wheel or ride

Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services then summed up his position and indicated that people would like to cycle more but required better infrastructure to make them feel safer doing so; there was a need for an integrated transport system and this scheme could form part of this; and that importantly, there was a need to improve air quality for all and improve safety on our roads.

Councillor Pugh, on behalf of Councillors Shaw and Brodie-Browne summed up the position of the call-in Members. Councillor Pugh indicated that he was in favour of cycle routes but the report did not demonstrate that objectives with the scheme had been met and no measure of increased cycling or declining car use was presented; that the response rate to the consultation exercise was poor; regarding accidents, an investigation should be undertaken by an organisation such as the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents; the climate emergency need to reduce emissions was acknowledged but the report did not provide evidence that the scheme was achieving this; vehicle drivers were, in

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some instances, having to take longer journeys to reach their destinations thereby causing more pollution; it was stated that that officers did not have adequate resources to evaluate traffic movements associated with the scheme but a full and proper evaluation was required; the inclusion in statistics of lots of shoppers using Chapel Street did not prove the scheme to be a success.

A Motion was moved by Councillor McKee and seconded by Councillor Catie Page that the Committee is not concerned about the decision made by the Cabinet Member – Locality Services.

The Democratic Services Officer officiated the vote and the Chair declared that the Motion was carried by 5 votes to 2 and it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the validity of the call-in be accepted; and
- (2) the Committee is not concerned and accepts the decision made by the Cabinet Member – Locality Services in relation to the North South Active Travel Route in Southport – Next Steps.

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# Agenda Item 4

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Housing Standards Team - Damp Mould and Condensation	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director Economic Growth and Housing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	No	<b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b>	No
<b>Exempt/ Confidential</b>	No		

## Purpose/Summary

To update the committee on the work done by the Housing Standards Team in response to issues of damp and mould in residential properties in the borough.

## Recommendation:

That the Committee notes the contents of the report and the approach in response to issues of damp and mould in residential properties in the borough be endorsed.

## Reasons for the Recommendation:

To comply with a Council resolution to update the Committee on how damp and mould issues are dealt with in private and socially rented properties in the borough.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to be updated on this area.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report.

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no financial implications arising for the Council as a direct result of this report.

## Implications:

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

**Financial:** None

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<b>Legal:</b> None	
<b>Human Resources:</b> None	
<b>Equality:</b> None	
<b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b> None	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>  The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report.	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose

**Protect the most vulnerable:** The work of the Housing Standards Team ensures that residents in the borough are protected from the effects that can result from poor quality housing, particularly damp and mould issues.

**Facilitate confident and resilient communities:** Good quality housing is a basic requirement of a confident and resilient community

**Commission, broker and provide core services:** The Housing Standards Team provide a core service to residents of the borough.

**Place – leadership and influencer:** None directly associated with this report

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

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

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

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

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

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7506/24). The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5606/24) have been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

**Implementation Date for the Decision:** Immediately following the meeting

**Contact Officer:** Lee Payne

**Tel:** 07812 776372

**Email:** lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection



## 1. Background

- 1.1 On the 15<sup>th</sup> November the senior coroner for the District of Manchester North Coroner published a report by the Senior Coroner, Ms Joanne Kearsley, into the death of Awaab Ishak who died in December 2020. Awaab was aged 2 years at the time of his death from a severe respiratory condition due to prolonged exposure to mould in his home. The property was managed by Rochdale Boroughwide Housing (RBH) a tenant and employee co-owned mutual housing society, registered with the Regulator of Social Housing, set up to manage over 12,000 former Council owned homes.
- 1.2 Extensive media coverage has followed the publication of the coroner's report, and shortly after the conclusions of the case became public the RBH Board took the decision to dismiss Gareth Swarbrick as Chief Executive with immediate effect.
- 1.3 On the 19<sup>th</sup> November the Secretary of State of Housing, Mr Michael Gove, has written to all Local Authorities requesting assurances about how housing enforcement work relating to damp and mould is being resourced and managed and for data relating to identified damp and mould cases and action taken
- 1.4 On the 22<sup>nd</sup> November Fiona MacGregor, Chief Executive of the Regulator for Social Housing wrote to all registered providers of social housing requesting information on the provider's response to managing damp and mould cases in their homes.

## 2. Housing Enforcement – Damp and Mould

- 2.1 The Housing Standards Team (HST) is responsible for housing enforcement activity, including on vacant homes, and managing the Council's mandatory, additional HMO and selective landlord licencing schemes.
- 2.2 The enforcement of housing standards is primarily based on the Housing Health and Safety Rating System. The housing health and safety rating system (HHSRS) is a risk-based evaluation tool to help local authorities identify and protect against potential risks and hazards to health and safety from any deficiencies identified in dwellings. It was introduced under the Housing Act 2004 and applies to residential properties in England and Wales.
- 2.3 The HHSRS assessment method focuses on the hazards that are present in housing. HHSRS assesses 29 housing hazards and the effect that each may have on the health and safety of current or future occupants of the property. The HHSRS provides a way that hazards can be assessed and the best way of dealing with them identified. If a hazard is a serious and immediate risk to a person's health and safety, this is known as a **Category 1 hazard**. If a hazard is less serious or less urgent, this is known as a **Category 2 hazard**.

The 29 housing hazards contained within the HHSRS are appended to this report at Appendix I.

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- 2.4 The vast majority of cases relating to HHSRS Hazards #1 – ‘Damp and Mould Growth’ are Category 2 hazards. Based on a data from our compliance checks carried out as part of the Landlord Licencing 1.6% of properties suffered from the more serious Category 1 level hazards, and Category 2 damp and mould hazards were found in in 30% of privately rented homes.

## *Private Rented Sector*

- 2.5 The majority of the damp and mould caseload managed by the HST related to privately rented properties. Based upon the 2021 Census Sefton 18.3% of the borough’s properties are privately rented. Private renting occurs across the borough, but is particularly prevalent in older stock in Southport, Bootle, Litherland, Seaford and Waterloo. A plan showing the distribution of privately rented properties in the borough is appended to this report at Appendix II.
- 2.6 The introduction of the Landlord Licencing Scheme in March 2018 has helped to ensure that residential properties rented privately in the borough meet minimum quality standards. Approximately 3,400 properties in the borough are licenced through the selective licencing route, and a further 265 under the Additional HMO scheme.
- 2.7 In March 2023 a new 5-year Landlord Licencing scheme began, requiring privately rented properties that fall under the scheme to be licenced, or re-licenced. As part of the licencing process it is often necessary to carry out pre-licencing compliance visits, and from the start of the new scheme on the 1<sup>st</sup> March 2023 until the end of November 2023 304 such visits were undertaken. Compliance visits carried out as part of the licencing process are valuable opportunities to proactively assess the quality of privately rented stock in the borough, and identify HHSRS hazards, including those relating to damp and mould. Two case studies showing the range of issues identified through such inspections, including damp and mould issues, are appended to this report at Appendix III.
- 2.8 In addition to a proactive approach to identifying damp and mould issues, and other HHSRS hazards, through licensing the HST is also available to help both private and social housing tenants who require assistance. In such cases service requests are raised through either referrals or directly from the tenant.

## *Social Housing Sector*

- 2.9 In the Social Housing Sector the legal duty and responsibility for resolving complaints is imposed by the Regulator of Social Housing direct onto social landlords (ie not with the Council in the first instance). This requires all registered social landlords to have a published complaints procedure to which they are required to adhere to, and all social housing tenants are advised to follow this process for any initial concerns in the first instance. If a social housing tenant is still unhappy with how their complaint has been handled, and it is suspected that a Cat 2 hazard exists in the property, this is when the Council can become involved in a case, and an inspection will take place. The social tenant also has the option to refer the matter to the Housing Ombudsman if they remain unhappy with their landlord’s response.

A process map outlining how service requests are managed is appended to this report at Appendix IV.

- 2.10 If a damp and mould issues is identified in a property that requires remediation in the first instance the HST will work with the landlord to resolve this matter informally by agreement. Should that not be possible then an improvement notice will be issued as the first stage of the formal enforcement process which could ultimately lead to a prosecution or service of a Civil Penalty fine.
- 2.11 However, to date Sefton it has not been necessary to instigate a prosecution for damp and mould although it has been necessary to issue 2 x Civil Penalty fines for failure to comply with Improvement Notices relating to a Cat 1 hazard for Damp & Mould.

### **3. Damp & Mould Review**

- 3.1 In response to the Awaab Ishak case in November 2022 a number of actions were carried out relating to our management of damp and mould cases in the borough:
- 3.2 Housing Enforcement Policy – the existing Housing Enforcement Policy was reviewed and update. The scope of this review was to ensure that the policy reflected current good practice in the sector, and that it was clear that it covers all tenures, rather than being solely related to private sector. The revised policy will be approved by Cabinet Member Communities and Housing in January 2023.
- 3.3 Website Update – the council's website was reviewed and updated with advice and information on damp and mould and to ensure that anyone wishing to make a service request could do so easily.
- 3.4 Communication Campaign – a comms campaign around the issue of damp and mould was developed and disseminated using the Council's comms channels over the winter period when damp and mould issues are at the most acute. The campaign ran over winter 22/23 and was repeated in 23/24.
- 3.5 Staff Training and Equipment – all staff training relating to the HHSRS and equipment requirements were reviewed and were found to be up to date. Should there be staff changes HHSRS training is provided as a priority.
- 3.6 Data Analysis – data for the last 3 years prior to the Awaab Ishak case relating to damp and mould cases was reviewed to understand how these were dealt with at the time. Although no major issues were identified from this analysis some minor changes were made to internal processes, for example to improve the consistency of how Category 2 damp and mould hazards are recorded on our case management system. In addition, data from the Property Pool Plus Social Housing Waiting List was analysed to find cases where applicants have specified disrepair of their current property due to damp and mould. This identified 406 cases that were investigated to ensure that those issues have been remedied. Where this could not be confirmed inspections of the affected properties were arranged. No significant issues were identified through this process as issues had been dealt with pending rehousing. Despite this the process operated by the Property Pool Plus Administration Team was updated to ensure that anyone in the borough

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registering on the waiting list where damp and mould issues were mentioned is signposted to the help available from the council.

- 3.7 Staff Guidance – the Council and public health has a number of staff members who regularly go into resident's homes, for example health visitors and social workers. In order to ensure that we maximised this opportunity to identify damp and mould cases staff guidance was developed.
- 3.8 Registered Providers – in the immediate period after the Awaab Ishak case came to light council officers wrote to all Registered Providers of Social Housing to request information on what actions they had taken in response to the case. This was followed up with meeting with our main providers to discuss their response. The responses from Registered Providers was positive, and we are happy with the respective approaches that have been taken.

## *Internal Audit*

- 3.9 As part of the process of assurance relating to the council's management of damp and mould cases an internal audit has been carried out, with the final report in November 2023. The audit found no High Risk issues with the service, however, 2 Medium Risk and 1 Low Risk issues were identified:
  - 1) Although procedure notes are updated when necessary the audit identified that these should be reviewed periodically reviewed rather than just updated as required. In response this has now been actioned.
  - 2) Although members of the HST subscribe on an ad hoc basis to various email alerts and mailing lists from professional bodies, government agencies and other sources a recommendation from the audit was that this should be reviewed to ensure that all areas are covered, with relevant information circulated to all of the team where necessary. This has now been actioned by the team.
  - 3) The audit reviewed response times relating to damp and mould cases and although no issues were found it did identify that routine checks should be in place to ensure that all cases were actioned in line with adopted policies and procedures. This has now been adopted and routine assurance checks are now carried out by the Team Manager.
- 3.10 The audit also identified an action relating to how Park Lodges are managed and this is being actioned by the Green Sefton who manage these properties.

## **Conclusion**

The death of Awaab Ishak in Rochdale has raised awareness of the dangers of mould in residential properties. The reaction within the housing sector, particularly the social housing sector, has been significant, and continues to be felt. From discussions that council officers had in the immediate aftermath of the Coroner's report into Awaab's death it was clear that the issue was being taken very seriously by registered providers, and there's been a continued focus on ensuring that the tragedy is not repeated since.

For residents the reporting around the case, and the information now available in the public domain, including on the council's website, has increased awareness which has in turn has increased the number of service requests related to the issue. The council's

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Housing Standards Team has responded to this and provided help where necessary. In the majority of cases where a mould hazard is identified in a property the matter is dealt with informally with the relevant landlord but the council will continue to take enforcement action where necessary to ensure that properties are safe.

Although the approach to damp and mould issues in the borough has been subject to review, both by senior managers, and through internal audit the service continues to look for improvements and opportunities to supplement the current approach.

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## Appendix I – HHSRS Hazards

	HAZARD	HEALTH EFFECT
1	<b>Damp and mould growth</b> Health threats due to dust mites, mould or fungal including mental and social wellbeing health threats associated with damp, humid and mouldy conditions	Allergies, asthma, effects of toxins from mould and fungal infections
2	<b>Excess cold</b> Threats to health from cold indoor temperatures. A healthy indoor temperature is 18°C to 21°C	Respiratory conditions: flu, pneumonia and bronchitis Cardiovascular conditions: heart attacks and strokes
3	<b>Excess heat</b> Threats due to high indoor temperatures	Dehydration, trauma, stroke, cardiovascular and respiratory
4	<b>Asbestos and MMF</b> Exposure to asbestos fibres and Manufactured Mineral Fibres (MMF)	Asbestos: Damage to lungs MMF: Damage to skin, eyes and lungs
5	<b>Biocides</b> Threats to health from chemicals used to treat timber and mould growth	Risk from breathing in, skin contact and swallowing of the chemical
6	<b>Carbon Monoxide and fuel combustion products</b> Excess levels of carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, sulphur dioxide and smoke	Dizziness, nausea, headaches, disorientation, unconsciousness and breathing problems
7	<b>Lead</b> Threats to health from lead ingestion from paint, water pipes, soil and fumes from leaded petrol	Lead poisoning causing nervous disorders, mental health and blood production issues
8	<b>Radiation</b> Health threats from radon gas and its daughters, primarily airborne but also radon dissolved in water	Lung cancer caused by exposure, which increases amount and length of exposure
9	<b>Uncombusted fuel gas</b> Threat from fuel gas escaping into the atmosphere within a property	Suffocation
10	<b>Volatile organic compounds</b> Threat to health from a diverse group of organic chemicals including formaldehyde that are gaseous at room temperature and can be found in a wide variety of materials in the home	Allergies, irritation to the eyes, nose and skin, headaches, nausea, dizziness and drowsiness
11	<b>Crowding and space</b> Hazards associated with lack of space for living, sleeping and normal household or family life	Psychological distress and mental disorders, increased risk of hygiene issues, accidents and personal space and privacy compromised
12	<b>Entry by intruders</b> Problems keeping a property secure against unauthorised entry and maintaining defensible space	Fear of burglary occurring, stress and anguish caused by burglary and injuries caused by the intruder
13	<b>Lighting</b> Threats to physical and mental health associated with inadequate natural or artificial light, including the psychological effects associated with the view from the property through glazing	Depression and psychological effects due to lack of natural light. Eye strain from glare and inadequate light
14	<b>Noise</b>	Psychological and physiological

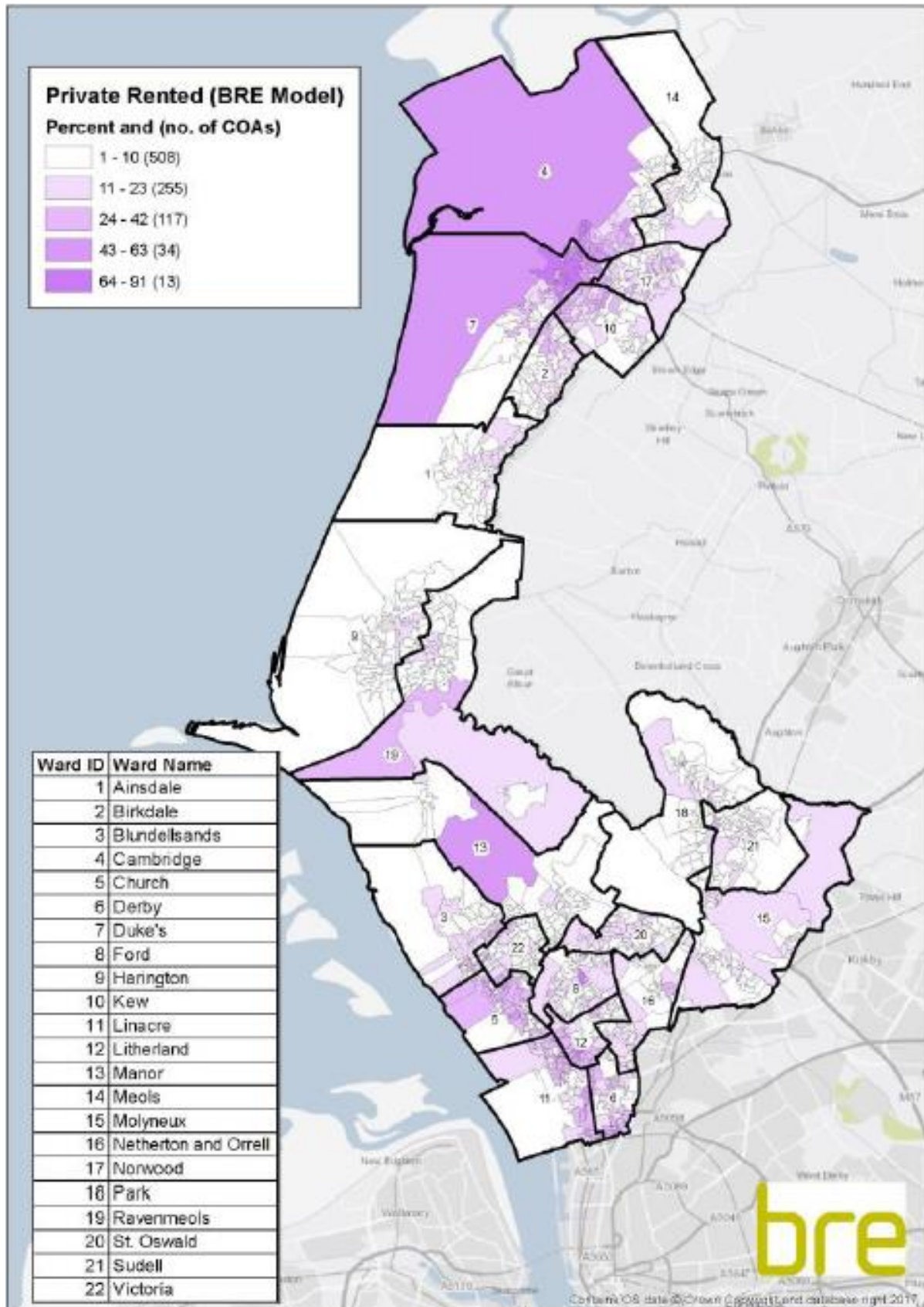
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	Threats to physical and mental health due to exposure to noise within the property or within its curtilage	changes resulting from lack of sleep, poor concentration, headaches and anxiety
15	<b>Domestic hygiene, pests and refuse</b> Health hazards due to poor design, layout and construction making it hard to keep clean and hygienic, attracting pests and inadequate and unhygienic provision for storing household waste	Stomach and intestinal disease, infection, asthma, allergies, disease from rats and physical hazards
16	<b>Food safety</b> Threats of infection from poor provision and facilities to store, prepare and cook food	Stomach and intestinal disease, diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach upset and dehydration
17	<b>Personal hygiene, sanitation and drainage</b> Threats of infections and threat to mental health associated with personal hygiene, including personal and clothes washing facilities, sanitation and drainage	Stomach and intestinal disease, skin infections and depression
18	<b>Water supply</b> Threats to health from contamination by bacteria, parasites, viruses and chemical pollutants due to the quality of water supply for drinking household use such as cooking, washing and sanitation	Dehydration, fatigue, headaches, dry skin, bladder infections and legionnaires disease
19	<b>Falls associated with baths</b> Falls associated with a bath, shower or similar facility	Physical injuries: cuts, lacerations, swellings and bruising.
20	<b>Falls on the level surfaces</b> Falls on any level surface such as floor, yards and paths, including falls associated with trip steps, thresholds or ramps where the change in level is less than 300mm	Physical injuries: bruising, fractures, head, brain and spinal injuries
21	<b>Falls associated with stairs and steps</b> Falls associated with stairs and ramps where the change in level is greater than 300mm. It includes internal stairs or ramps within a property, external steps or ramps associated with the property, access to the property and to shared facilities or means of escape from fire and falls over stairs, ramp or step guarding	Physical injuries: bruising, fractures, head, brain and spinal injuries
22	<b>Falls between levels</b> Falls from one level to another, inside or outside a dwelling where the difference is more than 300mm. Including falls from balconies, landings or out of windows	Physical injuries
23	<b>Electrical hazards</b> Hazards from electric shock and electricity burns	Electric shock and burns
24	<b>Fire</b> Threats to health from exposure to uncontrolled fire and associated smoke. It includes injuries from clothing catching fire, a common injuring when trying to put a fire out.	Burns, being overcome by smoke or death
25	<b>Flames, hot surfaces and materials</b> Burns or injuries caused by contact with a hot flame or fire, hot objects and non-water based liquids. Scalds caused by contact with hot liquids and vapours.	Burns, scalds, permanent scarring and death.
26	<b>Collision and entrapment</b> Risks of physical injuries from trapping body parts in architectural features such as trapping fingers in doors and windows and colliding with objects such as windows, doors and low ceilings	Physical injuries such as cuts and bruising to the body
27	<b>Explosions</b> Threats from the blast of an explosion, from debris generated by	Physical injuries, crushing, bruising, puncture, fractures, head, brain and

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	the blast and from partial or total collapse of a building as a result of the explosion	spinal injuries.
28	<b>Ergonomics</b> Threats of physical strain associated with functional space and other features at the dwelling	Strain and sprain injuries
29	<b>Structural collapse and falling elements</b> The threat of the dwelling collapsing or part of the fabric being displaced or falling due to inadequate fixing or disrepair or as a result of adverse weather conditions.	Physical injuries





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## Appendix III – Licencing Case Studies

### Case Study 1 Selective Licensing Bootle – Linacre Ward

This property is a Victorian mid terrace two-bedroom property of solid wall construction. It is located off a busy main road surrounded by properties of similar construction and age. The property is made up of 2 unrelated occupants, both deemed vulnerable. The current tenants didn't view the property prior to occupation and within a matter of weeks they were concerned regarding the poor housing conditions once they had started to live in the property. As one of the Tenant's already suffered anxiety issues the condition of the premises exacerbated their condition. The Tenant also suffered respiratory problems and they were concerned the damp issues were making the condition worse. The property had recently been painted prior to the Tenant's occupation so when the property was viewed online the full extent of the damp was not evident until they moved in. However, when she complained to the landlord, he issued the Tenant with a Section 21 Notice during the Covid-19 pandemic when Tenants had been given a reprieve from eviction during this period. A Selective Licence application had been submitted and a licensing compliance visit was undertaken.

There were numerous hazards identified in this property on the selective licence inspection visit including: -

#### Damp & Mould Hazard

There were rising damp issues to the hallway and through lounge and penetrating damp to the front bedroom.



#### Electrical Hazards

There were a number of issues with respects to the electrical installation in the property. A number of sockets only worked on an intermittent basis. There were insufficient sockets causing the tenant to overload the use of extension leads to create a trip/falls on the level hazard. The electrical socket to the cooker was only accessed by removing the cooker away from its static position. There was an electrical socket that remained in situ in the bathroom that had failed to be isolated.



Socket identified in bathroom

The light fitting to the bathroom was not compliant as did not have an 'Ingress Protection' (IP) rating where the installation was in close proximity to water.

### **Personal Hygiene, Sanitation & Drainage Hazard**

Rainwater gullies were not fit for purpose and were susceptible to obstruction.



### **Fire Hazard**

The property only had one working smoke detector in place reducing the early warning for the occupants. However, the complex layout of the property also meant the occupants had to pass through a high-risk room in the event of a fire. We had requested for an upgrade from battery smoke to mains operated smoke detection, FD30's in all bedrooms and escape windows to provide early warning and escape route. As an emergency battery smoke detection was requested.



Missing smoke detector

A schedule of works was produced, and the following works were undertaken: -

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- A Damp Report was undertaken and provided to the Council and remedial works were carried out to the property followed by plastering of effected walls.



- All Electrical issues were resolved and an EICR Electrical Installation Condition Report was received confirming the electrical safety standard of the property was satisfactory including installation of a cooker switch and providing additional sockets. The bathroom socket was isolated, and a blanking plate installed.



Cooker switch installed

- The downpipe and rainwater gullies were repaired to ensure there was no obstruction and water could safely discharge to the drainage system.



- The bathroom light was changed for one which has a 'Ingress Protection rating of IPX4".



- Due to the cost implications of upgrading the fire precautions we provided the landlord with an alternative solution which involved reinstating the protected

route and removing the “inner room” scenario with Building Regulations approval where necessary. The alternative solution then only necessitated battery smoke detection which was acceptable.



Smoke detector fitted

## **Other Actions**

- The occupants were referred to the Council’s Housing Options Team to discuss the service by the landlord of the Section 21 Notice which was deemed illegal, and the landlord was notified of his legal obligations regarding the service of eviction notices during this period.
- The occupants were also offered guidance for a referral to the Adult Social Care Team and advice also given on the exceptional hardship fund to help with any rent or Council Tax shortfall as they were both benefit claimant recipients.

## **Conclusion**

It could be argued that if the Council did not have the Selective Licencing scheme in place this property would not have been inspected as the tenants who were vulnerable, may have been too fearful to complain and would not have reported it to the Council. It is likely in this case the Tenant may have been evicted without knowing their rights as a Tenant. The relationship of the Tenant and landlord had become significantly strained and due to the work required, the landlord agreed to reduce the rent during this period as a goodwill gesture and for the inconvenience caused. This is a far contrast to the situation on our initial visit. The Tenant now resides in a property that meets “decent homes standard” and selective licencing has played a part in achieving this.

## **Case Study 2**

### **Additional (HMO) Licencing Southport – Dukes ward**

A four-storey detached Victorian property located in a road off The Promenade in Southport situated within the Additional Licencing Area. The premises have been converted into six self-contained flats. Although the date of conversion is not known it pre-dates the 1991 Building Regulations.

The freehold is owned by a Limited Management Company with each flat owner also having a single share in the company. There are six leasehold flats, five of which are tenanted, and one is owner occupied.

During the Additional Licence inspection visit, a large number of Category 1 and Category 2 Hazards were identified and remedial works were specified including:

### **Fire Hazard**

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The premises lacked a full Automatic fire detection system, Emergency lighting, adequate fire separation and means of escape in case of fire.

An 'inner room' situation existed within flat B, as it is necessary to go through a high-risk room (Kitchen) from the bedroom to reach a place of safety. (Although there is an escape window this is considered too high for means of escape in the event of a fire.)

The travel distances from flat C was excessive and therefore it was necessary to provide a protected route out from the flat by ensuring that all the flat doors within the flat (with the exception of the bathroom) are made FD30s Standard.

## Damp & Mould Hazard

There was excessive dampness and excessive mould growth within the top Flat (Flat C) which was a direct result of the defective roof.



## Excess Cold Hazard

There was insufficient heating within Flat C some of the heaters within the rooms were unsuitable to provide sufficient heating. There was no heating to one of the bedrooms and no heating to the bathroom.

## Falling on stairs Hazard

The staircase within flat C and to the rear of the premises leading up to flat A and Flat C represented a fall on stairs hazard and both required a handrail.

## Flames & Hot surfaces Hazard

There was exposed pipework within flat B which should be covered or boxed



in.

A full report of all hazards identified was sent to all leaseholders and it was suggested that the freeholder and leaseholders work together to remedy the hazards. Although it is sometimes argued in this type of House in Multiple Occupation that only the leaseholders that rent out their flats should have the work done and pay for it, some of the works required, particularly in respect of fire precautions benefit everyone living in the premises and therefore there is a need to work together.

The responsibility for having works done can fall to either the freeholder or the individual leaseholders depending what work is required.

The owners worked together to achieve a satisfactory outcome.

- The Automatic Fire Detection and Alarm System and the Emergency Lighting have been installed.
- The owners of Flat 2 did not want to lose kitchen space by providing a partition as suggested. Further discussions took place with the Housing Standards Team and it was agreed an Automatic Mist System would be installed instead.
- Extensive work has been carried out to Flat C internally and the roof has been overhauled and made watertight.
- Insulation has been provided internally in Flat C and the owners took advantage of a Government Scheme to help with the cost.
- The required handrail to the external steps has been provided and the pipework to Flat B has been boxed in.
- The Fire Doors (FD30S) have all been installed as requested with combined intumescent strips, cold smoke seals and self-closers.

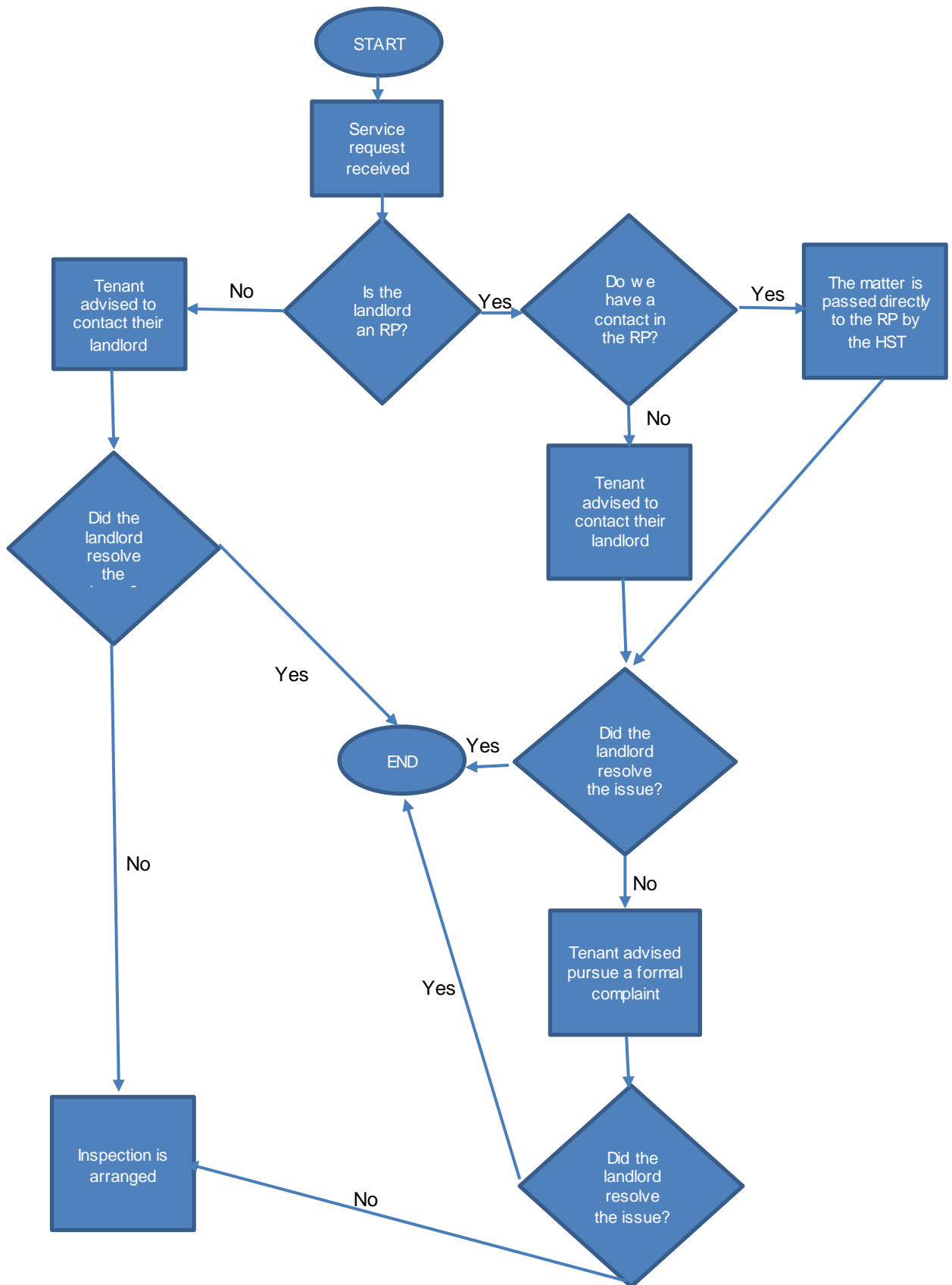
## **Conclusion**

If the Authority had not introduced an Additional Licensing Scheme in April 2018 many of the Hazards identified in these premises on the compliance inspection would not have come to the attention of the Team.

This is just one Section 257 HMO that was identified as requiring an Additional Licence and a large amount of remedial work. Sefton has many Victorian buildings that are too large for single families to live in these days. There are now limited options for such buildings. Previously those which are located near the seafront in Southport were used as traditional seaside bed and breakfast establishments. With the building of new hotels, self-catering accommodation and the move to more foreign travel, this type of Victorian buildings have over the past fifty years been poorly converted into flats. Many were also converted to residential care facilities which have for a number of years been closing with a view to building purpose built residential care facilities to meet current government standards and these former care facilities have also been poorly converted to flats.

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## Appendix IV – Service Request Process Map





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<b>Report to:</b>	Overview & Scrutiny (Regeneration & Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 <sup>th</sup> March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan		
<b>Report of:</b>	Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To update members on the:

1. Refresh of the Sefton Economic Strategy
2. Production of a Sefton Inward Investment prospectus

## Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet Members note and provide comment on progress with the Sefton Economic Strategy refresh and production of a Sefton Inward Investment prospectus.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To update members on this key decision and advise on progress with a refresh of Sefton Economic Strategy and the production of an associated Sefton Inward Investment prospectus to help promote the borough to attract business growth and investment.

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

Do nothing and update the existing Economic Strategy -this was rejected as officers also needed to provide in one place a suite of key Sefton inward investment sites data and information to assist in current and planned national and international property marketing events led by the LCR Combined Authority and support the council's own business growth activities.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

The cost of the refresh and Sefton Inward Investment prospectus is £15,000 and will be met from the existing InvestSefton budget. There are no other direct revenue (other than

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staffing) costs associated with the implementation of the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan.

## (B) Capital Costs

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

### Implications of the Proposals:

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b></p> <p>Consultation co-ordination and ongoing delivery activities is being undertaken by Economic Growth &amp; Housing staff within existing budgets.</p>									
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b></p> <p>None</p>									
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b></p> <p>The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated as shown in the previous Equalities Impact Assessment</p>									
<p><b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b></p> <p>Prevailing economic conditions will inevitably have an impact on children and young people and the implications of these will be captured under some of the key strategic objectives and subsets. The SES is also seeking to align with other council work in this space, most notably the Child Poverty Strategy. The services involved in the implementation of the SES are all actively engaged in promoting and progressing the Caring Business Charter as well.</p>									
<p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b></p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>No</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Yes</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Sefton Economic Strategy has an associated action plan and some of the delivery activities (e.g new development, business expansion, inward investment) will have a negative impact on the footprint of the Sefton borough. These include direct emissions which result from the redevelopment of any vacant sites as well as long-term carbon emissions from each new building / operation created.</p> <p>However, the development of sites and buildings will be required to go through the planning system which will help to minimise the carbon impact of the building by applying the nationally required environmental standards. Economic growth will also impact businesses and transport negatively, but this could be minimised by adopting</p>		Have a positive impact	No	Have a neutral impact	No	Have a negative impact	Yes	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
Have a positive impact	No								
Have a neutral impact	No								
Have a negative impact	Yes								
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes								

green policies e.g., green growth where companies use green renewable energy, use electric vehicles, low carbon options. InvestSefton works closely with external providers of expert support to businesses seeking to reduce energy costs and introduce low carbon solutions to their operations.

InvestSefton also commissioned Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside to provide business sustainability support to businesses in Sefton town centres including developing green action plans to support reduction in carbon emissions.

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

Protect the most vulnerable:

Social Inclusion and Access for all is a core objective of the strategy framework to set a direction for action so that the impacts of economic growth reach many more of Sefton's residents including the most vulnerable.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

The Strategy Framework will help in identifying key priorities for action including services that require direct delivery or sub-contracting and commissioning. This includes commissioning on business start-up support and the business sustainability work.

Place – leadership and influencer:

Regenerated Places and Business Growth & Investment are core objectives of the strategy framework, and the council is already active in this work in terms of delivering area action plans and promoting Sefton as a place to support business growth, attract visitors and new inward investment.

Drivers of change and reform:

The Strategy framework provides a platform to prioritise and develop economic interventions where they are most needed and allows the council to refresh and update areas of work that require change and reform.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

This is the overarching objective of any Sefton economic strategy and the four key objectives-Employment & opportunities for work; Business Growth and Investment; Social Inclusion and Access for all and Regenerated Places- are all geared to help maximise sustainable economic growth that will benefit residents, businesses, and communities in Sefton.

Greater income for social investment:

Opportunities for supporting income for social investment will be covered under the strategy's core objectives of Business Growth & Investment and Social Inclusion & Access for all.

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## Cleaner Greener

Under Regenerated Places reference is made to the mitigation of any adverse environmental impacts because of economic regeneration growth; the strategy also focuses on attracting new cleaner greener investment. e.g. Digital, particularly the roll-out of ultrafast broadband

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

#### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7543/24 ) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5643/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

#### (B) External Consultations

The Strategy framework has previously been the subject of extensive external consultation with businesses, stakeholders, community groups/charities and residents. This work continues in conjunction with the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority by aligning Sefton objectives with those of the LCR Economic Opportunities work. Ongoing work is also discussed and presented at Sefton Economic Forum events.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mike Mullin
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#### Appendices:

None

#### Background Papers:

Background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website: [Sefton Economy business](#)  
Business Growth activity is also promoted on [www.investsefton.com](http://www.investsefton.com)

#### 1 Background

- 1.1 On 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022 Sefton Council Cabinet approved the final version of the Sefton Economic Strategy for publication. It also noted further work scheduled for 2023 on the development of an associated Action Plan and appropriate monitoring points. Cabinet also gave authority to the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Skills, to approve the Action Plan and Monitoring Reports as set out under the recommendations.
- 1.2 Members of this Committee received a full update on 16 January 2024. The update included plans to refresh the Sefton Economic Strategy. This also includes

the production of a Sefton Inward Investment prospectus to assist in promoting the borough as part of LCR Combined Authority national and international investment activities and events. It will also assist the council in its own inward investment and regeneration led activities.

## **Governance & reporting**

- 1.3 A repurposed Sefton Economy Cell group of officers from across a range of services, led by the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth & Housing), meet quarterly to report on progress with each of the four strategic objectives and subset themes and activities. Officers update a dedicated dashboard which serves as an action plan. A copy of the Quarter 3 dashboard October -December 2023 is shown as **(Annex A)** and provides snapshot of performance of the strategic objectives. Members have already viewed and commented on Quarter 2 at January committee and there is little to report in anything significant for Quarter 3. Members will be kept updated with detailed action plan progress in future meetings.

## **2. Sefton Economic Strategy refresh**

- 2.1 Sefton Economy Cell officers were keen to understand how the strategy can remain fit for purpose in terms of its objectives and alignment with the emerging Liverpool City Region Economic Opportunities framework which will serve as a sounding board to help drive, amongst other economic activities, new inward investment activities across the city region. To this end Mickledore, authors of the existing Sefton Economic Strategy, have been retained under the Council's Contract Procedure Rules to undertake further work which is summarised below:
- 2.2 The work will be an addendum to the SES to ensure alignment with the emerging LCR Economic Opportunities Framework and the LCR Inward Investment work. This will provide a cohesive approach and maximise Sefton's economic opportunities for attracting inward investment, together with an overarching prospectus which identifies opportunities for attracting both institutionalised and end user investment in Sefton, site specific prospectuses will be produced, as an extension to the Economic Strategy to support the promotion of key opportunities at the International Market for Real Estate Professionals (MIPIM) and the UK Real Estate and Investment and Infrastructure Forum (REIIF) events in 2024- these events are led by the LCR Combined Authority with support from the private sector led Liverpool Place Partnership.

## **3 Base review & Analysis**

- 3.1 The first phase of the methodology will be a review of the strategic context, examining current and developing strategies and frameworks, to include:
- LCR Plan for Prosperity
  - LCR emerging Economic Opportunities Framework
  - LCR inward investment strategy
  - LCR Investment Zone
  - LCR draft Spatial Development Strategy
  - LCR Innovation prospectus
  - Freeport

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- Investment Zones
- Bootle Action Area Plan

## **Analysis of sector specialism in Sefton**

- 3.2 A review of the specific sector specialisms in Sefton will be undertaken and aligned to the sector/cluster priorities of LCR. This part of the review will also examine macro trends in various industries to validate the choices for opportunities.

## **Skills analysis**

- 3.3 Further to the agreement on sectors, a top-level review of the Sefton Skills base will be carried out, to assess the potential to match the sector opportunities or highlight potential gaps. This will be based on an update of the data set used in the Sefton Economic Strategy.

## **Key site Opportunities**

- 3.4 The initial list of sites identified for the prospectus is as follows:

:

- Land North of Altcar Road, Formby
- Land East of Maghull
- Maghull Health Park
- Bootle Strand
- Bootle Office Quarter
- Bootle Housing sites
- Southport Business Park
- Southport Seafront
- Pontins Southport Holiday Park

- 3.5 Mickledore will conduct an audit of the information currently available about each key site and identify any gaps in the knowledge. They will review publicly available information including planning information to reduce the gaps identified.

The following information will be compiled for each site:

- Ownership
- Size
- Planning status and category
- Specific constraints
- Access and connectivity
- Utilities status and capacity
- Existing occupiers
- Neighbouring assets
- Unique feature (e.g. data cable node)
- Deliverability timelines/ market readiness

## **Aligning sites with sector opportunities**

- 3.6 To complement this information, Mickledore will examine site specific sector opportunities, the trends in these sectors and the points of differentiation for LCR

& Sefton. They will also provide a commuting catchment area (drive time map) for each site.

## 4 Outputs

- 4.1 On completion of this work, Mickledore will provide Sefton Council with:
- An overarching inward investment proposition for Sefton
  - Key Site opportunities prospectus for each site in an editable PowerPoint form
  - A further document, commercial in confidence which will highlight more detailed site constraints.
- 4.2 The completed work will enable the Council to have a full suite of key investment opportunities which can be easily updated and added to. The intention is for them to be used for both strategic events such as MIPIM and UKREIFF amongst others, while officers will also have access to 'off shelf' material in response to business growth and new inward investment enquiries.
- 4.3 A sub-group of the Economy Cell led by the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) will oversee this work which is expected to last 4-6 weeks. Members will be kept advised of progress at future committee meetings.

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Strategic Objective	Business growth & investment
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2023
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Stuart Barnes
SES Project lead	Mike Mullin
Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Current Status	Progress to date
1 No of outward engagement campaigns targeted at Sefton businesses / No of Sefton businesses targeted	11	4	Green	4 x business security events held including Sefton Economic Forum
2 No of businesses contacting InvestSefton for Information, Advice & Guidance-Triage system(Phone/email/website)	250	143	Green	Individual enquiries handled -overall volume remains constant and high
3 No of businesses receiving 1:1 support (face to face/diagnostic /action plan)	90	15	Green	New UKSPF Business support programme started 1 July and team have been providing support to businesses. This involves intensive face to face support with businesses seeking help with a range of business issues
4 No of businesses attending InvestSefton events/workshops	280	143	Green	Business delegates attending InvestSefton events for this quarter
5 No of new jobs created	50	17	Green	Jobs created figure is solely through the Inward Investment programme as the new UKSPF Business Support Programme & the Town Centre programme has not started official delivery yet
6 No of jobs safeguarded	n/a	n/a	Green	A new KPI for late 2024
7 No of inward Investment enquiries received	6	6	Green	Companies seeking to relocate to Sefton
8 No of investors/developers receiving support	5	2	Green	Includes Business park owners and developers

9	No of large businesses (including Foreign owned) receiving Key Account Management	12	2	Green	Joint activity with Dept of Business & Trade
10	No of enquiries from Sefton residents seeking to start a business/become self-employed	n/a	22	Green	Referrals underway with MEH/Safe Regeneration Partnership
11	No of new business start-ups created	n/a	n/a	Amber	Work has been outsourced to start 1 October. New start up date will be captured in future quarters

**Commentary**

InvestSefton remains totally focussed on business growth and sustainability although economic recovery remains very much central to this as businesses face increasing economic pressures including cost of living, materials, supply chain and energy costs across a range of sectors. The team is working with other city region support organisations such as the LCR Growth Platform and a range of other public/private sector providers of support.

WWW.investsefton.com continues to receive high volumes of traffic. Single session website visits which have now reached 71,269. The team has also handled 7,420 enquiries since March 2020.

ERDF has been replaced by the Government UK Shared Prosperity Fund. InvestSefton is to receive £782,414 for Place Based Business Support and IRO £98,000 Town Centre business centre funding. The team has also commissioned work for start-ups and business sustainability support in town centres to two providers. Work has now started with 22 business start up enquiries handled this quarter

Events and workshops are at the core of Sefton’s one to many approach to businesses providing demand led business topics selected by businesses and cover a wide range of support such as online sales, marketing, business sustainability, cyber security and digital technologies. The events remain popular and attract large numbers of businesses including Sefton Economic Forum and two new network groups-Sefton Huddle (Digital & technology) and Sefton Business, Professional & Finance Group.

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

The team is co-ordinating a bi-weekly round-up of Economic Growth & Housing company investment activity as part of the Council’s Strategic Growth & Investment programme. This will help track customer journey across teams and the intention is to expand across other services.

The Economic Growth & Housing service is seeking to commission wok on inward investment propostions in the borough building on previous work produced for Sefton Economc Strategy.

Strategic Objective	Employment and Opportunities for work
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2023
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Suart Barnes
SES Project lead	Claire Maguire
Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Current Status	Progress to date
1 % of expenditure verified for projects which are externally funded.	100%	100%	Green	Final verification for this quarter will be completed in January 2024 when claims have been processed.
2 % of all registered learners are not working (based on individual learning aims)	40.00%	59.50%	Green	This quarter the service has seen a reduction in the total number of learners not working who are accessing the service, but remains above target.
3 % of all registered learners are BAME	12.00%	21.20%	Green	The reduction from Q2 to Q3 is due to the number of ESOL learners finishing the previous academic year to starting the new one.
4 % retention across all Adult Community Learning Courses	90.00%	95.40%	Green	The Service expected to see a variance in from Q2 to Q3 this is due to the previous academic year ending and the new academic year beginning. The service would typically expect to see a proportion of learner fail to return or withdrew from learning in the October half
5 % of clients receiving Information, Advice and Guidance are workless or economically inactive with health issues	50.00%	85.20%	Green	The Single Investment Fund Ways to Work programme has now been implemented and interest has been strong.
6 % of vulnerable people referred into the service from a third party receive targeted support, including subsidised placements	70.00%	82.60%	Green	Third party organisations, both internal and external continue to refer their clients to Sefton@Work to help them in their journey towards employment. The service continues to be successful in engaging with clients with more complex needs.
7 % of clients seeking employability help who move into employment/self-employment or training destinations	30.00%	40.10%	Green	The proportion of clients who are able to move into employment or training outcomes continues to meet targets.

8	Number of young people at risk of becoming NEET receiving early intervention and prevention support	200	283	Green	Following an increase in Jul-Sep, due to the fact that a lot of young people were in transition to post 16 EET, the figure has now reduced considerably and is now back on target.
9	Remain in the best performing quartile for 16-18 NEET when compared to Liverpool City Region and National Statistical Neighbours.	Yes	Yes	Green	
10	Remain in the best performing quartile for 16-18 Not Known when compared to Liverpool City Region and National Statistical Neighbours.	Yes	Yes	Green	
Commentary					

Performance across the three service areas for Employment and Access to Work continues to proceed well with targets being met. Contract management processes are in place to oversee all the provision, and these allow for mitigation of any risks of under-achievement. Sefton@work has progressed into the continuation phase using Strategic Investment Fund (SIF) from the LCR-CA. This has provided the “bridge” between the end of European Structural Funds (ESF) and the commencement of UK Shared Prosperity Funding (UKSPF) from April 2023 for the 2023/24 financial year. This has allowed key staffing to be retained and provides a period of transition for the service to shift focus to economically inactive clients which UKSPF will require.

During this time, we have also been undertaking the relocation of the service from its current base on Stanley Road into a unit within the Strand shopping centre, placing it at the heart of the transformation of Bootle Town Centre, with opportunity for co-location with partners who can assist the client journey towards employment such as Citizens Advice. This move will bring improved financial efficiency while also increasing the synergy and alignment for public facing services within Bootle Town centre.

The Adult Community Learning Service continues its delivery of second-chance learning opportunities to adults, based within the Cambridge Road Community learning hub. The learning offer provides a varied and attractive curriculum for adults focusing on health and wellbeing, and basic skills including literacy, numeracy, digital and employability skills, with access to qualifications. Test and Learn activity is also incorporated into the offer which this year focuses on inter-generational family learning, access to green technologies, and ESOL volunteering. The Service is also in receipt of funding from LCR-CA for Multiply, the national numeracy initiative which is used to contract out to voluntary/community sector agencies for informal engagement activity.

The NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service delivered by Career Connect continues to deliver its targets and in this period has seen the completion of the September Guarantee activities which provides key data to identify relevant cohorts who will go on to receive early intervention support to those deemed at most risk of becoming NEET. The main focus of this contract is to deliver the Council's statutory duties regarding 16- and 17-year-old young people, but also incorporates additional assistance for vulnerable groups which adds value to the work of a number of numerous teams across Childrens Social Care and Education.

The Rate of NEET and Not Known in Sefton across our 16 and 17 year olds is the best in the City Region for this period and is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the country out of 150 LAs. NEET Care experienced young people who are aged 16 – 18 who reside in Sefton are supported to re-engage in learning or work in addition to those aged between 18 and 24 who are care experienced and have a relevant Education, Health and Care plan.

Strategic Objective	Regenerated places-GSI
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2023
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Stuart Barnes
SES Project Lead	Heather Jago
Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Current Status	Progress to date
1 Bootle Town Centre			Green	A range of projects are being delivered to support Bootle town centre . This includes submission of the planning application in October 2023 for the first stage of work to implement the £20M levelling up funded proposals for Bootle Strand repurposing. Phase 1 will include selective demolition, creation of a new town square on Stanley Road, repurposing of the former M&S unit and creation of a new digital tech hub and education centre. A new shop unit has opened within the Strand with further details of the proposals including the next stage of consultation on Bootle Area Action Plan - 'Our Future, Our Bootle' to set out a vision for Bootle for the next 20 years. In addition Salt n Tar meanwhile use and events space hosted a number of events this summer with a music event and comedy weekend and future events are in the planning process following positive feedback from events held to date.
2 Southport Town Centre (Town Deal)			Green	Southport Town Deal programme continues to remain on track with the demolition work due to commence on for the Marine Lake Events Centre following securing planning approval earlier this year and appointment of Keir Construction to undertake enabling and demolition work. The Enterprise Arcade project is in the final stages of contractor appointment with the aim of starting on site on site in the Autumn. Les Transformation de Southport public realm programme is also progressing with contractor appointment for Phase 1 - Kings Street/Market Street and EastBank Street. Finally 'Building a Better Customer Experience' training programme for the hospitality sector is progressing well, with the first cohort of students through Southport College. Southport Townscape Heritage Initiative is progressing well with and has levered in £1m of private sector investment into Southport.
3 Crosby Town Centre			Green	Work is moving forward on the proposed new Crosby village library with the submission of a planning application in September. Sefton Council have confirmed progression of both the existing and new library sites.
4 Ainsdale			Green	Consultants appointed to undertake a feasibility study and develop an updated vision for the coastal gateway in response to feedback from the community. This will look at all assets in the area including The Sands, Toad Hall, Council operating bases and options for their development. Work is also continuing on Ainsdale neighbourhood centre in Sandbrook Way to acquire remaining property interest and bring this site into one single ownership. Market testing is also ongoing for this site to clarify market demand.
5				

Commentary

Sefton's Growth and Strategic Investment programme continues to develop a series of key projects and initiatives across Sefton to deliver Sefton's economic strategy. This includes development and delivery of a series of key projects and programmes across the borough, the combination of which will help improve Sefton as a place to live, work and visit. The programme aims to maximise the amount of public and private sector being brought into the borough from a range of sources to help aid delivery, including Town Deal, Levelling Up funding and Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

In addition the project development and delivery seeks to maximise social value outcomes through procurement and ensure equality and inclusion form part of both how and what is delivered.

Strategic Objective	Regenerated places housing
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2023
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Stuart Barnes
SES Project lead	Lee Payne
Overall Status	Green

	Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Current Status	Progress to date
1	Social Housing Completions	150	159	Green	Target achieved in 22/23 - pipeline looking healthy
2	Net additional dwellings per annum	640	705	Green	Target achieved in 22/23 - pipeline looking healthy
3					
4					
5					

Commentary
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Housing growth targets in the borough were met in 22.23 and the pipeline of potential completions for 23.24 looks positive based on schemes that are onsite and planning consents that are in place. Market conditions remain challenging with the interest rate rises over the past 18 months and high construction inflation. Some larger-scale housebuilders are scaling back delivery nationally and this will undoubtedly affect housing growth in Sefton. The Housing team continues to work closely with colleagues in Planning to facilitate growth, particularly affordable housing in high demand areas, and aspirational housing. Market concerns have provided opportunities in this regard and we have worked successfully with several RPs to purchase over 40 open market sale units on a number of sites in the borough where demand from private purchasers for open market sale has dropped. These properties will be made available as low-cost home ownership products (shared-ownership).

Strategic Objective	Regenerated places planning
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2023
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Stuart Barnes
SES Project lead	Ian Loughlin
Overall Status	Green

	Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Current Status	Status	Progress to date
1	Approval of Social Value (Employment and Skills) from	May-22	Approved	Green	adopted May 2023
2	Net additional dwellings per annum	640	705	Green	Figures for 2022/23. Will updated to 2023/24 figures
3	Floorspace (m2 ) developed for employment (by type (B1, B2, B8)	increase	26,476m2	Green	Figures for 2022/23. Will updated to 2023/24 figures next time.
4	Number of jobs (full-time equivalent) created on employment sites	increase	n/a	Amber	Figures for 2022/23. Will updated to 2023/24 figures next time.
5	% of qualifying development proposals that are supported by an Employment and Skills Plan	100%	100%	Green	E&S Plans secured on two schemes since April 2023 DC/2023/00588 - Comben House and DC/2022/02039 - North Atlantic Avenue

Commentary
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There is no target in Local Plan for amount of employment floorspace development of number of jobs provided. However, reference can be made to previous years for comparison where an increase of previous years should be the aim. The figure for 2021/22 was lower than in previous years (at just 2,500m<sup>2</sup>). However, data for 2022/23 has shown a tenfold increase

The data of the number of jobs secured on new employment development can be difficult to ascertain and in many cases this information is not provided. However, the Council have recently approved a Social Value (Employment and Skills) from Development SPD which should help secure this data in a timely and consistent manner. The SPD sets out that proposals of a certain scale (i.e. new housing of 30+ homes, certain commercial development of 1,000m<sup>2</sup> floorspace) must be supported by an Employment and Skills Plan, which will be secured by legal agreement and monitored for implementation.

The target of 640 net additional dwellings is the Local Plan average annual requirement for 2012-2030, although the government's standard methodology figure has 587 homes for Sefton. In recent years the Council have comfortably met its housing delivery target.

Strategic Objective	Regenerated places tourism
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2023
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Stuart Barnes
SES Project lead	Mark Catherall
Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Current Status	Progress to date
Increase Visitor numbers (both day and staying) by 2% year on year,	5,882,340	7,676,000	Green	2022 Visitor numbers have grown substantially, this was due to a strong offer, increased destination marketing and comprehensive events programme. It should be noted this is still below pre covid levels.
Increase Visitor Economy economic impact by 2.5% year on year,	£440m	£594m	Green	Large growth in economic impact due to increase in visitor numbers and continued inflation. It should be
Increase Visitor Economy total employment by 2% year	4795	6,111	Green	Large growth in visitor economy employment due to
Securing new multi-day business events ready for the Marine Lake Events Centre opening	2023/24 Onwards	tbc	Green	Will commence in 2024

Commentary
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The 2022 visitor economy figures for Sefton shows a strong growth and continued recovery from covid where Southport's visitor economy was adversely impacted. The 2022 figures are still below pre-covid numbers especially visitor numbers and especially staying visitors. 2022 was a strong year for visitor economy in Sefton with a strong events programme, additional destination marketing activity and many people staying in the UK for day and overnight trips. The 2023 figures will be available in July 2024, sector intelligence is highlighting 2023 as a difficult and uncertain time for tourism. The securing of new multi-day business events for the Marine Lake events centre will not commence until 2024.

## Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan

Strategic Objective	SI Equal&Diversity
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2024
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Stephen Watson
SES Project lead	Paul McCann
Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Current Status	Progress to date
1 Business Support and Investment Team to engage with the Corporate Equality Group, attend regular meetings	Rep to attend all CEG meetings		Green	Next meeting of the CEG is on the 25th January. MM attended the last meeting to talk about the economic strategy and links with EDI
2 Communications and engagement audit, identifying the need for accessible information and engagement	Audit completed		Green	
3 Review Strategy to take account of the socio-economic duty	Strategy review		Green	Adoption of the SED was approved by Cabinet on the 7th September - <a href="https://sefton.gov.uk/mysefton-">https://sefton.gov.uk/mysefton-</a>
4 Improve employment rates and business support for minorities and for people from deprived areas	Under review		Green	UKSPF business and employment support activities are underway and being reported under Business Growth & Investment and Employment & Access to work strands
5 Review existing data capture with regard to protected characteristics and work towards addressing any gaps	Data reviewed		Green	
6 Ensure that decisions are backed by robust equality impact analysis	CEG group to review		Green	
7 Engage with the Race Equality Monitoring Group	Rep to attend all REMG meetings		Green	Next meeting of the REMG to be arranged
8				

<b>Commentary</b>
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A Corporate Equality Group (CEG) has been newly established to support the Council with its commitment to integrate Equality and Diversity throughout its services and to help secure its vision of creating stronger, more resilient communities (Sefton Vision 2030). CEG will monitor the council's performance in relation to equality and diversity and KPIS focus on communications and engagement; improving employment rates and business support for people in disadvantaged areas, reviewing equality and diversity data and engaging with the LCR Race Equality Monitoring group.

The Council has produced and launched Its Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Strategy 2023-27.

InvestSefton meeting with the LCR's new Director of Race Equality Group in November to discuss business engagement with Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic business groups. Work has also been commissioned to Sefton based MEH/Safe Regeneration to provide business start up support to individuals seeking to become self-employed and/or start their own business. Specific focus areas include town centres and people from disadvantaged areas and special characteristic groups.

Strategic Objective	SI sus travel
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2024
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Peter Moore
SES Project lead	Lee Davies
Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Status	Progress to date
The development of the Low Carbon Transport Strategy	Summer 2024		Green	Baselining report has been compiled. Work has started to assess the carbon impact of the Capital Programme which should be completed Summer 2024.
Maritime Corridor Business Case	Mar-27		Green	Detailed desing progressing
Eastern Access Business Case Development	Mar-27		Green	Detailed deisgn progressing
Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan Development	2024		Green	Detailed plans for further engagement, initially planned with Members, are being developed. It is envisaged that these will follow engagement on the LCTS which hopefully should provide some context to the need for an LCWIP.
Emobility	2024		Green	The LCRCA have submitted a bid for Local Electrical Vehicular Infrastructure (LEVI) funding

Commentary
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Low Carbon Strategy: In response to the Council's climate emergency declaration and an increased focus on active travel measures, work is continuing on the development of Low Carbon Transport Strategy for the borough. Baseline work has been undertaken and a report completed. Plans are currently being refined for member engagement in advance of a wider consultation. The report will provide a quantification of the current transport related carbon position for the Council and a future trajectory for reductions towards Net Zero. Progress is also being made on the development of an Active Travel and E-mobility Strategies for the Borough. WSP have now been engaged to complete an assessment of the Carbon impact of the Capital Programme and to provide advice and instruction on carbon assessment of transport schemes. This work should be completed by late Spring and Early Summer 2024. One of the key elements of the E Mobility Strategy will be defining the Council's approach to On Street Charging. Some further discussion will be held with Cabinet Member and Cabinet colleagues to help inform the Council's Policy to On Street charging which will help inform resident engagement and focus investment. The LCRCAs have submitted a bid for Local Electrical Vehicular Infrastructure (LEVI) funding. If successful, this will enable the Council to roll out new EV infrastructure across Council owned car parks whilst developing proposals for further potential installation. In order to identify potential improvement to the Council's walking and cycling network a local cycling and walking infrastructure plan is being developed. Proposals for stakeholder engagement were presented to the Consultation and Engagement Panel in early November. A number of engagement sessions were held with specific interest groups and some initial plans developed for helping inform the engagement process. Detailed plans for further engagement, initially planned with Members, are being developed. It is envisaged that these will follow engagement on the LCTS which hopefully should provide some context to the need for an LCWIP. Maritime Corridor Business Cases: The detailed design work is now progressing on both schemes and the final details will be included within the Full Business Case submission as requested by the LCRCAs. Part of the Maritime Corridor scheme, Phase 1, will be funded from the Levelling Up Fund, following the success of a transport bid submitted by LCRCAs. The amount of Levelling Up Fund allocated to the MC scheme has been increased following a Baseline review. In order to ensure that sufficient work is expended within the timeframe, there is some pressure to progress the scheme to construction. As such, it is proposed to secure the services of, Balfour Beatty, through the SCAPE framework to complete some Early Contractor Involvement. Balfour's have already completed some feasibility work at no cost to the Council. This has helped define the likely cost and probable construction phasing. Cabinet will be asked to approve Balfour's appointment into the Early Contractor Involvement stage of the scheme which will enable some initial enabling works to be completed and the Target Cost to be established. Some further engagement to ensure that local Members, businesses and residents are sighted on the proposals and have an ability to shape them has been completed. Analysis work has been undertaken of the responses and those relevant to the Phase 1 scheme have been reported to L&R Committee who have approved the changes to the highway. Engagement has also taken place with some key stakeholders, including National Highways (for their works on the A5036) and land owners and discussions held with Planning colleagues over the elements of the scheme for which Planning approval will be required. The re-baselining process has led to a revised total. The agreed allocation is £21.2m (MC). There may be some elements of MC which were included in the Outline Business Case which won't be deliverable under the current programme. These elements are likely to be delivered in CRSTS 2. Southport Eastern Access Business Cases: The detailed design work is now progressing and the final details will be included within the Full Business Case submission as requested by the LCRCAs. It is proposed that the same Procurement Route be adopted for the delivery of the project. The feasibility stage of the project is ongoing. Further engagement with local Members, businesses and residents is nearing completion and feedback is being appraised. In order to scope the necessary mitigation measures within the Norwood Ward, some specific targeted engagement with residents and businesses is required. The details of the process are being agreed with Ward Members. Sustrans will also be completing some school engagement work with schools in the area to help ensure that safer routes to schools are considered in the development of the proposals. The baselining process has resulted in £16.8m being allocated in the current CRSTS programme. As with the MC scheme which were included in the Outline Business Case which won't be deliverable under the current programme. These elements are likely to be delivered in CRSTS 2.

## Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan

Strategic Objective	SI net zero
Report Date	Oct-Dec 2023
Previous Status	Green

SES Lead	Stephan Van Arendesen
SES Project lead	Stephanie Jukes
Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators (Please add more rows if necessary)	Target	Achieved	Status	Progress to date
To report on - LCR Combined Authority – net zero/ Climate emergency targets	Plan published summer 2023	N/a	Green	The LCR Combined Authority net zero action plan has been approved July 2023. It is now available <a href="https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/LCR-PathwaytoNetZero-Report-2022--FINAL-compressed.pdf">https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/LCR-PathwaytoNetZero-Report-2022--FINAL-compressed.pdf</a>
1 Deliver business sustainability support to 60 Sefton	60 businesses	Start date Nov 2023	Green	Council has commissioned Groundwork Cheshire, Lancashire & Merseyside to deliver
2				
3				
4				
5				

Commentary

The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority have set a target of net zero for all parts of the economy to be net zero by 2040. This will require all Sefton businesses to halt the use of gas, diesel, oil and only use energy from renewable resources by 2040.

Details of the actions within this plan will be reported to the next SES meeting. Examples within this Action plan includes (TBC) On transport - Complete Phase 2 of 'State of Freight' investigation into a future zero carbon freight solution, ensuring that this is aligned with our Freeport goals of decarbonisation and good jobs to deliver outcomes including last mile ZE deliveries and reduce trips, scope options for mechanisms to seek to support decarbonisation of freight, and develop a freight strategy and that connects Freeport locations in a net zero manner On buildings - Identify high-opportunity zones as areas for groups of home/business owners to plan retrofits together or create low carbon communal/district energy schemes and smart networks. On Industry - a series of targets around the following;

To effectively transition to net zero, our industrial base will need cost-effective access to clean power, clean hydrogen and effective access to clean power, clean hydrogen and carbon capture and storage technologies alongside efficiency and storage technologies alongside efficiency improvements in process and delivery systems improvements in process and delivery systems.

On Clean Energy - Progress the Phase 3 development activities related to Mersey Tidal (LCR Year 1 action plan review SE6) and commence Phase 4 activity to Consent a UK first of a kind (FOAK) Tidal range scheme.

On Natural Environment - Develop a pipeline and identify potential funding for pilot innovative and sustainable agricultural projects, such as urban farming, greenbelt agroecological farming, carbon capture etc.

Other issues pertinent to business - MEEES Regulations applies to non- domestic rented properties, by 1 /4/23 must have an EPC rating of E as a minimum to be able to be rented, plans for this to increase over time (possible EPC D by 2025, EPC C by 2028 and EPC B by 2030) Investment in green technologies e.g. building retrofit, EV charging, Heat pump installations will help to generate local jobs and training opportunities

InvestSefton has also allocated UKSPF to provide business sustainability support in town centres .Sustainability is high on the agenda for conference buyers and events/exhibition organisers and with this in mind it is critical that as part of the planning process for the Marine Lakeside Events Centre (MLEC) opening 2026 that as a destination Sefton begins to build the sustainability offer. The project will measure the business carbon footprint, design an action plan to reduce and produce a sustainability policy.

Strategic Objective	SI health
Report Date	Jul-Sep 2023
Previous Status	Amber

SES Lead	Margaret Jones
SES Project lead	Helen Armitage
Overall Status	Amber

*Italics = no data update from previous quarter report*

Key Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status	Progress to date/Comment
1 <b>18.3%</b> <i>Percentage of under 16s in relative poverty, before housing costs (2021/22)</i>	Reduction	Worse	Amber	2.3 percentage point drop from 2020/21. Better than England average (19.9%)
2 <b>14.0%</b> <i>Percentage of employees earning below real living wage (2022)</i>	Reduction	Better	Green	50% drop since 2019, now in line with England average (12.5%)
3 <b>4.5%</b> <i>Percentage of children in workless households (2021)</i>	Reduction	Better	Amber	Sefton's rate is half the national average, but note relative poverty still affects over 1 in 6 under 16s
4 <b>41.6%</b> <i>Percentage of children(FSM) achieving a good level of development at the end of Early Years Foundation Stage (Reception) 2022</i>	Increase	Worse	Red	54% pre-pandemic. Lower than 49% national average in 2022.
5 <b>22.9%</b> <i>Percentage of the population living in the 20% most deprived most unhealthy environments (Access to Healthy Assets and Hazards Index)</i>	Reduction	Same	Amber	This proportion is high (affecting over 63 000 people) but is in line with the national average (22.6%)
6 <b>26.5%</b> <i>Food insecurity (indirect measure) Percentage of population who live in LSOAs scored in the top 20% for risk of food insecurity 2021 nationally on the Food Insecurity Risk Index</i>	Reduction	New indicator	Red	Estimated that over 74 000 people in Sefton live in neighbourhoods of highest food insecurity
7 <b>£ 445.40</b> <i>Median weekly earnings 2021</i>	Increase	Same	Red	Only 28 LAs in England record lower median earnings than Sefton in 2021. Significantly worse than England.
8 <b>63.6 years</b> <i>Healthy life expectancy at birth (2018-20)</i>	Increase	Same	Amber	Similar to England (63.9 years), but obscures large health inequalities that impact those of working age
9 <b>13.0 years</b> <i>Gap in life expectancy at birth (2018-20)</i>	Reduction	Increase	Red	Second largest gap in England. Average life expectancy at birth in the most deprived section of Sefton's male population is estimated to be 70.5 years (vs 84.1 years in the most affluent)

**Commentary**

The indicators above are drawn from the Public Health Performance Framework (8 and 9) and the Child Poverty Accountability and Progress Framework (1-7). It is important to note that indicators that reflect population status and inequalities in outcomes such as median income, child poverty, school readiness, and spatial measures of deprivation are highly correlated with population health outcomes and inequalities. During Quarter two there were no published updates to these indicators from open access data sources. At the start of this period a successful, largescale event was held to stimulate development and implementation of actions to improve children's prospects in education, training and employment. A conference summary has been shared with attendees. This period also saw the launch of 'We're Here', which is a long-term promotion of different sources of advice and support for mental health and wellbeing. Feedback from members of the public has reflected genuine appreciation from people in need. The process of recommissioning Sefton's Living Well Sefton integrated health and wellbeing service continues, which includes a social prescribing offer supporting people who are struggling with welfare, debt and other cost of living concerns. Quarter two also saw the launch of a parallel service for children and young People - 'Happy 'n' Healthy', and finalisation of a pilot of a community-led childhood respiratory support service. An anticipated outcome of both of these services is an increase in parents' ability to maintain and participate in employment and training secondary to reduced childcare responsibilities. Unfortunately, there have been delays which have prevented the publication and dissemination of academic insight work into the experiences of parents and children who currently experience poverty in Sefton. This throws an important light on the many trade-offs between work, caring, benefits and health behaviours that families have to make, and the final report will be available for SES leads to study and learn from shortly. Looking ahead, the introduction of the socio-economic duty and shared learning events have presented the opportunity for possible joint working with Salford Council on suggested actions from the Childhood Poverty Strategy such as poverty-proofing checklist with broad applicability to a range of organisations and services. Planning is also underway for the next Child Poverty Conference Event on the theme of Places in January 2024, as well as microsite to host and share best practice and foster collaboration. Upcoming professional development opportunities will support new policy development for example on Health Impact Assessment.

Strategic Objective	SI digital	SES Lead	Andrea Watts
Report Date	Jul-Sep 2023	SES Project lead	Helen Spreadbury
Previous Status	Green	Overall Status	Green

Key Performance Indicators	Target	Achieved	Status	Progress to date
1 Infrastructure			Green	Infrastructure board well underway overseeing a wide range of work and activities to completion
2 Training & Skills			Green	This board has now closed as it has delivered the aims within the Digital strategy published in 2021
3 Digital Inclusion			Green	Digital inclusion strategy published; programme of meetings and activity in place and underway
4 Business Forum			Green	Sefton Huddle continues to meet 3 times per year in various locations across the Borough (Feb, June and Nov). Next meeting will be held on 22nd February at The Atkinson with a talk and Q&A on the new Southport Enterprise Arcade initiative
5 New Ways of working			Green	DW platform built in the cloud and deployment commenced across Children's Services and Adults Social Care lead review and refresh of infrastructure in place to support this project now completed Cloud migration project completed, and project closed
6 Technology enabled care			Green	Wide range of activity underway including TECS E-learning module roll out; Care Home Improvement grants & various initiatives supported
7 Customer			Green	Website redesign and upgrade completed, further work in progress to upgrade the software to the latest version, web board now in place to oversee developments Legacy front office system decommissioned and the new Customer Experience platform implemented including self service forms. Work ongoing to build new forms and business processes within this software to replace the legacy e-forms solution.
8 Smart Cities			Amber	Sefton bid successful to test out the Cyber guidance for Smart Cities with the DSITHC, project now completed. Cybersecurity 101 presentation to H&PP SMT positively received, presentation to Digital Infrastructure Board on 24/01/24
9				

Commentary

Sefton's Digital strategy work is now complete with boards and sub-groups having delivered a raft of activity and projects -A similiar dashboard for Sefton's digital strategy has been updated and reported. Key highlights include:

- An Infrastructure board was established, with membership of key officers across the authority including ITS (providers of backhaul network ) regularly providing updates to board and subgroups set up to explore opportunities across the growth agenda; this board also received regular presentations from LCR
- Training & skills has been a key feature of the digital strategy and is fully aligned with the council's economic objectives; InvestSefton and Sefton@work continue to promote business & employment opportunities and the council; Evaluation of IDEA training tool completed and now available to all staff with comms underway
- Digital Inclusion strategy completed and published and the action plan developed to track strategy implementation; Digital Inclusion Task Force established; programme of meetings in place; A refresh of devices and software within libraries completed

Significant work completed in libraries including a tablet loan scheme and the provision of digital meeting rooms and digital newspapers; Digital Participation Survey due to launch first quarter of 2024

- InvestSefton hosted two cyber security workshops in September with the NW Cyber Resilience Centre (CRC). Over 30 businesses attended each workshop, and feedback was positive. An estimated 60 Sefton businesses (waiting to be confirmed) went on to sign up for the Merseyside Cyber Resilience programme. The CRC have committed to attend other events being held by InvestSefton throughout 2024, including Huddle meetings as the DCT sector is a good conduit to other businesses who need support in this area.
- Mini digital survey undertaken with businesses who attended the workshops. 23 responses received in relation to 9 common business software packages, and their training/skills needs. Some key findings were: 65% use business planning tools and 47% require training; 61% use financial management tools, 43% require training; 70% use IT and digital marketing tools, 81% requiring training
- Windows 10 upgrades completed and ongoing maintenance schedule in place; Deployment of cloud telephony completed, and project closed; ICT Client represented and involved with ICB digital forums, Sefton group now established to move this forward; M365 upgrade complete and monthly updates automated; RPA approach agreed, recruitment underway however no candidates found from first advert, on hold due to recruitment freeze; Amber risk for New Ways of working due to lack information regarding regional ICS strategy for digital and associated funding , however strategic group now in place to work up the detail for Sefton
- TECS e-learning module - Development of CSC version of the TEC e-learning during Sept to go live to CSC staff teams from Nov 23. As at end Aug 98 staff have completed ASC TEC elearning training; Capital Programme Shared Care Settings Improvement Grants – R4 of this Grants Programme launched on 08/01/24 ; CIC Care Builder Pilot – slippage due to connectivity in each property but expected to go live Feb 2024; Vitalerter Remote monitoring pilot – launched end Sept 24.

Digital Transformation Funding Programme – Yr 1 targets met and Y2 underway; TECS web page development - ongoing in line with whole overhaul of Sefton Council website; Telecare service will switch over to ELMS system by end Jan 24. – all data and equipment required for switch has been completed/ordered; Automated telephony pilot proposal is with procurement for progression - will be progressed end Feb 24;TEC information and Guidance currently being reviewed and updated for staff and general public.

- All 28 legacy processes have been transferred from FrontOffice to CXP and are fully live; The legacy FrontOffice application has now been decommissioned; New CXP developments are in scoping/early development including Data Breach Notification and ECF forms

Website: Umbraco upgrade (to v10) is now in UAT with projected go-live of end of February 2024; Scoping and development of phase 1 of Active Sefton standalone site in progress, comms team leading with Service; Web project board reviewing new requests for web design and web development

- Discovery session completed with Intel; Review of current activity in Sefton underway; Report to ELT - agreed next steps in the development and delivery of workstream; Discussion at Digital Infrastructure Board re: potential exploitation of LCR Connect/working with LCR re the implementation of a toolkit for the deployment of commercial KIT on council assets to support 5G

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<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee- Regeneration and Skills	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Social Value Outcomes from the Growth and Strategic Investment Programme		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director (Place)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	N/A
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

The objectives of the Growth and Strategic Investment programme, and the projects therein, are consistently intended to balance economic, financial, social and environmental outcomes. Each project is developed with wider aims to support with delivery against strategies and policies in other areas of the Council beyond regeneration.

The aim of this report is to provide members with visibility of the work that has been undertaken, is being undertaken, and is planned, on projects across the Council's Growth and Strategic Investment programme that demonstrate "social value", which for the purposes of this report is defined as the wider value created by capital projects beyond the economic and financial.

## Recommendation(s):

That Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- (1) note the content of the report and its appendices; and
- (2) provide feedback on key issues and opportunities arising, and advise on areas of potential interest for further review and focus in future years.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The recommendations will support the effective and transparent governance of the Council's approach to investment project development and delivery, and its performance to date against this intended approach.

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

No alternative options have been considered. The Council's Growth and Strategic Investment programme has always been focused since inception on delivery of wider outcomes beyond just economic and financial.

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

### **(A) Revenue Costs**

Key financial issues and implications are included within the body of the report, or within the budgets and business cases for the specific projects referred to.

### **(B) Capital Costs**

Key financial issues and implications are included within the body of the report, or within the budgets and business cases for the specific projects referred to.

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

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

Any resource implications arising are included in the body of the report or within the business cases for the specific projects. The programme's focus on social value outcomes brings no specific resource implications.

### **Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications arising.

### **Equality Implications:**

Focus on social value across the Growth and Strategic Investment programme ensures strong alignment with the Council's objectives in its Equalities, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) strategy. Each of the projects within the programme has an Equality Impact Assessment developed and implemented as part of the business case development process, and in addition to mandatory training relating to EDI, all members of the regeneration and highways teams are undertaking real lived experience training with stakeholders to strengthen understanding in such areas as disability, ensuring the incorporation of direct feedback and their immersive learning into project design and development processes.

This focus permeates into the Council's supply chain for project development and delivery as well, and examples of implementation in practice are included in this report and in the appendices.



<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will:	
Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N
<p>There are no environmental implications arising from this report specifically. Sustainability and environmental impacts and mitigations are incorporated into every project business case, and as above from concept stage projects are being developed with positive environmental outcomes in mind as key objectives and deliverables.</p>	

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

Protect the most vulnerable: Inclusivity will remain at the heart of the programme in every respect, with examples included throughout the report.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above, inclusivity will remain at the heart of the programme in every respect, with examples included throughout the report. The role of consultation and engagement, to capture community feedback on project proposals, is also integral to the programme.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Project business cases are intended to balance economic and financial outcomes with wider social and environmental objectives.
Place – leadership and influencer: The vision and strategy of the programme and the projects therein closely align with the 2030 vision and the Place-based strategies of the Council.
Drivers of change and reform: The enhancement of physical assets, and the way in which capital projects are developed and delivered, will all support change across the borough.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As above, project business cases are intended to balance economic and financial outcomes with wider social and environmental objectives.
Greater income for social investment: As above, project business cases are intended to balance economic and financial outcomes with wider social and environmental objectives.
Cleaner Greener: All projects and operations will align with the highest environmental

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standards, reflecting the council's focus on climate emergency.

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7558/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5658/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

There have been no specific external consultations on this report. Each project has an agreed approach to consultation and engagement externally with stakeholders and communities, as applicable, including in relation to social value outcomes.

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### Appendices:

Please find enclosed the following appendices:

1. Marine Lake Events Centre – Social Value Report December 2023 (published March 2024)
2. The Strand – Social Value Report 2023 (published December 2023)
3. Vinci Social Value Plan for Strand demolition and construction project 2024 (published March 2024)
4. Safer School Streets project overview (January 2024)
5. Sefton Council, Social Value (Employment and Skills) from development, Supplementary Planning Document (published May 2023)
6. The Sefton Beacon (published February 2024)
7. Safer School Streets – Child Friendly Projects Analysis (February 2024)

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton Council has an exciting and ambitious growth and strategic investment programme. This programme, and all of the projects therein, has been developed and is being delivered, with objectives in mind relating not only to economic and financial outcomes, but also to social and environmental outcomes.
- 1.2 This has long been the Council's approach, including (but not limited to) in relation to the Strand acquisition for regeneration purposes in 2017.
- 1.3 The aim of this report is to provide the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) with visibility of activities and outcomes in relation to these wider outcomes, broadly termed social value in this report, and to enable feedback and discussion on these areas of priority for the programme and the projects therein.

## 2. Growth and Strategic Investment programme

- 2.1 The Council's growth and strategic investment programme comprises a range of projects across all parts of Sefton, of a wide range of types, sizes, funding sources and delivery models. This section provides an overview of activity and outcomes relating to social value from a number of example projects, alongside an overview of the wider approach to incorporation of social value into all projects.
- 2.2 One example is the Marine Lake Events Centre (MLEC), a £73m project funded by the Southport Town Deal award, by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, and by Sefton Council. Social value has been integral to this project since its inception. The report enclosed in Appendix 1 provides a summary of this activity, as presented monthly by the project to the Council's Executive Team, to ensure that the objectives identified are being measured and delivered. Key successes and lessons learned relating to the MLEC project in terms of social value include:
  - The important role that youth voice has played in the development of the project since Outline Business Case stage, prior to submission of the Town Deal bid – more than 1,000 school pupils across Southport were involved in consultation on the project and future uses of the asset.
  - The name Marine Lake Events Centre came from this consultation process, given to the project by a student at Greenbank High School.
  - This strong engagement with Southport schools and the Sefton colleges has continued throughout the project development process, with a range of events and activities undertaken by Council and contractor staff members to support in a range of areas (relating to careers in construction – especially for women – and to job interview practice, for example).  
Examples include:
    - Women in construction day at Hugh Baird College – circa 30 students, 7 MLEC team members, for 2 hours on MLEC and roles for women in Construction.
    - Hugh Baird Masterclass – “Overview of AECOM Building Physics team, an introduction to CFD, how we apply CFD to building physics

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and wind studies in particular with a focus on pedestrian comfort and safety for Hugh Baird” – circa 1 hour with circa 60 students on teams.

- Hugh Baird Masterclass – Asbestos awareness training by Reactive Compliance. In person for 61 students, 4 staff – all received formal CPD training, 4 hours in total.
- Hugh Baird Masterclass – Security during design by Rose Security. 4 x 45 mins sessions with 25 students each.
- 100 students from years 5 and 6 from Southport Learning Trust schools gathered together at Waterfront Hotel, Southport, to design the first phase of images for the MLEC safety hoardings. The location of the event was important to enable the students to visually connect with the project and therefore the task in hand rather than images on a screen.

*I would like to say a big thank-you for your valuable time spent giving us the opportunity to have such an expert presentation.*

- *The students were all amazed at how interesting Bill made the presentation helping us understand the role of the security consultation in the designing of buildings and helping them understand the steps needed to ensure safety is upheld. The following quotations were shared by many students:*

*“ absolutely eye opening “ “ this is a little concerning and opened my eyes up to how dangerous life can be”*

*“ I never knew this industry existed “ “ I would love to work in this area of work “*

*Thanks again Bill it was great meeting such a gentleman.*

***Curriculum Manager Hugh Baird***

○

n social value has been incorporated into all procurement exercises, with increasing emphasis on social value objectives and actions as pass / fail criterion (or hygiene factors) rather than scored open text questions (or motivating factors). This has been incorporated into the Council’s Social Value Policy.

- All key contracting partners are Caring Business Charter signatories – please see section 3.
- Most external contractors have their own social value ethos as well, so in addition to the above have been undertaking wider activity as well. For example the key consultants involved in the MLEC project have been undertaking litter picking around the Marine Lake as part of ongoing team-building exercises.
- At the time of writing, the site hoardings are blank white, created ready for local young people to design what they would wish to see and say on these prominent hoardings. These will be in place when the main build contractor commences on site in late 2024.

2.3 The MLEC project is one example, but identifies areas of good practice above that are now being applied on all projects. Some external members of the MLEC project team are also involved in the Southport Pier project works, for example, where much of the above is being replicated. For example, under safe contractor supervision, the Pier project team recently held a visit and event for Southport College construction students to visit the site to see the complex works being undertaken on this important heritage asset in action – this event had particular emphasis on careers in construction for women. The project has also delivered;

- AE Yates currently employ 9 apprentices / trainees who are undertaking company sponsored part time academic studies in engineering, project management and surveying. 2 of these existing AEY apprentices / trainees will be offered works experience / training opportunities on this project.
- Give An Hour Campaign - The Give an Hour campaign has been designed to show that it does not take a lot of time to make a big difference and aims to introduce young people to a wider variety of options and careers experiences. A calendar with school/ college events and activities that need support is provided which could involve career fairs, mock interviews, talks, assembly's etc.

The procurement of the main contractor of the full Pier restoration (although funding for the full project is awaited at the time of writing) included strong emphasis on social value, and has yielded a bid that includes explicit commitment to apprenticeships and to full-time permanent employment opportunities for care experienced young people in Sefton. Leveraging such a project to support with focus on opportunity for care experienced young people in Sefton is an important opportunity, and is a focus for discussion within our internal and all external project teams.

2.4 This wider focus on outcomes beyond the financial has been incorporated into the project development and delivery process, and has exemplified the opportunity for the delivery of financial and environmental benefits concurrently. In the case of the Pier, the surplus timber that is no longer safe for the Pier is being sold, delivering a financial saving to the project but also diverting a huge amount of waste from landfill.

2.5 The repurposing of the Strand Shopping Centre in Bootle is another investment project with strong emphasis on social value. The report enclosed in Appendix 2, however, demonstrates that since the acquisition in 2017, the Council's ownership and operation of the centre has enabled delivered of a huge range of wider outcomes in partnership with local stakeholders and communities. Ranging from Council-led events to Council-delivered services, to support for Community Interest Companies (CICs), this support can be valued in the millions. Please see further details and case studies in Appendix 2.

2.6 This emphasis will continue through ongoing operations, and through development and delivery of the repurposing project. Many CICs identified in Appendix 2 remain key partners for the long-term future of the centre, and some will be involved with the capital project itself. For example, the Council has agreed

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a Memorandum of Understanding with Bootle Tool Shed, who have had to relocate from the Strand Shopping Centre to elsewhere in Bootle (given their spatial requirements). The MOU will provide the Tool Shed with certainty of funding through a commitment to procure external works as part of the repurposing project from the Tool Shed. This follows the work already undertaken in 2023 on the Salt and Tar site by the CIC, who constructed the seating and planters on the site.

- 2.7 Again, social value has featured prominently in the procurement processes for the project. This has been embraced by the bidding contractors, and the preferred bidder for the first phase of the project (for which Capital Levelling Up Funding of £20m has been secured). As will be outlined further in section 3, there has been strong buy-in to the Council's focus on social value from all external partner organisations.
- 2.8 This focus on social value will not be at the expense of procuring contractors with the ability to deliver to time, cost and quality requirements of the Council. However, in addition to the above the preferred bidder for the first phase of the Strand project (subject to Cabinet approval at the time of writing) has provided a robust Social Value Plan (Appendix 3) that incorporates, and quantifies, the aims and objectives of the Council. As with MLEC, these will be measured and reported on an ongoing basis throughout the project.
- 2.9 The same opportunity applies to Salt and Tar, the new events space delivered by the Council between the Strand and the canal. There have been frequent community uses of the site for events (each of which has led to increased footfall in the Strand itself as well), and as above the contractors involved have embraced the same social value focus, and as per section 2.5 have included the Bootle Tool Shed.
- 2.10 Furthermore, the Council is working in partnership with Sound City (the leading independent musical festival and educational organiser, with whom the Council is working in partnership on Salt and Tar) to increase prospects for young people in Sefton including possibility, mentorship, financial support, and springboard opportunities to launch careers in the music industry. The Sound City Launch programme is a welcome and inspiring opportunity to support young people and accelerate their life chances in a broad and wide-ranging industry. Sefton partners have all come together under the child poverty strategy and recognise that this collective and connected approach is the most innovative, direct, and exciting lever to make direct change, targeted at our most underrepresented groups. It is known that people without connections or relevant experience often struggle to compete with their more fortunate counterparts from more affluent backgrounds in certain sectors, and this includes the music industry. This exciting programme at Sound City providing such broad and well-structured support would significantly increase the life chances and opportunities for local young people to gain valuable experience in a dynamic industry. We also know that confidence is a key element for young people to remain committed and able to develop their skills in a nurturing environment. The Sound City Launch programme would be an ideal resource to maximise all opportunities for our young people to gain employment and opportunity.

- 2.11 This comprises a 10-week training programme led by music teachers along with industry professionals, followed by 6 months of mentoring for each participant with an established music industry professional. It also includes a 6-week paid placement in a music company. Previous alumni have done placements at organisations such as Sound City, Modern Sky, Sentric, Ditto, Maintain Perspective PR, Come Play With Me, Whitewood Studio, and Supercat PR. Sefton would work with Sound City and Partners to identify the individuals and to see what other wrap around support could be provided. This programme will launch in 2024.
- 2.12 This approach to social value is not limited to regeneration projects, and is intended to permeate into all programmes and projects across the organisation. The same approach and examples of good practice are also evident across the Highways and Public Protection service.
- 2.13 One example is the Safer School Streets projects, which have been strongly shaped by the voice of children and young people attending the schools in question, and are clearly delivering positive social and environmental benefits for Sefton's young people. Further details on these projects are included in Appendix 4.
- 2.14 Moreover, the Council's teams are working to ensure that the same ethos is embedded in projects across Sefton which are being delivered by third parties. The Council's approach to this includes incorporation into the Planning system, as exemplified by the Supplementary Planning Document included in Appendix 5 in relation to Employment and Skills plans for identified developments. Moreover, it includes in some cases the incorporation of social value objectives and requirements into other contractual agreements with third parties, such as leases and licenses. Examples include a commitment from third parties to deliver an agreed number of apprenticeships, or a number of full-time permanent employment opportunities paying a real living wage of better, as part of a lease agreement.
- 2.15 However, in the case of many relationships, agreements and partnerships, social value and the areas of focus therein have been embraced openly by third parties as well, and have not had to be mandated or "forced". This collaborative approach in Sefton is demonstrated by the Caring Business Charter.

### **3. Caring Business Charter**

- 3.1 The Caring Business Charter was launched in 2022, recognising that many young people who have experience of being looked after may have additional barriers to address when they are looking to starting their lives as adults and enter the world of work. The Council aims to provide our young people with some of the practical means to reach their full potential through exposure to the world of work and high-quality careers support that can inspire and raise their aspirations, and the Charter is intended to play a role in that by working with private and public sector partners to secure good quality opportunities to expand horizons and grow aspirations in

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our young people and those who work with them. The Charter also supports the Council's recognition of care experience as a protected characteristic in 2023.

- 3.2 The Charter is operated through Sefton@work, the Council's jobs brokerage service and makes the most of our involvement in shaping and influencing our economy, representing a truly "One Council" approach. It is a pledge from employers, developers, investors and partners connected with the Council's Place based portfolio. Partners offer a range of high-quality interventions to support care experienced young people in accessing opportunities to gain experience and confidence, make contacts, better understand what is needed to enter and retain sustainable employment and make informed choices as they go through the education system about who and what they wish to become.
- 3.3 The Charter project was rolled out using a number of implementation methods, including:
- A Launch event in Autumn 2022 to acknowledge the Charter signatories (numbering 50 at the time of launch).
  - Ongoing Recruitment of Companies and Stakeholder partners to the Charter via Sefton@work, Invest Sefton, Procurement, the Growth Programme, and the Southport Town Deal
  - The appointment of a Co-ordinator post seconded into Sefton@work, with the post holder having lived experience of care.
  - Regular production of a Charter news bulletin called the Beacon (please see the recent example in Appendix 6) with a circulation to all schools, training providers and colleges and all departments in the Council.
  - Introduction of an annual Careers Market Place event – with an array of support offers for young people together with ringfenced jobs for to apply for.
- 3.4 The Charter Co-ordinator (a young person with experience of care herself) is currently working with 43 Active Employers, and 65 employers have signed the Charter. To date, there have been 62 referrals from partners and the following positive outcomes have been achieved for our young people:
- 9 have been supported into full time employment, 4 of whom are in apprenticeships.
  - 2 who were formerly NEET have moved back into full time education to improve their qualifications.
  - 1 is currently on a personal development programme with the Prince's Trust.
  - 8 are being supported by Sefton@Work through the DWP Restart Programme
  - 1 young person is undertaking a "Find your Purpose" intervention with Sefton@work
  - 1 young person has just completed his CSCS course with Sefton@work and has been offered a work experience opportunity with Dowhigh Construction Ltd
  - 1 young person is currently awaiting a start date for a work experience with Career Connect, our commissioned service for NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service.



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- 16 young people attended the Careers Market Place held during National Care Leavers Week in October 2023.

3.5 As part of the Charter and to promote the offer, the Sefton Beacon (Appendix 6) is circulated to an extensive mailing list of stakeholders/partners monthly. The Beacon also promotes all Sefton Council and Sefton School Apprenticeship opportunities which are shared with the Leaving Care Team to identify suitable applicants from their caseload and supported young people to apply. The latest Beacon was circulated on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2024 and included the opportunities below.

## Summary of Current Live Opportunities by type of Offer

Activity	Description	No of Employer offers
<b>Taster Days</b>	Spending 1 – 2 days in an employer setting learning different aspects of the business being shadowed by a member of staff. Potential to move on to an offer of a structured work experience.	23
<b>Structured Work Experience/Placements</b>	Opportunity for young people to gain a better understanding of what the business is and what they do. Each opportunity will vary in content and duration. They can start with a taster day, which could lead onto structured work experience.	28
<b>Site Visits</b>	Groups or accompanied individuals are invited to visit the site to see what the working environment is like before committing to a taster/placement or choosing this career direction. Visits may be short (1hr) or may take place over several hours depending on the company and the group size.	19
<b>Presentations</b>	Companies willing to offer interactive presentations about their business sector and their own experiences of working in the sector. They can offer careers advice about ways into a specific career. Delivered to groups in schools, colleges, or referral partner settings	18
<b>Mentoring Support</b>	Business owners have agreed to offer mentoring support face to face or remotely via teams, to support small groups of people with motivation, confidence, and aspiration. Delivered to groups in schools, colleges, or referral partner settings	19

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- 3.6 We will continue to work with Peel Ports to offer young people the opportunity to visit their site following from an initial site visit held in March 2023 where young people were able to see how the site operated and learn about the different aspects of the control room. Staff were also on hand to talk about career opportunities that were available both within Peel Ports, Peel Holdings and other work opportunities associated with their sub-contracting base.
- 3.7 A Jobs Fair/ Career Marketplace was hosted at Sefton Adult and Community Learning Centre in Cambridge Road during National Care Leavers Week in October 2023. A range of 21 ring-fenced jobs, apprenticeships and structured work placements were available on the day. In addition, young people had access to our partner services including financial advice, work benefit calculations, budgeting, debt management and mental health support. There was also impartial support from Sefton@work and NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service. 15 partners attended and 16 young people attended the event. 1 young person was offered an apprenticeship on the day and 2 have been offered guaranteed interviews and future taster days with an employer. Some of these vacancies are still live or on extended application periods and have been included within the latest Beacon, all young people who would like to apply have been offered a guaranteed interview.
- 3.8 Arrangements for the Jobs Fair/Career Market Place are in place to ensure this is held as an annual event in future years connected to National Care Leavers Week.
- 3.9 Merseyside Expanding Horizons (The Big Onion) have been commissioned by the Council to deliver a 1-year pilot project to support care experienced young people by providing an effective employment pathway to enable them to access and sustain employment or self-employment opportunities. The package of support includes a person-centered approach to enable participants to explore entrepreneurialism and business startup and includes the delivery of a range of key skills such as confidence, teamworking and communications as well as specific skills including business planning, customer service and managing finance. All participants will receive 1:1 mentoring, work placements, job shadowing and direct contact with other local entrepreneurs.
- 3.10 As per many of the projects in section 2 of this report, the Charter has featured as a social value ask in a number of Procurement exercises such as the recent NEET Reduction & Early Intervention Service contracting, and the Southport Town Deal. This has required all tenderers to sign up to the Charter and numerous offers have been made which have been featured in the Beacon. In addition, our contractor for the NEET Reduction and Early Intervention Service has employed an apprentice who is a Sefton care experienced young person.
- 3.11 Corporate parenting staff have secured significant contributions from Charter employers for Christmas celebrations for the young people in the form of gifts and entertainment and a celebratory Christmas lunch will again be held in December 2024.

- 3.12 Home Repairs Workshops have been delivered by Hugh Baird College and Kier Construction for care experienced young people who live or are about to live independently. The course has been designed in direct response to needs articulated by our young people. The sessions focus on domestic repairs and maintenance skills such as fixing kitchen and bathroom sinks, taps, toilets, washing machines etc. All participants receive lunch, support and travel with a free goody bag and voucher.
- 3.13 There have been lessons learned from the first year of the Charter since its establishment, in such areas as work readiness, diversity and specificity of opportunities, and the robustness of cross council arrangements to ensure that Charter opportunities form part of an integrated network of progression pathways. Moreover, this is only one of a wide range of areas of support required for care experienced young people. However, it demonstrates a collaborative and consistent approach to engagement with external partners on this important subject, and Council officers have been approached by a range of other local authorities looking to replicate the Caring Business Charter.
- 3.14 In January 2024, the Council launched its guaranteed interview scheme for care experienced young people. Working with our referral partners, we will support all care experience young people to apply for council vacancies under this scheme. Moreover, many Charter signatories have also agreed to implement the same scheme.

## 4. Methodology

- 4.1. In order to ensure that all programmes and projects have children and young people at the heart of their development and implementation, a Child Friendly Sefton methodology has been established. While so much of the good practice outlined above is being applied on most projects already, this methodology is intended to ensure consistency of approach and effective reporting and measurement of progress in terms of these outcomes.
- 4.2 Sefton's criteria is based on the [Children's Rights and Business Principles](#) guidance developed by Unicef, UN Global Compact and Save the Children, with additional criteria specific to child-centred urban development provided by the [Child-Centred Urban Resilience Framework \(CCURF\)](#) and [Royal Town Planning Institute \(RTPI\)](#). It may be in the long-term that Sefton pursues the official [Unicef Child Friendly City Initiative](#)', but this is a 4–5 year process, and the Council is keen to progress this initiative in 2024.
- 4.3 The criteria were further developed with input from Sefton CVS, and references the [Sefton Youth Voice and Participation Toolkit](#) which provides guidance for co-production and engagement with children and young people.
- 4.4 A Child-Friendly project analysis template has been developed. Completion of the analysis tool will demonstrate and evidence that the project has addressed the minimum number of Child Friendly principles – 1 in each strategic area (see overleaf). The analysis tool can be completed mid-project provided the project lead is able to evidence that criteria has been met. The Project analysis template

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can continue to evolve as more guidance becomes available. It is proposed that to be awarded "Sefton Child-Friendly Project" status, Project Leads must describe and evidence how the project is delivering at least one intervention in each strategic area.

STRATEGIC AREAS	INTERVENTIONS
MOBILISE THE COMMUNITY	<p>Motivate Key Stakeholders as Champions of Children's Issues</p> <p>Ensure that relevant stakeholders / partners are trained and have the right resources to champion youth voice and participation</p> <p>Prevent Crime on or by Children</p> <p>Increase Community Involvement / public Participation in Decision-Making To Promote Local Accountability for Children's Rights &amp; Welfare</p>
PROMOTE INTEGRATION	<p>Equity, Diversity &amp; Inclusion - create equal opportunities for children. Identify the most marginalised and vulnerable and remove barriers to inclusion, involving young people from different cultural backgrounds and ethnic minorities.</p> <p>Include Children in Emergency Preparedness. Help protect Children affected by Emergencies.</p> <p>Empower Children to Enable Participation, maximise participation in every phase</p> <p>Integrate Child and Human Rights into Policies, Plans, Legislation &amp; Other Measures.</p>
SUSTAIN LIFE	<p>Reinforce Community and Government Efforts to Protect and Fulfil Children's Rights. Consider how social value for the project could provide social investment for children.</p> <p>Strengthen Basic Services and Products for Children to Access Safely.</p> <p>Assure Decent Work For Young Workers, Parents and Caregivers &amp; eliminate Child Labour across all business activities and relationships</p> <p>Ensure Safeguards and Protection to Health and Life of Children in all business activities and facilities. Respect Children's Rights in on-site Security Arrangements.</p>
MAKE SAFE PLACES	<p>Ensure that all staff are trained and all safeguarding in place and policies understood.</p> <p>Provide Information In a Child-Friendly Way, using plain accessible English. Use Marketing and Advertising that Respect and Support Children's Rights</p> <p>Ensure Infrastructure is Child-Sensitive. Respect and Support Children's Rights in Relation to the Environment and Land Acquisition and Use.</p> <p>Design Safe Child-Friendly Spaces : Welcoming, Engaging, Play, Green, Inclusive, Confidence</p>

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- 4.5 Review of the above process will be undertaken via existing officer review structures, and reported intermittently to Cabinet Members.
- 4.6 Branding is in development with input from the Growth Board, Sefton CVS and Sefton Youth Voice. Drafts for illustrative purposes are included below.

Primary Logo on white



Design Elements



Example of social media post



Example of report or leaflet cover

- 4.7 By way of example, the Active Travel Schools project (section 2.13 and Appendix 4) has now completed the analysis tool and submitted their evidence. The completed analysis tool for this project is summarised in Appendix 7.
- 4.8 This methodology accompanies the existing Council processes, in terms of Cabinet and Council report requirements for example. Moreover, the Equalities Impact Assessments (EIAs) that accompany all projects in the programme will continue to be developed, published and implemented. The EIAs will ensure consideration of all protected characteristics, and will recognise the Council's adoption of the Socioeconomic Duty in 2023.

## 5. Future Opportunities and Actions

- 5.1. Action areas for 2024 and beyond to ensure continued incorporation of social value into the Growth and Strategic Investment programme, and beyond, will include particular emphasis on children and young people, ensuring they are at the heart of everything the Council does.
- 5.2 Actions and future areas of opportunity include:
  - Implementation of the Child-friendly projects initiative in section 4, and delivery of the actions emerging.

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- Continuing to strengthen youth voice in consultation, engagement and communication activity, via review with the Council's Consultation and Engagement Panel, and building on successes and lessons learned from key projects within the programme and from key partner relationships (including schools, colleges, CICs and beyond).
- Further review of opportunities in respect of planning policy to ensure maximisation of social value and of opportunities for children and young people.
- Further growth and maximisation of the Caring Business Charter opportunities and signatory relationships.
- Continued learning and development in areas that support incorporation of social value into all programmes and projects – in 2023 for example this has included disability awareness in advance of the design stage of projects for team members.

5.3 The above is not an exhaustive list, but is intended to demonstrate permeates, and will continue to permeate, throughout the Council's Growth and Strategic Investment programme and the projects therein. It will also demonstrate and reinforce that children and young people are at the heart of everything we do. Moreover, it will ensure that this focus on social value is far from a "box ticking exercise", but is an area of focus everywhere, all the time, on an ongoing basis. The examples within this report demonstrate the breadth of activity and focus that already exists in the programme, but there remain important and exciting areas of opportunity ahead.

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(All images)

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Marine Lake Events Centre

# SOCIAL VALUE REPORT

*December 2023*



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# MARINE LAKE EVENTS CENTRE SOCIAL VALUE REPORT

## OVERVIEW

The proposed Marine Lake Events centre (MLEC) will provide a state-of-the-art theatre and entertainment space and a flexible conference and business events venue, which will greatly boost the town's economic and tourism sectors. G&T is committed to supporting Sefton council, delivering lasting social, economical and environmental value for the area. Ensuring Southport remains a place where communities and tourism thrive.

## PROJECT TEAM

The MLEC project team contains a number of professional consultancy practices and contractor(s) who are working alongside Sefton Council to achieve the Council's social value aspirations. The Project Team is formed of; Gardiner & Theobald, IPW, AFL Architects, AECOM, OP-EN, NWA, Hoare Lea, Rose Associates, DLA Piper, WSP and Kier.

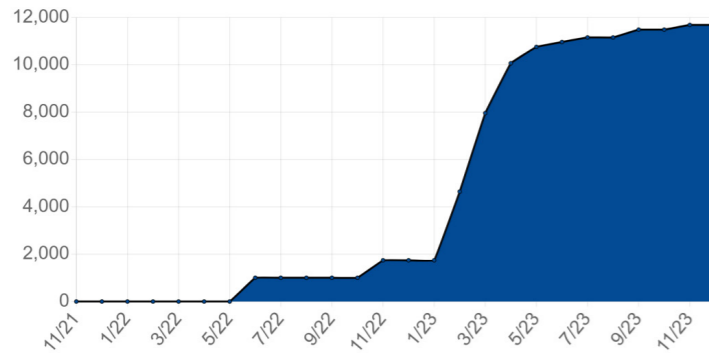
## SOCIAL VALUE MEASUREMENT

The Social Value on this project (excluding Kier's SV commitments) is managed using the Impact Evaluation Standard (IES) UK Framework and through the five key themes identified below:

IMPACT UK FRAMEWORK CORE THEMES
Tackling economic inequality
Fighting climate change
Equal opportunities
Wellbeing and mental health
Recovering from COVID-19

## SOCIAL VALUE GENERATED BY PROJECT TO DATE

This report covers the period; August 2023 - November 2023. 1,681.23 generated (financial Proxy Value based on the IES framework), excludes Kier engagement which is measured separately.



## SOCIAL VALUE TARGETS AND ACTIVITIES (KIER TEAM)

Now that Kier have been engaged under a Pre-Construction Services Agreement and their Social Value Targets have been agreed with Sefton Council, this and future reports will also report on Kier's Social Value activities over the period.

Over the period, Kier have engaged in the following key activities;

- Meols Cop, Build your Future event (20th October 2023)
- Care Leavers Careers Event, Seaforth (25th October 2023)
- Hugh Baird, Construction Industry Awareness Day (20th November 2023)
- Greenbanks School, Maths Industry Day (30th November 2023)
- Hugh Baird, Females in Construction (30th November 2023).

## SOCIAL VALUE ACTIVITIES (MLEC TEAM)

IMPACT EVALUATION STANDARD   TACKLING ECONOMIC INEQUALITY   CREATE NEW BUSINESSES, JOBS AND NEW SKILLS	FIGHTING CLIMATE CHANGE   EFFECTIVE STEWARDSHIP OF THE ENVIRONMENT
--	--

Metric Name: (IM35): Number of people hours of mock interviews, CV writing, careers advice delivered | **Social Value (proxy value): £8,281.09**

On the 10<sup>th</sup> February 2023 two project team volunteers Tracy Holgate (Sefton Council) and Emma Scott-Miller (G&T) visited Meols Cop High School spending six hours each interviewing a total of 14 Year 11 students, sharing future career building skills. A second event took place on the 2nd March 2023 with project team representatives Jake Huxley and William Hurman (AECOM). Visiting KGV college they delivered eight hours of interview practice for a total of 16 students. On 23rd June 2023, Tracy Holgate and Emma Scott-Miller visited English Martyrs Primary School Event to talk to roughly 60 young students about their aspiring careers. On 7th July 2023, Tracy Holgate attended the Meols Cop 'Build your Future' Industry Day to talk about career opportunities with circa 200 students over the day.

On 6<sup>th</sup> September, Sefton Council supported a local 'careers detective day' for Meols Cop high school. On 18th October, AECOM attended practice interviews at Maricourt Catholic High School in Maghull. On 8<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Reactive Compliance hosted an Asbestos awareness day at Hugh Baird for over 60 construction students. On 30<sup>th</sup> November, G&T, AFL, CBRE, IPW and Sefton Council hosted a 'females in construction' event at Hugh Baird College.

WELLBEING	IMPROVE COMMUNITY INTEGRATION
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Metric Name: (IM113): Community Donations (£) - Cash & Products | **Social Value (proxy value): £320.00**

On the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2023 members of the project team donated 40 Easter eggs to a local community kitchen in Waterloo.

Metric Name: (IM65): Number of hours spent on environmental volunteering opportunities | **Social Value (proxy value): £2,091.03**

On the 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022 18 project team members with representatives from CBRE, AFL, AECOM and Open (landscape architects) took part in a litter picking day celebrating World Ocean Pay. The group spent four hours cleaning the local area. On the 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023 a second litter picking event took place with 20 representatives from the project team (Kier, G&T, Sefton, AFL, AECOM and Open) for an hour and a half.

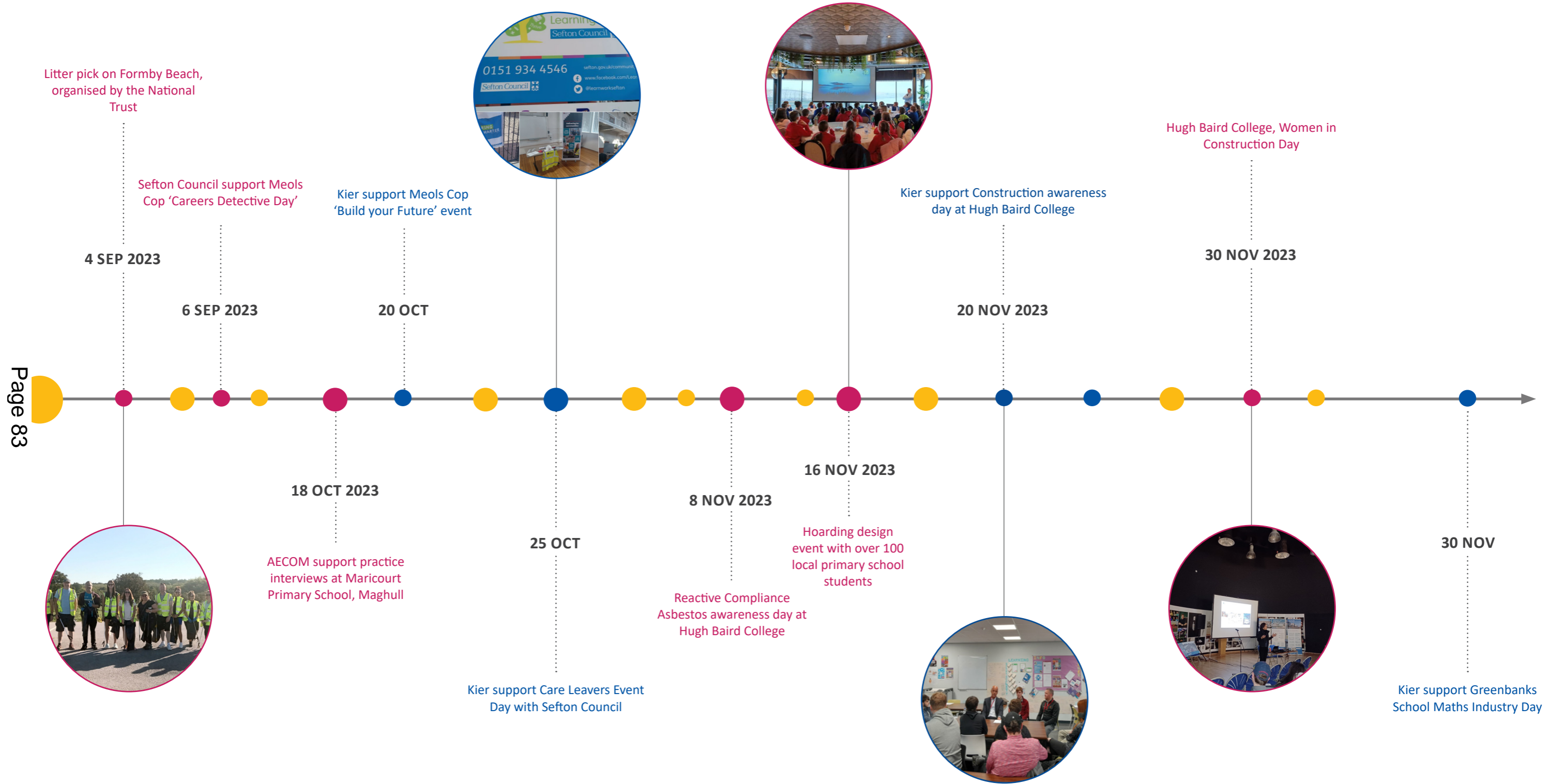
On 4<sup>th</sup> September, Sefton Council, G&T and Kier attended a litter pick on Formby Beach organised by the National Trust.

Metric Name: (IM110A): Number of people hours spent on direct Community Engagement activities. | **Social Value (proxy value): £989.11**

On the 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 seven representatives from the project team (G&T, CBRE, IPW, AFL, AECOM and Sefton Council) took part in a schools engagement day at Southport College. Speaking to 40 students aged 14-20, they shared insights and updates into the future plans for the Marine Lake Events Centre. Emma Scott-Miller (G&T) spent several hours at both Southport College and KGV College with Bess (Pets as Therapy dog) prior to GCSE Maths exams on 19th May 2023 and during #Welcomefest on 30th June 2023.

On 16<sup>th</sup> November 2023, Sefton, AFL and G&T hosted an event at The Waterfront Hotel which was attended by 100 primary school students to design posters and pictures for the Marine Lake Hoarding.

# MARINE LAKE EVENTS CENTRE - EVENT IMAGES & EVIDENCE



**Key**  
■ Kier  
■ Remaining project team

GT GARDINER  
& THEOBALD



# The Strand

## Social Value Report 2023

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## Contents:

### Foreword

1. Social Value Context
2. Real Estate Social Value Index (RESVI)
3. Measuring Social Value
4. The Strand – Social Value so far
5. Strand Social Value – The Vision



*The Strand: A shopping centre at the heart of community change*

## Foreword

Sefton Council acquired The Strand in 2017 for regeneration purposes - because it recognised how critical it is to the future of the Town Centre and that there was an increasing lack of investment from its private owners. The Business Case for acquisition was underpinned by the recognition that ownership of the Strand was essential to enable the wider regeneration of the town centre.

In 2020, Sefton Council's Cabinet approved the development of a clear strategy and plan to enable the long-term sustainability of the Strand within a programme known as 'The Strand Transformation'.

In March 2023 Sefton Council were awarded £20 million from Levelling Up Capital funding by DLUHC allowing progression of the first phase of the Transformation programme. The first phase of regenerating the site involved some site acquisitions, clearance and demolition to pave the way for the wider Strand masterplan.

The aim is place making, to create a new and transformative town centre heart that will restore a sense of civic pride and ownership by the community. Additionally, it will unveil a new southerly view down to the canal, creating an extraordinary high-quality public space that functions in harmony, integrates the current Salt and Tar event space and enhances the overall experience of by those using and visiting the centre.

Ultimately the overall Vision for the Strand is reinforce the 'Spirit of Place' for the people of Bootle with immediate impact, winning the hearts and minds of residents by connecting and framing the unique physical assets of the high street, through the Strand and down to the Salt and Tar

*The repurposing of the Strand will catalyse development of a more sustainable and resilient town centre that provides improved opportunities for local communities, residents and businesses. It will increase pride and raise ambition across Bootle whilst improving perception and brand beyond the town.*

canalside and waterfront, and beyond. This will significantly enhance and improve the perception of the town, increasing footfall, dwell time, and local spend. Furthermore, the plan involves positively contributing to the streetscape, with a focus on health and well-being at its very core.

It is vital that as we enter this period of delivery as part of as part of the first phase of the long term strategy for the redevelopment of the Strand, that we lay the foundations for Social Value and ensure we sow the seeds of best practice in order to garner wider benefits to drive forward change for the residents of Bootle and beyond.

This document sets out the current position on Social Value, Real Estate Social Value achieved to date as part of the day-to-day asset management of the shopping centre and Sefton Council's Social Value intentions as part of the repurposing.



## 1. Social Value Context

Social Value can be explained as a commitment by Sefton to use our influence and spending power to help drive inclusive economic growth, improve the local environment and address inequalities whilst ensuring the best possible value for money when purchasing goods and works.

In 2022 Sefton Council confirmed its commitment that it wants to do business with suppliers who have a strong people, environmental and ethical focus within their business by adopting the [Social Value Policy 2022](#).

The policy ensures that Social Value principles are applied in a way that enables the Council to maximise economic, social and environmental benefits for Sefton and its residents.

The policy is complemented by several initiatives and policies including the Council's commitment to mitigating the impact of climate change, the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy (which covers ethical investment), commitment to eradicate Modern Slavery, Staff Volunteering Policy, the Digital Strategy and commitment to Sefton Crowd.

The Council wishes to:

- Grow an **inclusive and resilient** Sefton economy, by engaging local suppliers and thereby encouraging re-spend within the **Sefton economy**, supporting micro and small businesses, social enterprises including charities and co-operatives.
- Increase the number of **jobs**, improve work related and life skills in Sefton and create a **local employment** opportunity programme for the long-term unemployed, economically inactive and other underrepresented groups in the Sefton labour market.

- Improve **living standards** and enhance the wellbeing of our residents by promoting socially responsible criteria for suppliers.
- Promote **environmental sustainability** by implementing environmental improvements, supporting reductions in waste and carbon emissions, supporting energy efficiency, and assisting the use of materials from renewable and sustainable sources within Sefton and our supply chain.
- Support **fair and ethical** trading in the supply chain, including full compliance to Human Rights legislation and Modern Slavery Act, whilst expecting our suppliers and contractors to demonstrate the same standards of commitment.

The Council will use its **influence and leadership** to deliver on these broad Social Value commitments by working collaborative and putting in place community, procurement, operational and financial activities to realise the following:

- Support for **community initiatives** about how to improve their financial position to gain funding via crowd funding and other resources/opportunities
- Encourage and **support suppliers** to operate and provide goods and services to offer maximum social, environmental and **economic benefits** to Sefton communities
- Encourage suppliers to **prohibit** the use of Zero Hour Contracts
- Review our Social Value scoring and weighting in tenders
- Commit to **prompt payment** of suppliers and encourage our suppliers to pass this on throughout the supply chain.



## 2. Real Estate Social Value Index (RESVI)

In addition to Social Value delivered through procurement works, goods and services as part of the Phase 1 £20m DLUHC funded repurposing scheme, Ellandi, acting as asset manager for The Strand on behalf of Sefton Council undertook a **RESVI assessment**.

RESVI is a social impact tool, created by the **Social Value Portal** and aligned to the Themes, Outcomes and Measures framework. It is used to assess the social and local economic value created by an in-use asset. The index is built around 67 initiatives that generate **social, economic and environmental** outcomes.

The RESVI diagnostic captures data on whether the initiatives are being completed. RESVI grade evaluates how well the social value initiatives are being carried out. Social and local economic value is calculated and verified using the National Social Value Framework, the UK's leading methodology of calculating Social Value.

There is a 3-step process that includes collecting data and information from the asset owner, the property manager, key suppliers and occupiers:

- 1. Diagnostic:** captures data on whether social value initiatives are being completed
- 2. Grading:** evaluates how well the social value initiatives are being carried out
- 3. Social Value Measurement:** captures output and outcome data to report a social value.

The measurements are mapped to proxy values that have been developed using publicly available data (e.g. from the Office of National Statistics) and are aligned with the National Themes, Outcomes and Measures framework.

This allows for activities to be reported in financial terms. Undertaking a RESVI assessment on a building enables the asset owner to understand where the opportunities lie to generate more social value through how it is managed and how its suppliers and tenants interact with it. This is valuable for both the local community it is located in and for society more widely. It also allows investors to understand the return on their investment from a social perspective.

In Q1 2024 Ellandi will be launching RESVI again, collecting data across 20 assets including The Strand. The results and best practice learnings will be shared with the centre management and property management teams at Ellandi's 2024 Centre Management Conference.

Sefton Council will use the RESVI report produced as a baseline and will work closely with Ellandi (our partners for current operation and future development at the Strand) to establish opportunities to generate additional social value opportunities/benefits through how the Strand is managed on a daily basis in conjunction with the social value generated through the Phase 1 repurposing project and the wider scheme.

### 3. Measuring Social Value

The National Social Value Measurement Framework underpin and empower the objectives of the Council’s Social Value Policy 2022, by allowing the Council to unlock, measure and report the social value provided by our suppliers during the development delivery cycle.

The Measurement Framework is built around a set of Themes, Outcomes and Measures and in recent years has become the most used framework in the UK.

The National Themes, Outcomes and Measures were launched in 2017 by the National Social Value Taskforce, chaired by the Local Government Association (LGA), with over 40 members from organisations representing central and local government, the private sector and the third sector.

The National Themes, Outcomes and Measures provide a flexible, measures-based calculation framework designed to articulate Social Value outcomes in terms that can be objectively assessed. It was conceived and developed to be evidence-led and applicable over the ‘whole life’ of a contract or single purchase, as well as throughout the delivery cycle.

Nationally there are 5 Themes and 48 Measures that are recognised.

**The 5 National Social Value Themes:**



**Jobs**

This Theme supports organisations to promote local skills and employment.



**Growth**

This Theme supports the growth of responsible regional business.



**Social**

Through this Theme, we aim to create healthier, safer and more resilient communities.



**Environment**

This Theme is focused on decarbonising and safeguarding our planet.



**Innovation**

This Theme aims to promote social innovation.

Sefton Council is signed up to the Social Value Portal and Sefton Council’s specific Themes and Outcomes can be found in Appendix 1.

The Strand repurposing project will ensure that Social Value is captured and reported via the [Social Value Portal](#) when procuring works, goods and services.

To communicate Sefton Council’s Social Value Policy’s performance and progress to all stakeholders, the Council will release an annual Social Value Statement from 2023 onwards to outline key areas of focus, future targets, operational procedures, successes and to communicate key messages to staff, partners, suppliers and other locally based organisations impacted by our Social Value performance.

In addition, there will also be ongoing reporting at a project level relating the Strand social value and as part of the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) bid for Levelling up, Sefton will be measuring the many non-monetised benefits associated with the project. This includes health and wellbeing outcomes, social value impacts (in terms of education and training outcomes for young people because of improved public resources and access), wellbeing impacts from greater community interaction and shared experiences, pride of place, productivity benefits to the target population, as well as benefits to visitors to the centre.



In terms procurement, the construction framework contracts, where used, include robust output focused KPIs including flexibility to allow the Council to specify social value and environmental sustainability (Net Zero) outputs as part of the evaluation and delivery requirements and to ensure the Councils standard terms and conditions are applied regarding social value capture when procuring works, goods and services. Where applicable and appropriate to do so, the Council will work with the Framework/Procurement Manager pre-contract to ensure any additional contract level KPIs appropriate for the work being commissioned are set out and agreed and then built into the procurement and contract documentation, including social value to be captured through the contract and how this is measured. Any sub-contractors used under the main contract will also need to adhere to these requirements.

For the LUF project, the Service Team working in partnership with Procurement will monitor social value commitments within the contracts, agree reporting periods to track progress for monitoring and evaluation purposes and ensure commitments made are undertaken in their entirety and using the Council’s leverage when suitable to support delivery. The Council will seek to hold suppliers to all their contractually specified social value commitments and these will be treated like any other commitment specified in the price or quality component of the supplier’s bid submission.



*In JLL's view, social value in the built environment is about creating lasting positive social impact throughout the real estate life cycle for every stakeholder<sup>3</sup> interacting with and within spaces.*

## 4. The Strand – Social Value so far

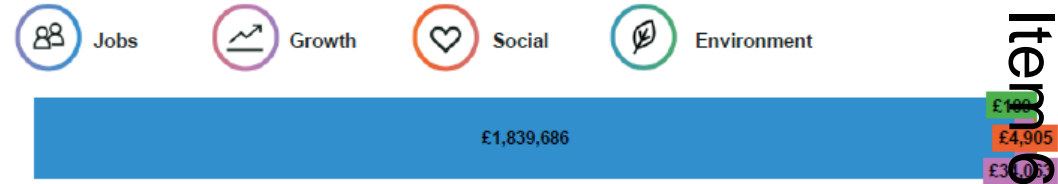
Throughout the period since acquisition in 2017, numerous Community Interest Companies (CICs) have been provided with vacant units free of charge. Local charities that have been supported as part of the day-to-day asset management, provided by Ellandi, have included: **Daisy Inclusive, Bootle Tool Shed & Bike Shed, Strand By Me, Kingsley and Co, In Another Place, The Big Onion, and Men’s Reach Centre** in offering essential services and workshops. This has ensured animation and vitality within these areas of the centre which would otherwise be vacant and also much needed support through these organisations for the local community through the services and help they provide.

In 2022, Social Value Portal and Ellandi completed a study of the social value created at The Strand. The study analysed the asset management, property management, supply chain and tenants in place at the building, the findings of which were presented in a report entitled ‘Real Estate Social Value Index, Ellandi The Strand 2022 Report’. The findings of the report can be summarised in the following infographics:

### Key stats & Highlights:

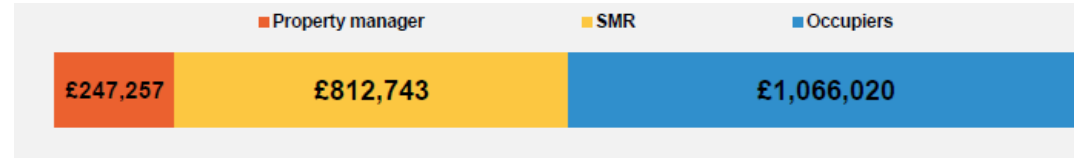


### Social and Local Economic Value (SLEV) Generated at The Strand in 2022 by Theme:



(Jobs - £1,839,686; Growth - £34,063; Social - £4,905; Environment - £109)

### SLEV Generated at The Strand in 2022 by Firm:



(Property Manager - Ellandi; SMR - Savills Management Resources)

### How Social Value was Created at The Strand in 2022:



In addition, from a commercial operation perspective, the occupation of spaces in the Palatine has contributed to cost savings to the council (compared to vacancy of said units), and that these partners have contributed to the vibrancy and footfall of this area of the centre, as well as the centre as a whole, with their offer and their activities.

In summary there have been **19 CICs supported** within the Strand, and the terms of their lease vary from covering rates only (with small fees payable to agents) to full occupational cost coverage.

For the units the Council has given over to CIC's, over the years, the value of support this has provided is as follows:

**c.£1.1m**

of occupation costs that they have not had to pay like other tenants

**c.£200k**

of rent they have not had to pay as they would if paying market rent for that unit

**c.£1.3m**

total savings to the CICs over these years since acquisition due to the Council's actions. that unit

In some cases, where the CIC has been in a position to make a contribution towards costs or get rates relief this has provided a saving to the Council over what it would have incurred if the unit simply remained vacant, which totals c. £88k over the period.

In addition to the above, the centre has consistently offered support for a range of community events, for example supporting the Community Christmas Light Switch On event, a free, fun-filled day for the local community. This included live performances, photo opportunities with Children's characters, free Fair rides, Meet Santa and a free selection box. This year's event was on Saturday 25th November 2023.



Furthermore, the centre has allowed In Another Place to use WH Smith and an empty storage space for various **events and activities**; assisted Kingsley and Co in setting up events, including electricity feeds, craft zones, and fencing; supported the **ADHD Foundation's Umbrella Campaign**; provided units for storage to Kingsley and Co and The Big Onion for use as required; facilitated **Blood Pressure check-up** stalls by Strand by Me and Know Your Numbers events; and hosted **Job Fairs** and **Artisan Markets** facilitated by The Big Onion.

Additional **financial contributions** from the centre and from Ellandi have included covering costs for essential items, such as **£750** for audio equipment for In Another Place; funding a **£2,500** wrestling ring for The Big Onion's Comic Con event; contributing **£1,000** towards a giant Dragon for Kingsley and Co's Literary Festival; assisting in replacing a ruined classroom carpet for Kingsley and Co at a cost of **£1,000**; and financially contributing to In Another Place's building of a new **Christmas Grotto**.

In addition to this, the Salt and Tar project at Bootle Canalside commissioned Bootle Tool Shed to deliver planters and seating for the project, with a value of circa **£25,000**, which supports with operating costs for the company for two years.

**Ykids literary fair 2023:** the dragon lorry used Salt and Tar to park on for the event on 11/11. 100 free car parking passes were used as part of the event, with a face value of £7.50 per pass i.e. a days parking. A number of the community organisations are liaising with the Salt and Tar Manager to look at ways in which they can be involved in activities and events on the site going forward.

Further information regarding the Social Value that has been delivered can be found in the Case Studies in Appendix 2.



*Ellandi and, by extension, Sefton Council's commitment to these groups has helped them grow, serve the local community, and provide essential services, events, and workshops where they are needed most.*

## 5. Strand Social Value – The Vision

The repurposing of the Strand will be the catalyst for a more sustainable and resilient town centre in Bootle, providing improved opportunities for local communities, residents and businesses. It will increase pride and raise ambition across the town as well as improving perception and brand beyond Bootle.

The repurposing of the Strand will build on existing strengths and momentum facilitated by Ellandi to deliver Social Value.

As part of the Social Value section of the demolition tender, contractors will be asked to provide a method statement outlining the activities they will undertake to deliver their Social Value Offer for the Strand Transformation Project. Answers will be expected to focus on the approach they would take in working with key stakeholders and consideration to Sefton’s key drivers which include (but are not limited to):

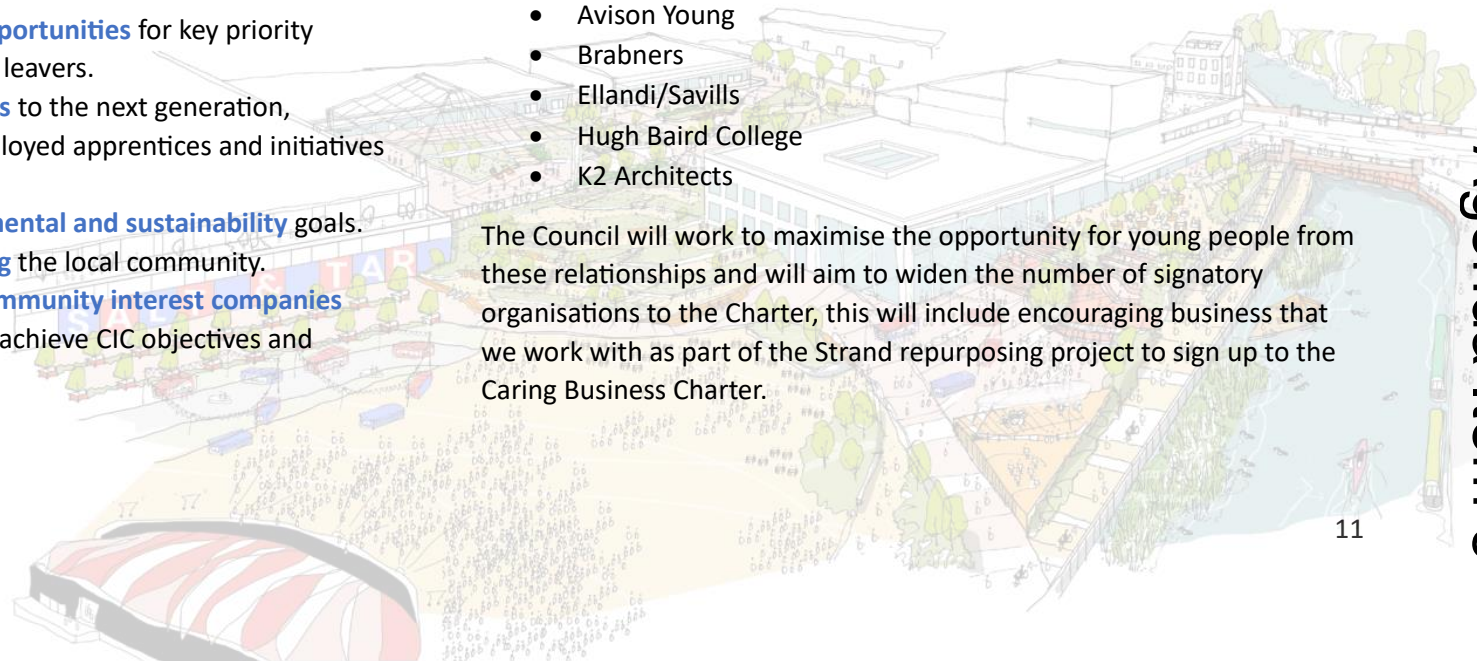
1. Consider **employment related opportunities** for key priority groups, in particular for local care leavers.
2. Provide **educational opportunities** to the next generation, including a number of locally employed apprentices and initiatives with local schools and colleges.
3. Contribution to Sefton’s **environmental and sustainability** goals.
4. Support the **health and well-being** the local community.
5. Work in partnership with **local community interest companies** (CICs) throughout the contract to achieve CIC objectives and project outcomes.

Social Value for the Strand project will be encouraged to take into consideration and, where appropriate to do so, seek to align with various Sefton Council policies including (but not limited to): Sefton [Vision 2030](#) Core Purpose and Outcomes Framework; [Sefton Economic Strategy 2022 - 2024](#); [Sefton Child Poverty Strategy 2022](#); [Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2022 - 2025](#); active travel, community wealth building and the emerging Child Friendly Projects amongst others.

In a first for the North West, Sefton Council established a ‘[Caring Business Charter](#)’ in 2022 - partnering with public and private sector organisations to offer employment, training, apprenticeship, work experience, mentoring and other opportunities to young people who have experience of the care system in Sefton. The list of signatories to date stands at some 62 businesses (many of whom are located in the Strand) and covers a range of industries from construction and project management to hospitality and healthcare including:

- Avison Young
- Brabners
- Ellandi/Savills
- Hugh Baird College
- K2 Architects

The Council will work to maximise the opportunity for young people from these relationships and will aim to widen the number of signatory organisations to the Charter, this will include encouraging business that we work with as part of the Strand repurposing project to sign up to the Caring Business Charter.



Closely aligned to the Strand is the activity of the Council’s in-house jobs brokerage service Sefton@work. This service supports more than 1500 local residents per year and assists them to build their skills and confidence, receive impartial advice and guidance and gain access to a wide range of professionally delivered support programmes and opportunities with local employers. Sefton@work offers quality assured personalised guidance for workless individuals together with an employer liaison function which deals directly with employers to deliver bespoke recruitment services including bespoke skills pathways and advocate on behalf of our clients on entry to jobs. The service is wholly centred upon delivering inclusive growth and is connected to all the regeneration initiatives across the borough and the city region through the development of employment and training agreements with investors and developers who are creating opportunities across Bootle Town Centre and the wider borough of Sefton.

In 2024, Sefton@work will be relocating its main Bootle base directly into the Strand and this will enable a more comprehensive service to be provided which will benefit both community members and the traders within the centre. The employment support on offer includes waged or unwaged work experience placements, support with financial barriers and access to a range of incentives for employers to recruit and candidates from vulnerable groups. The service will also provide a bespoke employment broker service on offer to businesses within the Strand to assist with recruitment and will also be able to provide open days, recruitment fairs and events to assist local recruitment as well as assisting with staff screening, on-site recruitment, staff turnover management during the construction and delivery phases of the project for the benefit of residents from across the borough.

In addition, the service will be delivering the Young Persons Guarantee on behalf of the LCR Mayor from the Strand and will provide incentives for the creation of opportunities through this alongside the award winning Ways to Work offer.

The new location will allow space for increased collaboration with stakeholders such as Citizens Advice who will offer complimentary support to service users alongside a vibrant programme of skills course delivered by Sefton’s Community Learning Service.

Sefton@Work will also work alongside the appointed contractors to ensure social value targets are facilitated and captured.





The repurposing of the Strand will catalyse development of a more sustainable and resilient town centre that provides improved opportunities for local communities, residents and businesses. It will increase pride and raise ambition across Bootle whilst improving perception and brand beyond Bootle.

## Principles



People First



Connected



Resilient



Green

## Outcomes

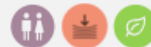
### Improved resident wellbeing

- Supporting mental health through improved outdoor space and amenity
- Improved public services, with better access to health, employment and earning support
- Supporting community activity and ventures



### Inclusive growth

- Supports future inward investment into Bootle
- Increases residents' access jobs
- Opportunities across all skill levels



### Connected & integrated town centre

- The re-purposed Strand is seen as the heart of Bootle
- It better connects with the town centre (visually, permeability and access to other assets)
- Mixes public services and community activity in the heart of the town, creating a more animated place



### A sustainably repurposed asset

- Reduced level of retail space
- Creates a sustainable balance between commercial, public service, residential and community uses
- Improved quality, configuration and flow of the asset
- Surplus space is positively repurposed
- Improved perceptions, pride and brand



## A framework for success (principles to test options & shape evaluation criteria against)

### Economic

- Jobs (number, quality)
- Investment attracted
- Levelling up & alignment to growth sectors
- Skills and training
- Future adaptability/ flexibility

### Social

- Improved public services
- Access/ engagement with local communities
- New facilities/ amenities
- Health and wellbeing
- Bootle £

### Environmental

- Quality of place
- Sustainable mix of use
- Sustainability
- Brand
- Heart of a connected Bootle (incl. Canal)
- Public realm/ space
- Gateway to Liverpool

### Commercial

- Deliverability (incl. pace of change)
- Affordability/ VfM
- Risk exposure
- Market appeal
- Adaptability/ flexibility
- Resources/ commitment

## Appendix 1: Sefton Council’s Social Value – Themes & Outcomes

Theme	Outcome
<b>Jobs: Promote Local Skills and Employment</b>	More local people in employment
	More opportunities for disabled/disadvantaged people
	Improved skills
	Improved employability of young people
<b>Growth: Supporting Growth of Responsible Regional Business</b>	More opportunities for local MSMEs and VCSEs
	Improving staff wellbeing and mental health
	Reducing inequalities
	Ethical Procurement is promoted
	Social Value embedded in the supply chain
<b>Social: Healthier, Safer and more Resilient Communities</b>	Creating a healthier community
	Vulnerable people are helped to live independently
	More working with the Community
	Carbon emissions are reduced

Theme	Outcome
<b>Environment: Decarbonising and Safeguarding our World</b>	Air pollution is reduced
	Safeguarding the natural environment
	Sustainable Procurement is promoted
<b>Innovation: Promoting Social Innovation</b>	Social innovation to create local skills and employment
	Social innovation to support responsible business
	Social innovation to enable healthier safer and more resilient communities
	Social innovation to safeguard the environment and respond to the climate emergency

## Appendix 2: Case Studies

### Kingsley and Co

Kingsley & Co held Pirate Fest, a two-week family event in the Strand Shopping Centre in Summer 2022. The purpose of the event was to offer free high quality and engaging activities for families in the local community who could not afford expensive days out over the summer.

Activities included:

- A giant sand pit full of 'Pirate Red Beards Treasure'
- A pirate ship
- A treasure hunt
- Interactive storytelling
- Pirate workshops
- Marauding pirates on mini galleons
- Singing sea shanty pirates
- Captain Jack Sparrow
- Virtual Reality walk the plank
- Pirate workshops



Outcomes:

**3,500**  
people attended  
events and  
activities.

**56%**  
of children that  
attended were  
on free school  
meals.

**30%**  
of children  
attending had  
additional needs



## Case Study – Big Onion

The Big Onion, developed and run by Merseyside Expanding Horizons, seeks to support people to become more economically independent. Operating from its hub in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre the Big Onion offers a range of services and activities to help people:

Improve their skills.

Get back into work or move on with their careers.

Start a business or social enterprise or grow an existing business.

Opening in December 2020, after only 3 weeks of trading, the hub closed due to Covid and the enforced national and local lockdowns. Since reopening in April 2021, MEH and its Big Onion hub have delivered a series of impressive outputs including:

- Providing employment support via its **Youth Hub programme** to **813 Sefton residents** aged up to 25.
  - Supporting **268 participants** on the Youth Hub programme to get into **work**.
- Providing employment support, via its **New Horizons and Directions** programmes to **394** Sefton residents.
  - Supporting **129** of those New Horizons and Directions clients to get into work.
- Provided **business support and advice** to **374** local people.
- Supported **187 entrepreneurs** to start up a business or social enterprise or grow their existing business.
- Delivered a range of accredited and non-accredited **skills training** to **213** local residents.

- Delivered a programme of **special events** including Artisan markets, live music performances, Employment fairs, skills and job speed dating events and a Comic Con and live action wrestling Show.



## Case Study - Crystalliz3D, Ceris Thomas

Ceris, 36, from Waterloo, walked into the Big Onion for the first time back in early 2022. Ceris had always wanted to start her own business, but due to the pressures of everyday living, including some health concerns, coupled with some early attempts to start trading, she was frustrated with progress and recognised she could do with some business support.

Ceris has had a unit within the Big Onion Trader Arcade since April 2022. Her business takes photographs from customers and converts them into 3D images within crystals. More recently Ceris has signed a contract to supply 10 North West based gift shops.

**“I couldn’t believe it when I got the call about this opportunity. I spoke with Chris, my Business Mentor about this and he helped me with developing my pricing schedule and terms and conditions of sale.”**

Ceris has now expanded her range of printable gift items and now offers personalised images printed on slate, wood, metals and various other materials.

**“I feel so much more confident now in running my business and feel part of a growing community of entrepreneurs within the Big Onion.”**

Ceris regularly attends the monthly Business Club within the Big Onion and is always keen to share her experiences and personal journey with newcomers in the group.



## Case Study: Bootle Together – Christmas Event 2023

The Strand are working with Community groups from inside of the Strand and in the surrounding local area; Asda Community Champions, Local ward counsellors, Attitude Dance School, The Inclusivity Hub, One Vision Housing (OVH), Crosby Lions, The Big Onion, Ykids and In Another Place. Together these community groups form **Bootle Together**. They have all worked together to fund and plan this year's Community Christmas Tree Light Switch on. Last year was the first time working together and this year sees even more local groups joining in. The ward counsellors have funded the tree, lights and Fairground rides on Salt and Tar and OVH have provided funds towards these costs and provided around 500 selection boxes for children on the day. Crosby Lions have provided Santa and some staff to assist. Attitude dance are performing on the stage, IAP have provided a Gospel choir to perform carols on stage, The Big Onion have arranged an Artisan Market on the day and Claire (Ykids) has Xmas decoration crafts happening and has provided 2 x Xmas elves on the day. The other groups are providing volunteers on the day.

Assistance (to date) is as follows:

- A donation of **200 Cadburys selection boxes** for Santa to give out to children at the Xmas light switch-on. Cost **£340**.
- **Xmas themed vinyling and branding** of the area where Santa will give out the selection boxes in the ex H Samuels Unit . Cost **£2,250**.
- Assistance towards **Grotto** build: In Another Place . Cost **£1,000**.
- Wrapping of **Mayors Toy Appeal** donation Box. Cost **£200**.







# Agenda Item 6



## SOCIAL VALUE PLAN

BOOTLE STRAND REDEVELOPMENT (DEMOLITION AND FUTURE WORKS UP TO £20M)



# Agenda Item 6

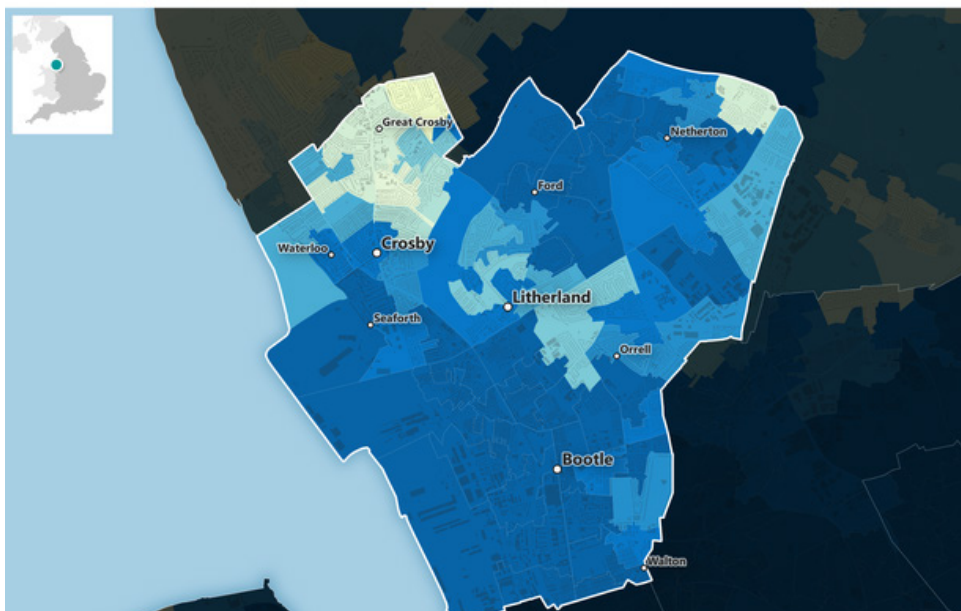
## SETTING THE STANDARD

### Local area needs analysis

During tender stage VINCI carried out a needs analysis of the Sefton Borough area to help us define our social value offer. Our findings show that the specific areas of deprivation in Sefton are: **income deprivation, employment deprivation, education skills and training deprivation, health and disability deprivation, crime and the living environment deprivation.**

Deprivation is higher in specific wards of Sefton and it is essential we consider these wards when assessing where the focus of our social value delivery plan should be. The data shows that Bootle South where The Strand shopping centre is located has the most deprived wards. This will be the area of focus for our plan.

### BOOTLE



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Version 1.0 - 26 September 2019

# Agenda Item 6

## Welcome to our Social Value Plan for the Bootle Strand Redevelopment

VINCI have developed the following social value plan and KPIs to improve the deprivation in the area through providing **employment** and **training** opportunities for all local people, paying at least the **real living wage**, volunteering time and skills to support inclusive **community** groups and their objectives. We will also engage with local **education** establishments to promote careers within construction, pathways and raise aspirations.



Gary Hughes

Our plan will be implemented throughout all stages of the project, to not only deliver during the construction stage, but to enhance the social and economic value that this project can deliver during the life span of its operation.

We have fully embedded social value within our processes, procedures and in the way we work to ensure we maximise our contribution to the local area and the wider community of Sefton for years to come by creating this long term partnership.

Together, we have a wealth of experience working in the area and understand its economic and social challenges. Engagement with local organisations such as Sefton @ Work , Y Kids, Big Onion, Bootle Community Tool Shed, Hugh Baird College, Local Schools to name a few will be fundamental to the success of the plan. Through support by senior directors and senior management from both organisations, early engagement and creation of delivery programme in preconstruction stage will ensure we hit the ground running prior to commencing construction work.

As part of the plan, we have outlined our targets within this document that relate to the key social and economic KPIs for the scheme and how we currently plan to achieve these targets.

### Gary Hughes

Regional Director  
VINCI Building UK



# Agenda Item 6

## TARGETS AND OBJECTIVES





# 1. Employment Related Opportunities

Our aim is to improve the Employment & Skills deprivation in the area by providing employment support workshops, access to training and Employment opportunities.

## Employment Opportunities

Target: 20 opportunities

- Providing new employment opportunities for all local people, advertised through Sefton @ Work and Big Onion.
- Providing opportunities for mature persons to enter/re-enter employment through Sefton @ Work.

## Employment activities/support

Target: 100 hours

- Running pre-employment courses and other activities that help unemployed people including care leavers and NEETS towards employment working with Sefton @ Work, Big Onion and other local services.
- Providing opportunities that help graduates and post-graduates take steps towards employment including apprenticeship opportunities
- Providing support with mock interviews, CVs, coaching and guidance to build confidence.

## Work placements

Target: 40 weeks

- Providing a 'work experience' placement or 'taster' of a particular role in the industry and should be unpaid and for no longer than 2 weeks in duration. (Students 14-16+ or an unemployed person wanting to get a feel for careers in construction)
- Opportunities for Care leavers, NEETs and long term unemployed to gain experience of the industry before applying for a permanent role.
- Graduate and undergrad opportunities to support current learning.
- 45 Day+ industry placement to support T level learning at Hugh Baird College



# Agenda Item 6

## 2. Educational Opportunities to the Next Generation & Apprentices



Our aim is to improve the Education & Skills deprivation in the area by providing aspirational careers talks and access to training and apprenticeship opportunities.

### Education activities

Target: 300 hours

- We have identified the following schools: Thomas Gray Primary School; Linacre Primary School; Hillside High School; The Alsop High School and Hugh Baird College, close to the project and will work with the schools to raise aspirations and awareness of roles within the construction industry, through interactive activities and events.
- Support Hugh Baird College construction students through site visits, employer engagements and modern methods of construction.
- Supporting Liverpool John Moores University Construction Management students through the project, including site visits and personal projects.
- Mentoring students in employability skills, helping them gain confidence in their future.

### Apprentice weeks

Target: 300 weeks

- Providing and promoting new apprentice opportunities within VINCI & our supply chain locally.
- Recording and monitoring apprentice weeks; be it existing, shared or project initiated

### Training weeks

Target: 30 weeks

- VINCI will set up an on-site training centre during the main works to deliver trade based qualifications targeted at Care leavers and NEETs who have failed to thrive in a traditional education setting. The programme will consist of level 1 trade qualifications, 100 hours work experience, health and safety including CSCS card and 100 hours work experience with our supply chain partners.
- Deliver uncertified training on site within the skills centre to benefit the local community, including DIY, Digital and Life Skills.
- Providing training opportunities for new employees within VINCI and supply chain to enable career progression.



# Agenda Item 6



VINCI Community Skills Centre in action



## 3. Sefton's Environmental and Sustainability Goals

Our aim is to reduce our consumption during the construction and demolition process by making SMART changes to the way we work including utilising the circular economy process and also provide a future platform for the further reduction in emissions during its operation.

### Carbon reduction

Target during construction: <7.22 TCO<sub>2</sub>e £1M turnover (Scope 1&2)

- Car Sharing/ Electric Vehicles/ Using public transport/cycling
- Consulting with the Environment Team
- Eco Cabins
- Low carbon concrete
- Using on-line technology for meetings instead of travelling

### Consumption reduction

Target during construction: Water consumption <90 m<sup>3</sup> £1M turnover

- Implementing Green Office Policy

Target during construction: Energy consumption 15,000 kWh £1M turnover

- Ensuring site staff have completed the SEATS course and SCSS eLearning module
- Consulting with the Energy Manager
- Implementing Green Office Policy
- Monitoring energy use
- Reducing energy of equipment not in use (Switch off lights and chargers)



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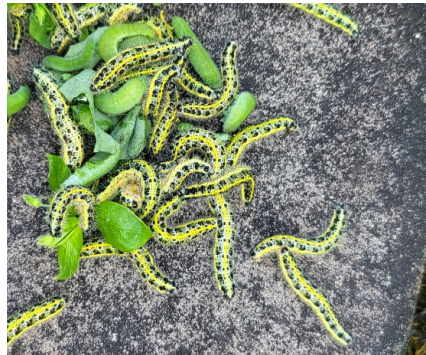
## Waste reduction

Target during construction: Waste (volume) <21Tons £1M turnover

Target during construction: Waste (diverted from landfill) >98%

Implementing Waste & Resource Action Plan (WRAP)

- Introducing water efficiency measures where practicable.
- Reduce export from site by recycling materials



## Increasing Biodiversity – Blackpool King Street

The project set up an onsite seaside themed garden using waste materials to increase the biodiversity around the project. The initiative was part of VINCI's Work place in Bloom scheme which happens every year the project also set up water harvesters in various locations on site to collect rain water, this is used to water the plants during summer and in the winter is used to clean p...

# Agenda Item 6

## 4. Health and Well-Being



Our aim is to ensure whole project teams have access to the tools and services they need to look after their mental health and well-being, whilst also knowing where to go if they need support.

### Health and well-being

Target: 300 Hours

VINCI have strong policies, procedures, initiatives and programmes in place to support staff well-being and mental health. We have developed effective communication tools that drive engagement and collaboration, and we continuously develop and promote mental monthly health and well-being strategies. Our programmes include:

- Working together to provide health and well-being services to all
- Support the delivery of healthier living courses to the community
- Increase the awareness of Health and Well-being in construction through the coordination of activities
- Mental Health First Aider Programme: to identify and provide training for mental health first aiders
- Mental Health Awareness: project wide training and awareness sessions, video presentations and mental health workshops
- Encourage Healthy Lifestyles: free annual health checks
- Visible Advice: notice boards in all offices and site cabins promote healthy living and well-being
- Project Wellness Action Plan: Running annual campaigns aimed at preventing health issues and promoting healthier choices for the entire workforce including supply partners. This is promoted through site briefings and safety breakfasts
- Well-being Champions: opening conversations to achieve more formalised communication, initiatives and well-being plans
- Work / Life Balance: promotion of a healthy work life balance through flexible working
- Exemplar Staff Welfare Facilities: provision of first-class site accommodation and welfare facilities



# Agenda Item 6



# Agenda Item 6



VINCI team supporting local Bootle community groups YKids/Kingsley & Co

**Claire Morgans Y Kids said** "A massive thank you to VINCI for all your support recently and over the years to us at YKids & Kingsley & Co. With your continued support, for the likes of the Believe awards and more recently at our children's literacy event (with your team of helpers), it is fantastic to see how much you care about the local community and give your time and resources to support us and the work we do for the Bootle community. Without help from organisations like yourselves we wouldn't be able to provide the support to children who need it most. Thank you all, for your help and support which is massively appreciated."



## 5. Partnering with Local Community Interest Companies (CICs)

Our aim is to have a positive impact on the local community through volunteering our time and expertise to support the important work CICs do for local people and improve intergenerational deprivation.

### Community project support

Target: 30k donation

350 volunteering hours

- Support the work of local CICs through volunteering our time, skills and expertise.
- Support the local CIC sector through the donation funds, equipment & materials.
- Supporting Kingsley and Co to expand their services to support more children with literacy skills in Bootle.
- Run skills workshops through our supply chain to Mens shed members
- Exploring Sefton volunteer centre for opportunities.
- Engaging with various communities and linking with local initiatives, resident's associations, and youth groups to share build process update and planned disruption.



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# Agenda Item 6

## LCR SOCIAL VALUE EXPERIENCE

Education  
Activities

24



14



Community  
Engagement  
Activities

99.5%  
Waste  
Diverted

from



16

Training  
Weeks

15



Work  
Placements

7



Local  
Apprentices

94



Employment  
Opportunities

Spend with SMEs

(less than 250 employees)



£23.5m



"The community engagement works that VINCI have undertaken in relation to Festival Gardens is exemplary – the project has always been regarded highly in LCC and will be used as a show case in terms of community and social engagement." Aneesa Ray, LCC Senior Development Officer

## HELP AND SUPPORT

# Project contacts



For project support, please contact the team:

Regional Director	Gary Hughes	0300 600 6420
Construction Director	Stuart Brown	0784 956 9030
Scheme Lead/Preconstruction	Rob Symons	07592 587 647
Demolition Lead	John Fowler	0781 015 2619
Senior Commercial Manager	Phil Tindall	0781 6515 417
Procurement & Supply Chain	Neil Mant	0790 070 5384
Stakeholder Liaison Manager	Kim Bligh	0788 705 6653
Senior Building Services Manager	Jon Grice	0792 1298 0395
Design Manager	David Rothwell	0779 421 6097
Sustainability Manager	Jenny Baxter	0781 651 1189
Framework Manager	Andrew Shelmerdine	0783 3048 451
Social Value Manager	Danielle Doherty	07769 724 757
Social Value Co-ordinator	Hannah Bailey	0771 416 7795
Group Communications	Annette McGoff	0300 600 0168

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# Notes



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**EXCELLENCE | COLLABORATION | INNOVATION | INTEGRITY | DISCIPLINE**

VINCI Building UK, Ditton Road, Widnes, Cheshire WA8 0PG

**T:** 0300 600 3800 | **F:** 0300 600 3800 **Page 124** [www.vinci-construction.co.uk](http://www.vinci-construction.co.uk)

[www.VINCI-BUILDING.co.uk](http://www.VINCI-BUILDING.co.uk)

# Active Travel Schools – a case study

## How youth voice is shaping things.....

January 2024

Lee Davies

Principal Transport Planning Officer

Greg Martin

Principal Environmental Health Officer (Pollution Control)

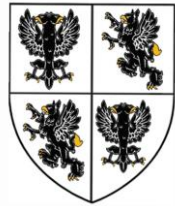
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# Our Programme

## Southport High School Pilot

- Birkdale High School
- Greenbank High School
- Stanley High School



## South Sefton Primary School Project

- All Saints Catholic Primary, Bootle
- Bedford Primary School, Bootle
- Summerhill Primary School, Maghull
- English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, Litherland

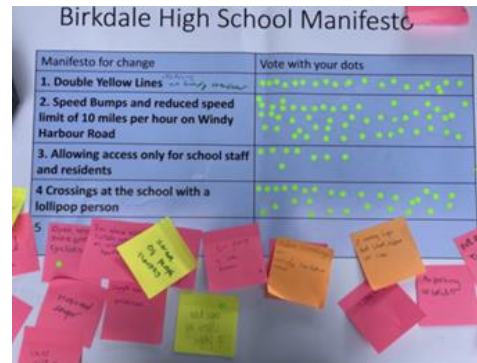
### Aims

Improve road safety around and along routes to schools; address congestion concerns; improve air quality; reduce transport poverty; promote independent healthy travel and wider opportunities for young people, skill up around transport and travel options

# How we work together

- Experts work with the children and young people within the school setting
- Using creative tasks and exercises to encourage participation – Big Street Survey , Trumps, Role Play

Page 127 School Manifesto / Street designs and solutions / opportunities  
Listening



Fleetwood Rd:

- Unsafe due to fast cars
- Extend the yellow zig-zags
- Add double yellow lines
- Add speed cameras
- Add crossing points
  - Cars on the pavement



# Greenbank High School Birkdale High School School Streets



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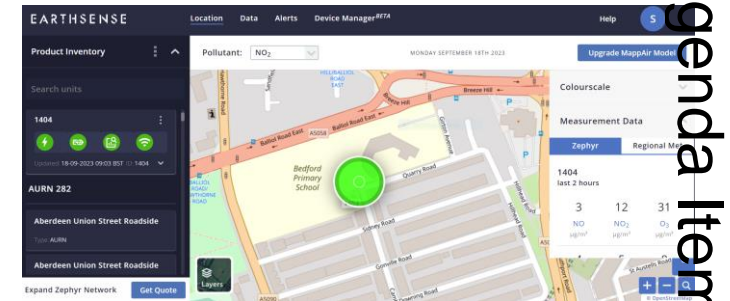
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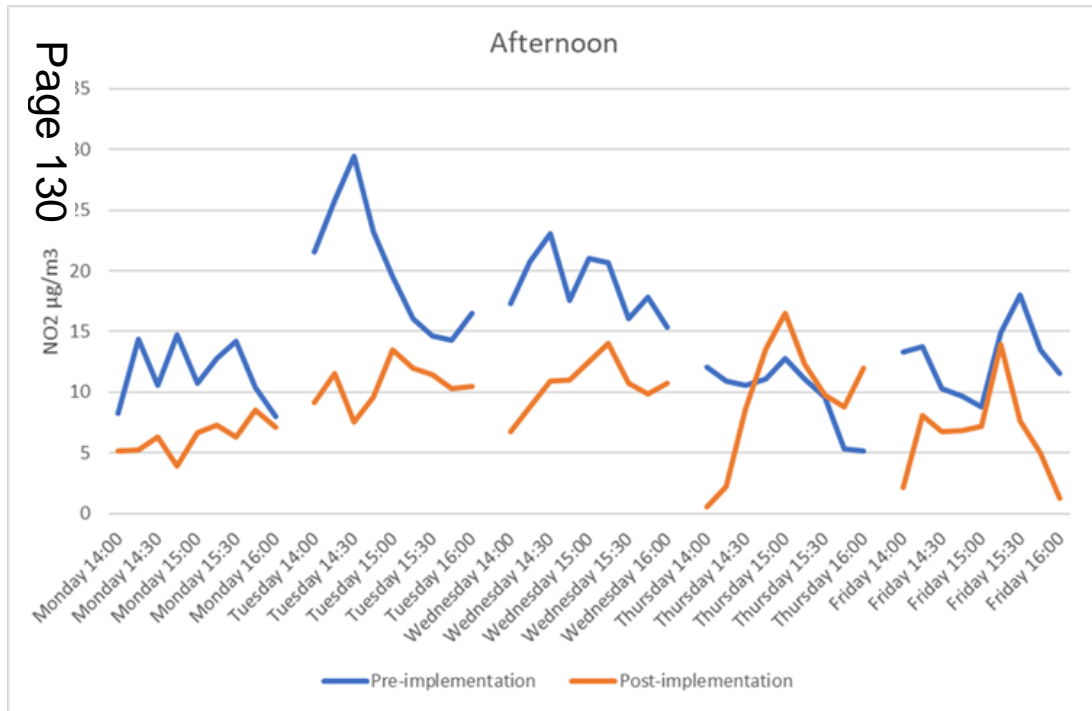
# Monitoring & Evaluation

- Listening to what our children and young people have told us e.g. too much traffic / poor air quality, helped shape our Monitoring and Evaluation Plan.
- Four air quality sensors
  - **Stanley High School**-Marshside Road
  - **Birkdale High School**-Windy Harbour Road
  - **Greenbank High School**-Hastings Road
  - **Bedford Primary**-Quarry Road
- Movement and AQ levels monitored prior to the School Streets restrictions coming into force to allow effective evaluation of the measures.



# Sefton School Streets AQ monitoring project-Results

Graph showing Monitoring data - Greenbank High School Afternoon Period –Pre SS implementation (26th-30th June 2023) compared with Post implementation (3rd –7th July 2023)



- The results to date show that the restrictions are having a positive effect on improving short term air quality in the locality
- Children and young people's exposure to air pollution around the school premises has reduced as a result
- Officers are looking to include further sensors at schools as the roll out of the project continues.

## Connect with us

Transport Planning Team: [transport.planning@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:transport.planning@sefton.gov.uk)

Pollution Team: [etscontact@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:etscontact@sefton.gov.uk)

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**Social Value  
(Employment and Skills)  
from Development**

**Supplementary Planning Document**

**May 2023**

# Agenda Item 6

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## 1. Introduction

1.1 A supplementary planning document (SPD) is a document which builds upon and provides more detailed advice or guidance on policies in an adopted local plan (Sefton Local Plan April 2017). SPDs are a material planning consideration in the determination of planning applications.

1.2 The purpose of this SPD is to outline to developers what Social Value is within the context of planning and new development. It also sets out what the Council will expect from certain large developments and sets out what information developers should provide to demonstrate that social value (employment and skills) benefits are being maximised. Specifically, this SPD will be looking at how employment and training opportunities can be maximised from new development. It will also (where applicable) explore any potential supply chain and contract/sub-contracting opportunities for local businesses.

### **What is Social Value from development?**

1.3 Social value is the additional economic, social and environmental benefits that can be created as part of a development. By seeking to capture social value from major developments, whilst such schemes are at the planning stage, the Council can achieve significant added value benefits for the people of Sefton. Social value from development can include:

- affordable housing,
- education contributions,
- open space
- public transport
- employment and training opportunities
- Business supply chain opportunities

1.4 **This document will focus on securing employment and skills opportunities from new development** as the other social value benefits are secured through existing plans and policies. For example, Affordable Housing is secured through Local Plan policy HC1 and a separate SPD; education contributions are secured where needed through Local Plan policy IN1 and a developer note; Open Space is secured in large schemes through Local Plan policy EQ9 and a separate SPD; Public transport improvements are occasionally secured through Local Plan policies IN1, EQ3 and a separate SPD. The SPDs are available at [Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents/Guidance \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/adopted-supplementary-planning-documents/guidance)

1.5 This SPD will provide guidance on:

- The circumstances in which an Employment and Skills Plan will be requested.
- The potential content required in an Employment and Skills Plan.
- The development thresholds that would trigger a requirement for an Employment and Skills Plan to be submitted with a planning application;
- Expected content and priorities within an Employment and Skills Plan; and
- The process involved in requesting, preparing and implementing an Employment and Skills Plan;

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- Identify potential supply chain opportunities for local businesses.

1.6 The successful implementation of the SPD will seek to:

- Increase local employment opportunities by helping businesses to improve, grow and take on more staff;
- Address a national shortage in construction skills;
- Help businesses to find suitable (and especially local) staff and suppliers;
- Improve the skills of local people to enable them to take advantage of the resulting employment opportunities; and
- Prioritise employment and skills opportunities for young people, long-term unemployed, people with disabilities and those with a limiting long-term illness, care leavers and others deemed vulnerable.
- Enhance the reputation of the developer and create opportunities for future business growth
- Link developers and end-use employers to economic development support services in Sefton including Sefton@work and InvestSefton to produce relevant plans and actions to achieve social value objectives

## 2. Policy background

### National

2.1. The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) outlines the purpose of the planning system is to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development. To accomplish sustainable development, the NPPF provides three overarching objectives (economic, social and environmental).

2.2 Paragraph 80 of the NPPF states '*Planning policies and decisions should help create the conditions in which businesses can invest, expand and adapt. Significant weight should be placed on the need to support economic growth and productivity, taking into account both local business needs and wider opportunities for development. The approach taken should allow each area to build on its strengths, counter any weaknesses and address the challenges of the future*'.

### Liverpool City Region

2.3 Liverpool City Region Combined Authority have produced a Local Skills Action Plan 2022-23. This has a range of areas of focus in relation to improving skills, training and improving employment opportunities. These include:

- Continuing to seek reduction in unemployment and countering the concerning increase in economic inactivity;
- Tackling significant employment, unemployment and economic inactivity gaps remaining for women, those from an ethnic minority, those with a disability, young people and older people;
- Promoting and opportunities for people to progress in work;
- Promote opportunities for future growth to young people and broader communities;



## Sefton

- 2.4 The Sefton Local Plan (April 2017) includes within its vision that Sefton will make *'the most of its assets to attract jobs and investment and provided training for local residents'*.

Sefton Local Plan Policy SD2 'principles of sustainable development' outlines a priority and objective of the Local Plan is to develop economic growth, tourism and jobs creation, support new and existing businesses and to improve access to services, facilities and jobs.

- 2.5 Policy EQ1 'Healthy Sefton' within the Sefton Local Plan outlines development should help maximise opportunities to improve quality of life to make it easier for people in Sefton to lead healthy, active lifestyles, by improving access to jobs.

### 3. Justification

- 3.1 At a local authority level, economic data for Sefton is generally favourable compared to the North West Region although slightly less so at a national level.
- 3.2 In December 2021, 77.4% of people in Sefton were economically active. This is 0.9 percentage points higher than the North West average, but 1 percentage point lower than nationally.
- 3.3 This is a recurring picture across the key indicators. Sefton performs slightly better than the North West but worse than nationally for the percentage employed as managers and professionals (33.2%), people qualified with NQ4 and above (39.1%) and gross weekly pay for residents (£586.70).
- 3.4 Sefton records a worse position than the national averages for workless households and working age people claiming out of work benefits. Specifically, in December 2020, 15.8% of households in Sefton were workless, 2.2 percentage points higher than nationally. 4.3% of Sefton's working age population claimed out of work benefits in 2022, 0.4 percentage points higher than nationally.

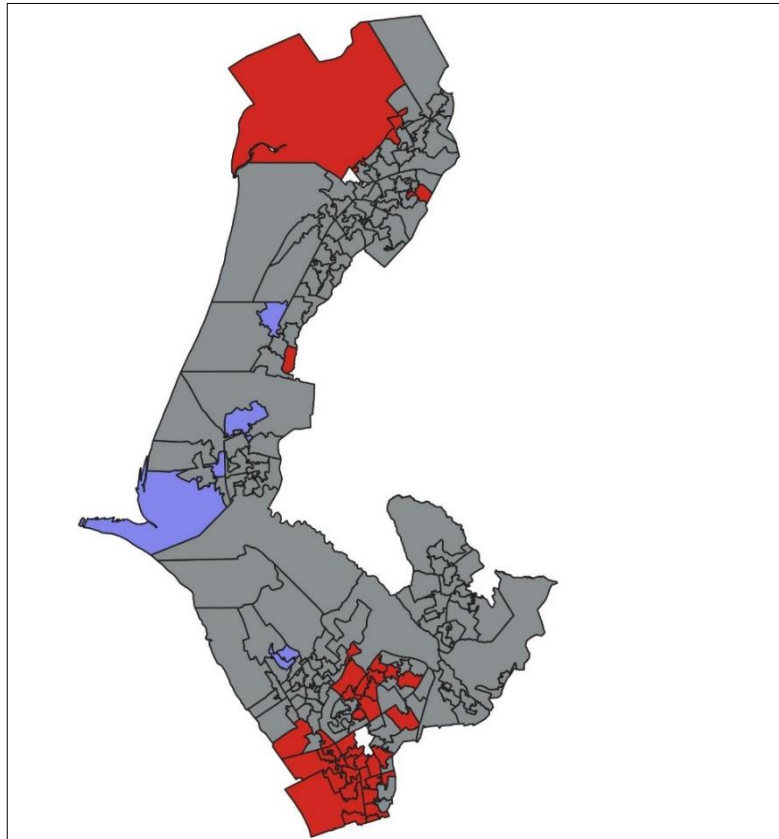
	Sefton	NW England	National (GB)
Economically active (Dec 2021)	77.4%	76.5%	78.4%
Percentage households workless (Dec 2020)	15.8%	15.5%	13.6%
Percentage employed as managers or professionals (Dec 2021)	33.2%	32.1%	34.2%
Qualified NVQ4 or above (2021)	39.1%	38.5%	43.5%

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Gross weekly pay for residents (2021)	£587	£578	£613
Claimant count (out of work benefits) working age population (2022)	4.3%	4.4%	3.9%

- 3.5 Whilst at headline levels, Sefton may appear to be an area of average economic performance, the local authority does have areas of severe deprivation where worklessness and economic inactivity is low, ill health remains a concern and skills attainments are low.
- 3.6 Deprivation is measured in a number of ways illustrated at a local level (Lower-Level Super Output Areas - LSOAs) by the Indices of Multiple Deprivation. LSOAs typically contain the same amount of people and as a result larger areas (such as in the North of the Borough in the map below) contains a similar number of people as the more densely populated areas in South Sefton.
- 3.7 When income is considered, Sefton has a number of areas where income is in the lowest 10% in England and a few in the highest 10%. The red areas on the map below indicate the areas that are among the most deprived 10% in England, and the blue areas indicate the least deprived 10%.

Map of areas of Income Deprivation - Sefton



Source: Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2019 (DLUHC)

- 3.8 Even these figures mask the scale of deprivation. One area of Bootle is now ranked as the 28th most deprived in terms of income across England (out of 32,844 areas) and its ranking is falling (ranked 197th in 2007).
- 3.9 Income deprivation is not only a serious issue at an individual / family level – a concentration of low levels of income undermines the entire local economy reducing disposable income which can be spent in the area and creating challenges for the Local Authority in terms of income (lower Council Tax revenues) and expenditure (social support mechanisms) resulting in reduced opportunity for discretionary investment by the Local Authority.

#### **4. Securing employment and skills activity arising from development**

- 4.1 New development in Sefton can contribute towards the provision of employment and training opportunities for residents. This is expected to be clearly demonstrated and secured within an Employment and Skills Plan. However, to reduce the risk of burdens being placed on the smaller developers, an Employment and Skills Plan will only be requested from certain large developments. This will cover residential and commercial developments, including offices, retail premises, leisure uses, hotels, and industrial premises, warehousing and sui generis uses.

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- 4.2 We therefore propose that employment and skills plans would be requested from developments which exceed the thresholds below:

Use Class	Development	Threshold for Employment and Skills Plan	Scope of Employment and Skills Plan
C1, C2	Hotels, Residential Institution	Buildings of 1,000m <sup>2</sup> or site area of 1 hectare of more	Construction phase and end use occupation
C3	Residential	30+ dwellings	Construction phase
B, E, Sui generis	General Industrial; Storage or Distribution; Commercial, Business and Service; Sui generis uses	Buildings of 1,000m <sup>2</sup> or site area of 1 hectare of more	Construction phase and end use occupation

- 4.3 For the avoidance of doubt, Employment and Skills Plans should cover both the construction phase of all major residential and commercial development in the Borough, together with the end use occupation of all major commercial development. This may require developers to have internal protocols/agreements with the end-user (if known) in place to understand the end-use activities to be covered by the targets, actions and monitoring laid out within the plan. It would be expected that the end-user would be a party to the Employment and Skills Plan.
- 4.4 We will not accept attempts to artificially split or sub-divide developments so individual parts do not meet or exceed the thresholds set out within this SPD.
- 4.5 In addition to the requirement for an Employment and Skills plan set out above, we would strongly encourage applicants on smaller schemes to work with the Council to demonstrate they are maximising employment and skills outputs. They may choose to do this through a formal Employment and Skills Plan or a more informal Employment and Skills statement. These applicants will be invited to work with Sefton@work and Invest Sefton to produce these voluntary statements.
- 4.6 Appendix A sets out what the Council would expect at each stage of the planning application stage in relation to an Employment and Skills Plan.

## 5. What should an Employment and Skills Plan cover?

- 5.1 A varied range of local employment and training measures can be secured through an employment and skills plan. The measures set out within the plan can be individually tailored to ensure the right skills and employment opportunities are provided at the right time to benefit both the developer and local population. Measures that can be secured include the following:

- Targeted vacancy filling by Sefton residents in the construction and end use phase of developments or maximising the use of employment support partners. This includes promotion of vacancies locally, pre-employment training, work trials in partnership with Sefton@work
- Targeted recruitment and training, ensuring that apprenticeship and other work opportunities for Sefton residents help to alleviate unemployment.
- Work experience opportunities for Sefton residents (14-16 years, 16-19 years and 19+ years) (5 working days minimum).
- Supporting the integration of the local supply chain, helping to develop a wider business base within Sefton. Assistance on this can be available through Invest Sefton.
- Participation in the promotion of education initiatives, creating links with local schools and colleges, supporting the transition between school and work.
- Provisions to notify us or any agency nominated by us of job vacancies arising from the pre-construction and construction stages and end use occupation.

5.2 The above list is not exhaustive and pre-application discussions with us are recommended for any proposals which would require an Employment and Skills Plan. This is so the local training and employment measures required can be agreed prior to the formulation and submission of a planning application (where there may be pre-construction opportunities identified and included in the plan). We would expect those putting together an Employment and Skills Plan to speak to Sefton@work (see Appendix B) and InvestSefton (see appendix C) early on.

5.3 It is also recommended that applicants and proposed end users notify the Council early in the development process to identify, secure and maximise any local supply chain opportunities for local businesses. This can be done through InvestSefton who offer services such as 'meet the buyer events' or through promoting opportunities to Sefton businesses. Information on InvestSefton can be found at Appendix C.

5.4 Sefton have a recently approved Economic Strategy (November 2022) and this identified several priorities for action. This included priorities in relation to 'Employment and Opportunities for Work'. These are, in order of priority:

- Deliver a range of progression pathways to better connect Sefton's young people with opportunities in the local labour market and make successful transition to the adult world of work.
- Deliver accessible learning for residents of all ages to gain the skills required by our employers and move into or move up in work
- Provide support for people with disabilities or poor health to reach their full potential in learning and work.
- Develop innovative partnerships with employers to deliver better quality careers and improve progression routes for Sefton residents, prioritising the most vulnerable such as care leavers.
- Provide advice and support for workless and inactive people disconnected from the labour market to enter sustainable, decent work.

5.5 The Council expects that an Employment and Skills Plan will look at ways the proposal will specifically help the Council to address these priorities.

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- 5.6 Whilst the format of the Employment and Skills Plan is for the applicant to decide (as we appreciate that many companies will have existing approaches) we have provided a template at Appendix D for those who need guidance and to confirm the type of information the Council require to be included. Notwithstanding the existing approaches that may exist, the Plan should fully represent and reflect local priorities and opportunities and demonstrate how these are being addressed.
- 5.7 As part of the submission we would expect the applicant to confirm and demonstrate the portal or calculation model that has been utilised to generate the outputs set out in the Employment and Skills Plan. The Council may ask to applicants to confirm some of the assumptions made within a submitted Employment and Skills Plan and use its own social value portal to calibrate the findings. It may also ask, through the pre-application of planning application process, for additional benefits to be secured if it considers that the Employment and Skills Plan outcomes are not considered sufficient.
- 5.8 It is therefore recommended, in order to avoid any delay to the decision-making process, that any negotiation and clarification on an Employment and Skills Plan is done with the Council prior to submission of a planning application. The Council is happy to engage and facilitate discussions to ensure Employment and Skills Plans are robust, ambitious, locally relevant and deliverable and will offer dialogue with relevant services to facilitate this.
- 5.9 If applicants do not have access to an Employment and Skills portal or calculator, then the Council would be happy, at a reasonable cost, to use its own portal to calculate the employment and skills outputs from the proposal for an Employment and Skills Plan.
- 5.10 The Council would encourage all businesses that develop or run their business in Sefton to be signed up to the Good Business Charter – see [www.goodbusinesscharter.com](http://www.goodbusinesscharter.com). Participation in this charter, or similar, should be recorded within an Employment and Skills Plan.

## **6. Implementing and monitoring an Employment and Skills Plan**

- 6.1 Once the content of the Employment and Skills Plan has been agreed as part of the consideration of the planning application it will be secured by a section 106 planning obligation.
- 6.2 At the post decision stage the developer is required to inform the planning department when the development has commenced and, in non-residential development, occupied. After a suitable time, which will be agreed in the Section 106 agreement, the Council will require the submission of an Employment and Skills outcome report (possibly more than one depending on the scale and type of the proposal). This will be appraised by the Council's section 106 monitoring officer to ensure that outcomes set out in the approved Employment and Skills Plan have been achieved or exceeded.
- 6.3 If, for some reason, the projected outcomes from the Employment and Skills Plan have not been implemented or achieved, and the this has not been sufficiently justified, then the Council will require measures to be undertaken to rectify this situation. This may take the

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form of suitable alternative measures, or payments in lieu of, if the original outcomes can longer be secured.

- 6.4 All approved Employment and Skills Plans secured on developments will be reported in the Authority Monitoring Report (AMR) which we publish annually. We will also report on progress with the outcomes agreed in each.

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## Appendix A Employment and Skills Plan within each planning application stage

Pre-application stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Case officer identifies need for an Employment and Skills Plan for any proposal that exceeds the threshold set out within this document.</li><li>• Negotiation and discussion undertaken in relation to content of an Employment and Skills Plan and its implementation.</li></ul>
Planning application stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The validation stage will check for applications requiring an Employment and Skills Plan.</li><li>• Negotiation and discussion undertaken in relation to content of an Employment and Skills Plan and its implementation if no pre-application was submitted.</li><li>• The content of an Employment and Skills Plan will be a material consideration in the determination of the planning application.</li><li>• The Case Officer will instruct legal services to prepare and negotiate the Section 106 agreement to secure Employment and Skills Plan.</li></ul>
Planning decision stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grant of planning permission, subject to S106 agreement requiring the implementation of the agreed a Employment and Skills Plan.</li></ul>
Post decision stage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Developer informs us when the development will start.</li><li>• Relevant Council officers will monitor the progress of an Employment and Skills Plan to ensure it is being implemented.</li></ul>



## Appendix B Sefton at work

Sefton at Work provide a free, professional recruitment service to employers to help them to recruit locally to find the right person for the job.

### Services include

- Free recruitment support for any position within your company, including Apprenticeships
- Advertise your vacancies with 24 hours (exc. Weekends) via our website, indeed.com, social media outlets and our partners once you have approved the content
- Offer a bespoke level of support for each vacancy we manage, your requirements and its suitability to our client group
- Manage all your applications, sift and pre-screen applicants and support you during the interview process if required
- Offer you the use of our interview rooms free of charge
- Offer you a free bespoke pre-employment training package for all suitable applicants for vacancies that require multiple starts, prior to them commencing employment
- Advise you of any available funding or grants that could support business to recruit new staff
- Agree timescales for each vacancy we manage
- Provide weekly updates throughout the recruitment period
- Work closely with our colleagues in Sefton Council to offer a comprehensive range of services that may benefit your business, including Sefton Community Learning Service and InvestSefton

### Contact us

Contact the Employer Liaison Team on **0151 934 2610** for further information or email them at [elt@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:elt@sefton.gov.uk)

Further information can be found at [www.seftonatwork.net](http://www.seftonatwork.net)

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## Appendix C InvestSefton

InvestSefton is the council's enterprise, business growth and inward investment service. It will provide a free, professional business advice and guidance which, in this context, includes:

- Working with you to promote supply chain, contract/sub-contracting opportunities to Sefton businesses
- Working closely with Sefton@work to help maximise local employment opportunities
- Provide 1:1 advice and guidance on incentives and initiatives which could help your business to grow
- Deliver meet the buyer event(s) to enable your business to meet potential local suppliers that meet your criteria/specifications

Contact us:

Contact InvestSefton on 0151 934 3452 (option 2) or email [investsefton@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:investsefton@sefton.gov.uk)

[www.investsefton.com](http://www.investsefton.com)

## Appendix D Template of Employment and Skills Plan

<b>Site:</b>	
<b>Developer/occupant:</b>	
<b>Proposal:</b>	
<b>Gross Development Value of Scheme:</b>	
<b>Opportunities at Pre-construction Phase</b>	<p>The number of jobs (including the labour forecasting tool if available):</p> <p>Type of jobs:</p> <p>Phasing and Timescale:</p>
<b>Opportunities at Construction Phase:</b>	<p>The number of jobs (including the labour forecasting tool if available):</p> <p>Type of jobs:</p> <p>Phasing and Timescale:</p>
<b>Opportunities at Occupation Phase:</b>	<p>The number of jobs (including the labour forecasting tool if available):</p> <p>Type of jobs:</p> <p>Phasing and Timescale:</p>
<b>Future Workforce (young people):</b>	
<p>Working Days committed from business volunteers to support careers education and information and/curriculum development in schools and colleges in Sefton per year.</p> <p>Number of work experience placements (14-16 years, 17-19 years and 19years +) at Sefton schools and colleges - based on one placement being one week.</p> <p>Number of graduate internships per year for graduates living in Sefton.</p>	
<b>Targeted Workforce (excluded people):</b>	
<p>Number of employment opportunities offered to Sefton residents that are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Long term unemployed (more than 6 months unemployed)</li> <li>• a recent care leaver (and aged 16-25)</li> <li>• registered disabled or have a limiting long-term illness</li> <li>• live in a deprived area (10% most deprived in the index of multiple deprivation)</li> </ul> <p>Number of work placements or trails offered to above groups</p>	

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Working days committed from business volunteers to mentor NEET (not in education, employment or training) young people 16-18 year olds.

**Skilled and Productive Workforce:**

Number of apprenticeships

Commitment to workforce planning and investment in training of employees

Investment in Leadership Skills

**Community Benefits:**

Supporting or financing projects driven by local communities

Procurement and commissioning of local small and medium-sized enterprises and social enterprises/third sector organisations

Construction Skills Certificate Schemes

Support with transport, childcare and work equipment

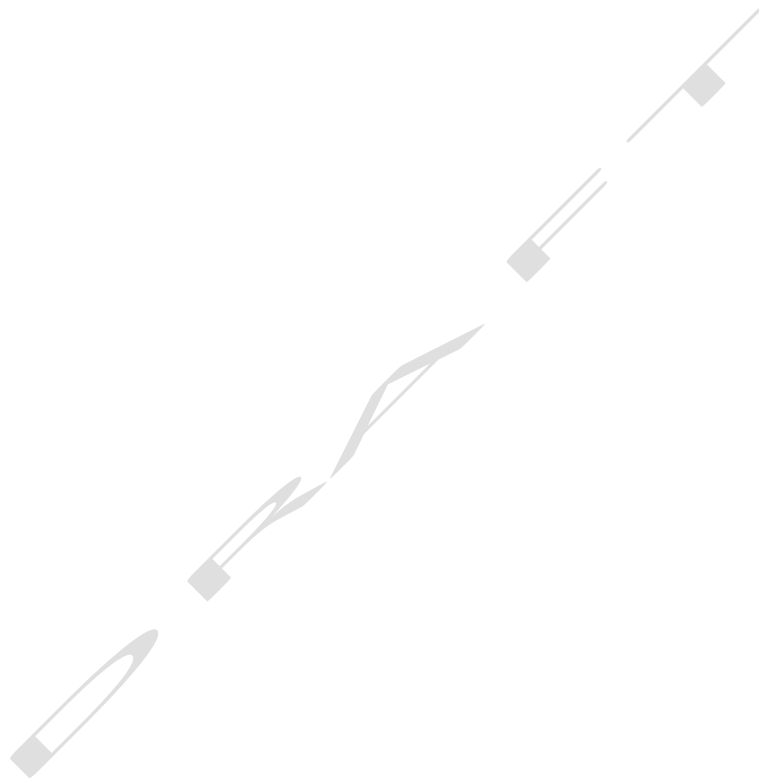
**Other Benefits:**

Estimated number of jobs in the wider economy (i.e. beyond the construction and end use of the scheme) as a direct or indirect consequence of the proposal including broad sectors in which jobs would be created

Estimated amount of income from the proposed scheme from Council Tax and Business Rates.

Estimated value of local supply opportunities for local businesses as a result of the development. Include details of the sectors that these opportunities support.

Details of accreditation with any employment and business charter (such as Good Business Charter) that demonstrates that the developer and/or end occupant are good employers.



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# February

HELLO

Welcome to the February Edition of the Sefton Beacon. This month we are highlighting the range of opportunities available with our Charter Employers as part of their commitment to the Caring Business Charter.

The Sefton Caring Business Charter is a pledge from local businesses to offer high quality opportunities to young people who have experienced the care system. These offers will enable our care experienced young people to 'taste the water' in a variety of vocational areas leading to a structured pathway into full/part time employment.

It is important to note that the list of opportunities available within the Beacon is not an exhaustive list, where a referral partner has identified a vocational area or opportunity that is not highlighted or available, we will try our best to source this on their behalf.

## Highlights for February



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## FIT FOR SUCCESS

Sefton@Work are currently delivering their Fit for Success Programme, feedback for the first course was really positive and all participants thoroughly enjoyed all of the activities, even in the cold lake!! Places are limited and will be offered on a first come first served basis.

A registration date for new participants will be held at 10.00am on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2024 at Sefton@Work, if you are working with a care experienced young person who would like to participate, please contact [Macy](#) as soon as possible to register your interest.



**RESTART SCHEME** **FIT FOR SUCCESS**

Boosting Employability Skills through Wellbeing and Fitness

Free 3-month Sefton Gym Pass

**JOIN SEFTON@WORK ON THIS FREE 5-WEEK COURSE AT CROSBY LAKESIDE**

- Feeling Stressed, Worried or Anxious**  
This Self Management Programme is designed to improve wellbeing through building the resilience and physical activity of its participants.
- Five Ways to Wellbeing**  
Incorporating The Five Steps (Connect; Be active; Keep learning; Give to others; Take notice) the course aims to 'inspire' people to build resilience and resourcefulness in overcoming obstacles within their lives and to encourage hope, optimism and confidence.
- More Details and How to Apply**  
One session per week. First session takes place on Wednesday 28th February 2024, 10am-3pm. Lunch and travel passes will be provided. Gym pass provided on completion of the course. Speak to your Sefton@Work Adviser to book your place.

Sefton Council | sefton@Work working for you | AXA AXA GENERAL COMPANY | Department for Work & Pensions in partnership with



## Current Vacancies

There are still a few vacancies available from the Career Marketplace, these have been 'ring fenced' for our Care Experienced Young People and employers have offered a guaranteed interview to those young people who would like to apply.

Business	Postcode	Further Info & How to apply
Sefton New Directions – Care Worker Apprentice	L22 0PJ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Mikhail Hotel & Leisure Group – Housekeeper	PR9 0BE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Mikhail Hotel & Leisure Group – Kitchen Porter	PR9 0BE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Sefton@Work – Trainee Admin Support Officer	L20 3ER	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>

## Taster Days

Taster Days will enable young people to experience what it is like to work within a specific work setting. They usually last between 1 – 2 days and will include shadowing staff, 'having a go' and learning about the business. Taster Days may lead to an offer of structured work experience, job, or Apprenticeship.

Business	Postcode	Further Info & How to apply
Abode	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Berkeley Shaw	L23 5SD	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Career Connect	L21 1EZ	Full description can be accessed by clicking



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		<a href="#">here.</a>
Dowhigh Ltd	L30 6UH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Fletchers Group	PR9 0PU	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Fernley Day Centre	L37 1PH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Forth Homes	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Hugh Baird College	L20 7EW	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
K2 Architects	L1 3BT	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Optimo Care (Warren Care)	L30 4YE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Plus Dane	L3 4AE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Prima Group	L3 4DB	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Sandway Homes	L20 6DS	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Sefton New Directions	L22 0PJ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>

## **Structured Work Experience**

Work Experience offers a real flavour of the working environment that a young person is choosing to explore, these opportunities will vary in content and duration, depending on their specific needs.

Business	Postcode	Further Info & How to apply
Abode	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Career Connect	L21 1EZ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Dowhigh Ltd	L30 6UH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>



Fernley Day Centre	L37 1PH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Fletchers Solicitors	PR9 0PU	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Flinders Chase	L3 9LQ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Forth Homes	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Hugh Baird College	L20 7EW	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
K2 Architects	L1 3BT	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Optimo Care (Warren Care)	L30 4YE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Right at Home	L31 8BX	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Sandway Homes	L20 6DS	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Sefton New Directions	L22 0PJ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>

## Site Visits

Groups or accompanied individuals are invited to visit the site to see what the working environment is like before committing to a taster/placement or choosing this career direction. Visits may be short (1hr) or may take place over several hours depending on the company and the group size.

Business	Postcode	Further Info & How to apply
Abode	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Active Minds Day Centre	L23 0SL	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Career Connect	L21 1EZ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Dowhigh Ltd	L30 6UH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>



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Fernley Day Centre	L37 1PH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Fletchers Solicitors	PR9 0PU	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Forth Homes	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
K2 Architects	L1 3BT	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Kier Construction	L2 2QP	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Plus Dane	L3 4AE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Prima Group	L3 4DB	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>

## Presentations

Companies are willing to offer interactive presentations about their business sector and their own experiences of working in the sector. They can offer careers advice about ways into a specific career. Delivered to groups in schools, colleges, or referral partner settings.

Business	Postcode	Further Info & How to apply
Abode	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Active Minds Day Centre	L23 0SL	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Adaptive Comms	PR9 0NS	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Dowhigh Ltd	L30 6UH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Everton in the Community	L4 4EL	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Fletchers Solicitors	PR9 0PU	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>



Flinders Chase	L3 9LQ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Forth Homes	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
K2 Architects	L1 3BT	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Optimo Care	L30 4UE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Plus Dane	L3 4AE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Prima Group	L3 4DB	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Right at Home	L31 8BX	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Matrix Recruitment	MK5 8HJ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>

## **Mentoring**

Business owners have agreed to offer mentoring support face to face or remotely via teams, to support small groups of people with motivation, confidence, and aspiration. Delivered to groups in schools, colleges, or referral partner settings.

Business	Postcode	Further Info & How to apply
Abode	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Adaptive Comms	PR9 0NS	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Forth Homes	L23 5RH	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Hugh Baird College	L20 7EW	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
K2 Architects	L1 3BT	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>



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Kier Construction	L2 2QP	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Optimo Care	L30 4UE	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Prima Group	L3 4DB	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Right at Home	L31 8BX	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Sefton New Directions	L22 0PJ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Matrix Recruitment	MK5 8HJ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>
Career Connect	L21 1EZ	Full description can be accessed by clicking <a href="#">here.</a>

**If you are working with a young person who would benefit from any of these opportunities and would like to know more please contact Macy at Sefton@Work**



**0151 934 4823**



**MACY.LOASBY@SEFTON.GOV.UK**



**07811 025004**





# Sefton Active Travel Schools Programme Child Friendly Programme Application December 2023

# Sefton Active Travel Schools

Including;  
Southport School Street Pilot  
South Sefton Schools

Future work with schools on this basis



# Southport School Streets Plot - Sustrans



- Pilot involves 3 schools
  - Birkdale High School
  - Greenbank High School
  - Stanley High School

- Working with Sustrans to deliver curriculum linked activities and modules
- Community Coproduction
- Embedded focus on young people

Pilot seeks to tackle, road safety & transport poverty, congestion concerns, promote independent travel unlock wider opportunities

# Active Travel Schools (South Sefton) Sustans

6 School Programme with 4 Schools signed up so far;

- All Saints Catholic Primary, Chestnut Grove, Bootle
- Bedford Primary School, Quarry Road, Bootle
- Summerhill Primary School, Poverty Lane, Maghull
- English Martyrs Catholic Primary School, School Lane, Litherland

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# Sefton Active Travel Schools – criteria met by project

1. Mobilise the Community
  - I. Motivate Key Stakeholders to champion children's rights
  - II. Ensure that relevant stakeholders / partners are trained and have the right resources to champion youth voice and participation
  - III. Prevent crime on or by Children
2. Promote integration
  - I. Equity, Diversity & Inclusion - create equal opportunities for children
  - II. Empower Children to Enable Participation, maximise participation in every phase
3. Sustain Life
  - I. Strengthen Basic Services and Products for Children to Access Safely.
4. Make Safe Places
  - I. Design Safe Child-Friendly Spaces
  - II. Provide Information In a Child-Friendly Way, using plain accessible English. Use Marketing and Advertising that Respect and Support Children's Rights

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# Mobilise the Community - Motivate Key Stakeholders to champion children's rights

## Supporting Evidence

Programme fully supported by key stakeholders – funded by LCRCA. LCR Mayor and Police and Crime Commissioner in attendance at the launch event(s). Initiated dialogue with PCC office and established greater interest in projects of the type across the City Region. Within Sefton Council, full support for the programme from Councillors and Senior Managers which has resulted in an increased project profile.

A further example shown is where pupils highlighted their work in an event to showcase to key stakeholders.

Birkdale High School advised this project had improved their relationship with the local community.

<https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/news/liverpool-city-region-declares-war-on-harmful-school-gates-emissions>



# Mobilise the Community - Ensure that relevant stakeholders / partners are trained and have the right resources to champion youth voice and participation

## Supporting Evidence

Sustrans our partners are highly skilled and trained youth participation experts with a background in encouraging healthy active travel to schools and creative projects to improve safety in the school community, health and wellbeing and create a sense of community for example. All Staff have EDI & Safeguarding Training. Most have or are completing, Children and Young People participation training and Delivery Skills Training (Classroom Management) Supporting Childrens Development Training. All have enhanced DBS checks.

Sefton Council Project Lead - trained around Youth Voice Tool Kit, on the job training related to Co-Production, an Information Advocate and Member of the Improving Information Group.



Accessible Information Advocates



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# Mobilise the Community – Prevent Crime on or By Children

## Supporting Evidence

In order to prevent bike theft Merseyside Police have undertaken bike marking at the start of the school day on two separate occasions at Birkdale High School. This helps to reduce the risk of pupils being the victim of bike theft. Many bikes were marked during the sessions.

The project also offered the opportunity to assist and work closely with Travel Safe around issues of concern around personal safety and public transport provision to Birkdale High School which emerged during 2023/2024 school year. This included offering a transport workshop to equip young people with skills to stay safe and provide a behaviour framework for everyone.

Using feedback from a working group of pupils from the schools, we developed and delivered a series of workshops based on Climate, Gender and Wellbeing that could be delivered across all year group. Tackling issues that were important to the young people whilst showing how to support themselves and their peers, by taking actions based around active and independent travel.



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# Promote integration - Equity, Diversity & Inclusion - create equal opportunities for children

## Supporting Evidence

The initial work for all projects includes engaging with young people made up from different classes at the school in the format of a creative exercise called the Big Street Survey. This includes looking at the streets around the school together and writing notes on observations which is inclusive of walking, wheeling and cycling. In addition to this pupils are also asked about their whole journey to school. This process can unlock the opportunity for young people to enjoy everyday freedoms of the trip to school (whether primary or secondary) by reducing dominance of vehicles within the school environs. Although there is the need to consider the streets and roads within the wider communities to ensure the whole route is considered to provide safe and accessible routes with incidental play or chill places along the route.

Application to new 'Start the Cycle' fund which is a Sustrans initiative to reduce inequalities and accessibility for pupils who would like to take up cycling such as lack of specialist including making adaptations to cycles and alternative helmets.

### Fleetwood Rd:

- Unsafe due to fast cars
- Extend the yellow zig-zags
- Add double yellow lines
  - Add speed cameras
  - Add crossing points
    - Cars on the pavement

### Marshside Rd:

- Change the speed limit
- Fast road/cars drive fast
  - It's busy
  - Add crossings
    - It's boring
    - It's unsafe
  - Add artwork

# Promote integration - Empower Children to Enable Participation, maximise participation in every phase

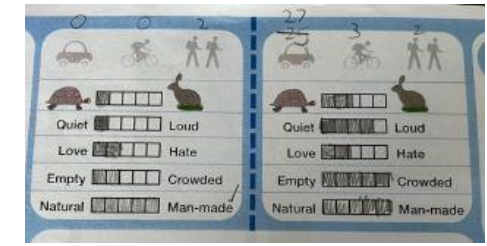
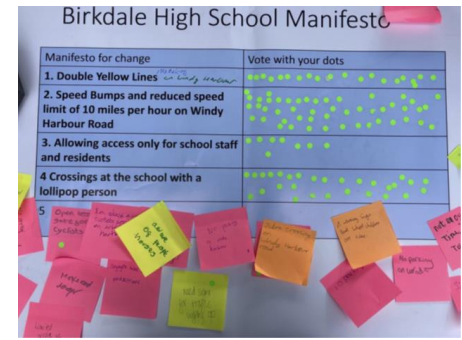
## Supporting Evidence

This project is co-produced from the start, and delivered in a way which encourages participation and debate in a youth focused way with experts in the field. This is threaded through into the project evaluation to enable assessment of whether the project was implemented as intended – this will allow an assessment of the level of participation to be undertaken and learnings taken forward into our next project. The young people are engaged in the Big Street Survey adapted to suit the setting (primary or secondary) to aid discussion around the local environment and wider journey to school. The results are then discussed amongst peers and the ideas start to form around the manifesto. The Manifesto is then shared amongst the whole school community to ensure that all the young people have a voice within this process. The Manifesto is then shared with the wider school community for their comment.



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<https://youtu.be/67QENJSoBts?si=n1MTWmM9fVKRQYIA>







# Make Safe Places - Design Safe Child-Friendly Spaces

## Supporting Evidence

The project process includes the following child / young person focused work

- Games and Scenario role play (Street intervention Trumps!)
- Development of a manifesto
- Street designs and solutions
- Conversations with the whole school community around this pupil focused work

The coproduction element is undertaken by skilled urban designers who encourage participants to consider the space in a creative way – art of the possible through using craft materials.

The monitoring plan includes monitoring trips, air quality along with road safety measurements. This allows before and after comparison to ensure that the spaces are healthy and safe for young people.



# Make Safe Places - Provide Information In a Child-Friendly Way, using plain accessible English. Use Marketing and Advertising that Respect and Support Children's Rights

## Supporting Evidence

The young people from Birkdale and Greenbank decided on the launch activities, and the materials and methods which would support raising awareness of the school street with their peers. This resulted in a promotion video being created to be shared during assemblies, with staff and was included on the Sefton Council website prior to the launch. The activities such as big street survey and role play activities are all youth focused and delivered in a creative engaging way by experts in participation. The young people also created their own materials to raise awareness of the school street and share those at a celebration event as shown in the tweet.

[Link to promotional video  
https://youtu.be/bxL0q66jph0?si=PUFcQ0Rj3nvCzbWy](https://youtu.be/bxL0q66jph0?si=PUFcQ0Rj3nvCzbWy)



## Further Supporting Information

### EQIA

[Appendix A EQIA.pdf \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

### Decision Report (CM)

[Southport School Street Pilot Cabinet Member Report](#)

### Public Engagement and Consultation Panel Reports

[Engagement Planning](#)

[Engagement Feedback](#)

### Consultation Reports

- [Birkdale High School](#)
- [Greenbank High School](#)
- [Stanley High School](#)

### Updates

[Update Presentation](#)

### Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

[M&E Plan](#)

Video of the launch day from Greenbank High School and Birkdale High School  
<https://youtu.be/ZoUZu48Cqos?si=JfkTyr7D9XVJzYMO>



# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Refuse and Waste Recycling		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing Locality Services Planning and Building Control		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To seek approval of recommendations arising from an informal meeting of the Committee, following a visit to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre on 15 January 2024, in respect of refuse and waste recycling.

## Recommendations: That:

- (1) the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) be requested to investigate measures that could be introduced as part of the Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes to compel landlords to have a level of control over their tenants to alleviate the anti-social actions of littering and dumping rubbish in rear entries;
- (2) the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) be requested to investigate the inclusion, within the Local Plan, of the need to provide recycling/community recycling facilities in development proposals; and
- (3) the Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services) be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on methods to increase Sefton's recycling rates; the introduction of communal bins; and wider waste containment issues.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with a decision of the informal meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills).

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

None.

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications in complying with recommendations contained in this report will be included in reports to future, appropriate meetings.

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None	
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b> None	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
Issues discussed at the informal meeting included methods to increase the Council's recycling rate. This is particularly important considering that recycling targets are required to increase to 65% by 2025. Sefton's current recycling rate was around 39%.	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
Commission, broker and provide core services: The proposed report on methods to increase Sefton's recycling rates; the introduction of communal bins; and wider waste containment issues will improve the provision of a Council core service.
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report.
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener: Issues discussed at the informal meeting included methods to increase the Council's recycling rate. This is particularly important considering that recycling targets are required to increase to 65% by 2025. Sefton's current recycling rate was around 39%. The recommendations in the report also aim to reduce fly-tipping and rear entry dumping; and to increase recycling rates which will in turn will improve residential amenity in the borough.

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7516 /24) has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5616 /24) is the author of the report.

Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services)  
Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)  
Chief Planning Officer

### (B) External Consultations

None

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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

### Appendices:

None

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

#### 1. Introduction/Background

1.1 At its meeting held on 27 June 2023 the Committee agreed (Minute No. 5. (2)) that a review be undertaken on the topic of refuse and waste recycling and in respect of this matter, that a visit be arranged to the Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre (the Centre); and that an informal meeting of the Committee be held following the visit.

1.2 Problems were experienced arranging a mutually agreeable date for the visit to the Centre. The visit to the Centre, and informal meeting of the Committee, eventually took place on 15 January 2024.

#### 2. Background Information on MRWA Materials Recovery Facilities

2.1 On the 1 June 2009 Veolia were awarded a twenty-year Waste Management and Recycling Contract with a value of £640 million by the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) on behalf of the Merseyside and Halton

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Waste Partnership.

The Materials Recovery Facilities (MRF) at Gillmoss handled the kerbside collections of Liverpool, Knowsley, Sefton and Halton; where co-mingled materials were recovered and separated to be sent on to recycling plants for reprocessing. A similar facility was in operation in Bidston which handled co-mingled materials from Wirral.

The Gillmoss facility had the capacity to sort up to 150,000 tonnes of dry recyclable materials a year; and could process materials at a rate of up to 35 tonnes per hour.

Over the two sites, Merseyside and Halton's MRFs had the capacity to process over 200,000 tonnes per year, producing seven secondary raw material grades and diverting in excess of 63,000 tonnes away from disposal.

This was achieved by using a complex system of conveyors which transported the recyclable material through the process. Technology used through the recovery processes featured mechanical, optical and manual; and these sorting techniques ranged from basic size separation methods to complex computer-controlled equipment used to identify and remove non target materials within the material streams.

Through the combination of such technologies MRWA were able to achieve the high levels of separation of the different materials and convert what would otherwise be waste into secondary raw materials. After the sorting of the materials there was a bulking and storage function whereby balers were used to compress some of the recyclables into dense bales for transport to the materials re-processors and other materials were bulked for transport.

### **3. Site Visit to Gillmoss Recycling Discovery Centre**

3.1 A tour of the Centre was facilitated by colleagues from MRWA and Veolia.

3.2 Following the tour of the facility Members asked questions/commented on the following matters:

- the new regulations introduced by the Environment Act 2021 to drive up recycling rates across England. A consultation Government response detailing the new regulations can be accessed [here](#) - It was noted that some low-grade recyclable materials had little market value and hindered investment in the recycling of such materials. The MRWA 20-year contract with Veolia was now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and the future contract would have to take account of the new legislative changes proposed. However, there was a concern that there would not be a market for the additional materials included in the regulations.
- The recycling of plastic bags/soft plastics by supermarkets – It was noted that supermarkets used their own recycling operators for this purpose.
- Were there any major, recent, changes in the recycling market? – an example was given of China, from 2014, refusing to accept paper for recycling unless it was 100% “clean”. This resulted in less paper being



exported and more recycling undertaken in the UK. It was suggested that due to the increase in digital publications the amount of paper sent for recycling would reduce over time.

- How market conditions impacted on the volatility of the value of recyclable materials; and that this generated uncertainty in decision making and future plans.
- Extended producer responsibility for packaging (EPR) whereby producers would pay the full net costs of managing and recycling the packaging waste they produced through a system of fees.
- Problems experienced in areas of Sefton covered by terraced housing in respect of the storage of bins. It was noted that investigations had been undertaken as to the introduction of communal underground bins in such areas; but that due to the expensive nature of the scheme it was considered to be currently not cost effective.
- It was noted that in areas of terraced housing, where a weekly, black sack collection service was in operation, the collection of recyclable materials was less than other areas of the borough. A reason given for this being that residents simply disposed of all or most of their refuse in the black sacks, as there was no limit as to how many sacks could be presented for collection.
- Concern was expressed at the increasing levels of contamination, currently at about 30%, in materials submitted for recycling at the Gillmoss Recycling Centre. It was agreed that education and enforcement was required to guide residents to make the right choices about recycling. It was also noted that with the introduction of new regulations under the Environment Act 2021, for example food waste collections and co-mingling of other recyclable materials, a behavioural change would be required of residents.
- Concern was expressed at the proliferation of nitrous oxide cannisters in the environment and particularly the problems caused by their disposal in recycling. It was noted that due to their pressurised state, the cannisters could not be recycled at the Gillmoss facility, yet up to 300 per day were removed by staff at the facility. It was also noted however that Veolia had a plant in the West Midlands that was currently looking at ways to recycle such cannisters. If the cannisters could eventually be recycled then information would be provided to community groups who undertook litter picks in their areas.
- It was considered that communications would play an important role in pushing the recycling message and that Merseyside/Halton local authorities, MRWA and Veolia should have a coordinated approach on such matters.

## **4. Informal Meeting – Bootle Town Hall**

- 4.1 Members returned to Bootle Town Hall and an informal meeting of the Committee was held during which Members asked questions/commented on the following matters:

It was agreed that enforcement would play a crucial role in improving recycling rates and combatting anti-social activities such as fly-tipping. Reference was made to the [Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity Working Group](#)

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which made recommendations about a very significant increase in uniformed enforcement officers to tackle the problems of littering, fly-tipping and rear entry dumping and a high-profile publicity campaign being introduced to highlight the increased enforcement activity to be undertaken.

Reference was also made to the information provided by the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) to the meeting of the Committee on 19 September 2023 on the breakdown of offences for which penalty charge notices had been issued ([PCN Statistics](#)); and information on the reduction in time civil enforcement officers would spend patrolling if the parking and environmental enforcement functions were split ([see report](#)).

It was noted that the Cleansing Service received lots of complaints about fly-tipping/rear entry dumping; that a reactive response/service was provided to the problem; and that it was very difficult to secure convictions for such offences.

It was noted that consultation and engagement could be undertaken to advise residents of their duty to not fly-tip or dump rubbish in rear entries and that initially this would have some success. However, due to the high turnover of tenants in certain parts of the borough, this would have to be an ongoing exercise to ensure continuous improvements in the street scene.

The removal of dumped rubbish on private land was also referred to and how this was treated by the Council. It was noted that on some occasions rubbish would be removed for health and safety/eyesore reasons but that each case would be considered on its individual merits.

It was noted that in various wards in the south of the borough there was an increase in dumping of rubbish in rear entries and it was considered that private and registered social landlords should have some responsibility for the anti-social actions of their tenants.

It was agreed that communications would play a vital role in getting the recycling message out to Sefton's residents regarding what could or could not be recycled in an effort to reduce contamination rates. An example given was that of livery being used on Council vehicles to highlight such matters. This was particularly important considering that recycling targets are required to increase to 65% by 2025. Sefton's current recycling rate was around 39%.

## **5. Recommendations Arising from the Informal Meeting**

5.1 The informal meeting resolved that:

- (1) the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) be requested to investigate measures that could be introduced as part of the Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes to compel landlords to have a level of control over their tenants to alleviate the anti-social actions of littering and dumping rubbish in rear entries;
- (2) the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) be requested to investigate the inclusion, within the Local Plan, of the need to provide recycling/community recycling facilities in development

proposals; and

- (3) the Assistant Director of People (Operational In-House Services) be requested to submit a report to a future meeting of the Committee on methods to increase Sefton's recycling rates; the introduction of communal bins; and wider waste containment issues.

5.2 The informal meeting of the Committee had no formal decision-making powers. Accordingly, for decisions of the informal meeting to be actioned, formal approval is required by a meeting of this Committee.

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# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2023/24; to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) consideration be given as to whether the Committee would like to select a topic for review at an informal meeting of the Committee;
- (3) the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above;
- (4) consideration be given to the submission of comments on the briefing notes in respect of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029; Council Housing Governance and Management Arrangements; and Procurement of Temporary Accommodation; and
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

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## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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

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

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

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

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

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

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

## Implications of the Proposals:

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

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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

Executive Director – Place

Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services

Assistant Director of Place (Operational In-House Services)

Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)

Assistant Director of Place (Communities)

Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection)

Assistant Director of Place (Commercial Development)

### (B) External Consultations

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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

## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 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
- Briefing note on Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 – Appendix 4
- Briefing note on Council Housing Governance and Management Arrangements – Appendix 5

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- Procurement of Temporary Accommodation – Appendix 6

## **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 At its meeting held on 27 June 2023 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; and that an informal meeting of the Committee be held following the visit. The visit and informal meeting took place on 15 January 2024.

The informal meeting made recommendations. As the meeting had no formal decision-making powers the recommendations need to be approved prior to implementation, at a formal meeting of this Committee.

A report seeking approval of the recommendations can be found elsewhere on this agenda.

- 2.4 The Committee's views are now sought on the selection of a topic(s) for consideration by an informal meeting(s) of the Committee.
- 2.5 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 Forward Plan published on 31 January and 29 February 2024 indicated that reports would be considered by Cabinet at its meetings to be held on 4 April and 23 May in relation to:
- Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029
  - Council Housing Governance and Management Arrangements
  - Procurement of Temporary Accommodation

The reports to Cabinet have not yet been prepared but bearing in mind this meeting of the Committee meets before 4 April and 23 May, Councillor Dowd, Chair of the Committee, has requested that briefing notes be prepared to provide an outline of the matters to be considered by Cabinet. The information contained in Appendices 4, 5 and 6 provide such updates.

- 3.7 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.

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

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

# Agenda Item 8

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.

Prior to 24 January 2024 Sefton's appointed Members were Councillors Desmond, Hart and Howard. Councillor Howard was Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

However, as Councillor Howard has now been appointed as Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills, she can no longer serve on Overview and Scrutiny Committees. It is anticipated that Council at its meeting to be held on 29 February 2024 will appoint a new Member to serve on the LCRCA O&S Committee and a new Scrutiny Link. An update can be provided at the meeting.

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://liverpoolcityregion-ca.moderngov.co.uk/mgCommitteeDetails.aspx?ID=365>

4.9 The last meeting of the LCRCAO&S was held on 17 January 2024. The Committee considered the following items:

- Mayoral Combined Authority Budget 2024-25
- Towards a Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region – Engagement
- Work Programme Update 2023-24
- Bus Service Improvement Plan Update
- Transport Matters

4.10 A meeting of the Committee is also scheduled to be held on 28 February 2024.

It is anticipated that the Committee will consider the following items:

- Verbal update from Mayor Steve Rotheram
- Progress update on the LCR Combined Authority Five Year Climate Action Plan
- Work Programme Update 2023-24

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

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### 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

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

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

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

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## APPENDIX 2

### CRITERIA CHECKLIST FOR SELECTING TOPICS FOR REVIEW

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

### CRITERIA FOR REJECTION

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

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## APPENDIX 2

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

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

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

## APPENDIX 2

### KEY QUESTIONS

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

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

### INVESTIGATIONS:-

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

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## APPENDIX 3

**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN  
FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 MARCH 2024 - 30 JUNE 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, Oriel Road, Bootle L20 7AE or accessed from the Council's website: [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

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

Some reports to be considered by the Cabinet/Council may contain exempt information and will not be made available to the public. The specific reasons

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 3

(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](http://www.sefton.gov.uk) or you may contact the Democratic Services Section on telephone number 0151 934 2068.

**NOTE:**

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

**Phil Porter**  
**Chief Executive**

## APPENDIX 3

**FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS**

<b>Item Heading</b>	<b>Officer Contact</b>
Strand Demolition Contract Award	Christian Rogers christian.rogers@sefton.gov.uk
Procurement of Temporary Accommodation	Allan Glennon allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk
Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029	Graham Parry graham.parry@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3446
Council Housing Governance and Management Arrangements	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk, Lee Payne lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4842
Approval of Sandway Homes Phase 1A Business Plan	Lee Payne lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4842

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Strand Demolition Contract Award</b> To seek approval for the award of the contract for demolition in Phase 1 of the Strand Transformation Programme.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Mar 2024			
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	Not applicable			
Method(s) of Consultation	Not applicable			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Strand Demolition Contract Award			
Contact Officer(s) details	Christian Rogers christian.rogers@sefton.gov.uk			



## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Procurement of Temporary Accommodation</b> To seek approval for the procurement of temporary accommodation for homeless households.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Mar 2024			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director of People (Communities)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Assistant Director for Corporate Services and Customer Services (Strategic Support).			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails and Phone Calls.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Procurement of Temporary Accommodation			
Contact Officer(s) details	Allan Glennon allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk			

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029</b> 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 Mar 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 07/12/2023 to 07/03/2024. Reason: To comply with the consultation period			
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			

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Council Housing Governance and Management Arrangements</b> Approval to the governance and management arrangements required to deliver Council housing across Sefton, including additional delivery of Council homes.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	4 Apr 2024  18 Apr 2024			
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)  Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Not applicable.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Not applicable.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Council Housing Governance and Management Arrangements			
Contact Officer(s) details	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk, Lee Payne lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4842			

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Approval of Sandway Homes Phase 1A Business Plan</b> Approval of the Phase 1A Business Plan outlining future housing development by Sandway Homes.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	23 May 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 01/02/2024 to 23/05/2024. Reason: to enable firm costs, rather than indicative costs, to be obtained from a contractor			
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	None			
Method(s) of Consultation	None			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Approval of Sandway Homes Phase 1A Business Plan			
Contact Officer(s) details	Lee Payne lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4842			

## APPENDIX 4

### OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION & SKILLS)

5 MARCH 2024

**BRIEFING NOTE RE: HOMELESSNESS AND ROUGH SLEEPING STRATEGY 2024-2029**

**SUBMITTED BY:** GRAHAM PARRY, HOMELESSNESS COMMISSIONER,  
[graham.parry@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:graham.parry@sefton.gov.uk) 0151 934 3927

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#### Background

The Council's latest Forward Plan indicates that a report on the Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2024-2029 will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 4 April 2024. The report to Cabinet is still being prepared but bearing in mind the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets before 4 April, Councillor Dowd, Chair of the Committee, has requested that this briefing note be prepared to provide an outline of the matters to be considered by Cabinet. The information set out below provides an update.

#### Update Position

The Homelessness Act 2002, requires every Local Authority to carry out a homelessness review in its Borough every 5 years, to develop and publish a Homelessness & Rough Sleeping Strategy based on this review and to consult with other statutory and voluntary organisations.

This is Sefton's fifth review and builds upon the work of the first four carried out in 2003, 2008, 2013 and 2018. On this occasion, the review has been undertaken by the consultants, Imogen Blood & Associates.

The latest Homelessness Review report provides many conclusions and recommendations, which will form the basis of the delivery of this new Strategy. It is intended that these actions will need to be completed during the lifetime of this strategy from 2024 – 2029. The Action Plan will be a live action plan, to be agreed within the proposed governance arrangements, which will be continually reviewed and revised throughout the delivery of the strategy.

Cabinet Member Communities & Housing is being briefed for comment on the proposed Cabinet Report at the Cabinet Member's briefing in February, after which the Report will be presented to Cabinet in April 2024.

#### Success & Achievements from the last Strategy

The main achievements being:

- Move to consortium alliance of Providers and human learning approach to supported housing commissioning on 10-year contract.
- Shared, centralised system (MainStay) for assessments, placements and case management in partnership with Housing Options.
- Implementation of Homelessness Reduction Act and Duty to Refer.

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 4

- Ongoing commitment to resourcing plus successful bidding has enabled:
- Dedicated lead for homelessness commissioning.
- Specialist roles, including recent expansion of Housing Options, clinical psychologist.
- Assertive outreach and emergency provision to tackle rough sleeping.
- Hospital in-reach/ discharge project in Southport.
- Expanded award-winning Riverside Dispersed Families and implemented Rough Sleeper Accommodation Programme with single people.
- Alongside much relevant activity and resource in CVS/ statutory partners.

### **Consultation**

The draft Homelessness Strategy was also subject to a 12-week consultation from 30th October 2023 to 21st January 2024.

The comments received have all been considered and will be incorporated into the Action Plan, where appropriate.

### **Suggested Priorities**

The Strategy for the next five years sets out our approach for tackling homelessness and rough sleeping across the borough with three key priorities being:

- Improve Access to Accommodation
- Increased Prevention of Homelessness and Rough Sleeping
- Focus on Support

## APPENDIX 5

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

5 MARCH 2024

## BRIEFING NOTE RE: COUNCIL HOUSING GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT ARRANGEMENTS

SUBMITTED BY: SUZANNE BLUNDELL (STRATEGIC HOUSING OFFICER, [SUZANNE.BLUNDELL@SEFTON.GOV.UK](mailto:SUZANNE.BLUNDELL@SEFTON.GOV.UK), 0151 934 3549)

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**Background**

The Council's latest Forward Plan indicates that a report on the Council Housing Governance and Management Arrangements will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 4 April 2024. The report to Cabinet has not yet been prepared but bearing in mind the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets before 4 April, Councillor Dowd, Chair of the Committee, has requested that this briefing note be prepared to provide an outline of the matters to be considered by Cabinet. The information set out below provides an update.

**Update Position**

In November 2023, Cabinet considered a report and associated Business Case to acquire 18 homes (apartments) to deliver as Council housing at Sandway Homes' development site at Buckley Hill Lane, Netherton. This Business Case was approved and on 18 January 2024, Full Council approved the supplementary capital estimate for the acquisition.

Sandway Homes have now started on site at Buckley Hill Lane which is an important milestone for the Council Housing Programme. We anticipate taking handover of the apartments in April 2025 and welcoming tenants into their new homes with the support of our Managing Agent once they are fully onboard. Work to onboard the Managing Agent is progressing well.

A significant amount of work is being progressed behind the scenes both to facilitate the handover of properties and ensure the Council is ready to become a social housing landlord with all of the associated responsibilities. The Council will be regulated by the Regulator of Social Housing as a Local Authority Registered Provider and the Council will need to ensure it is compliant with the published set of regulatory standards.

Following the introduction of the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023, the regulatory standards have seen an overhaul with a new set of standards due to be introduced in April 2024. A large proportion of the work at present is focused on a detailed policy review. A suite of housing management related policies will need to be in place to comply with a range of legislative and regulatory requirements and work is progressing to draft these policies. Alongside this, our legal advisors Freeths are working to draft a tenancy agreement that will be used for the future lettings of our Council owned homes.

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 5

The Regulator of Social Housing proposes to continue to take a co-regulatory approach to regulation. Responsibility therefore lies with Councillors of Local Authority registered providers to meet the standards set by the Regulator with robust mechanisms in place to provide assurance of compliance. With this in mind, we are in the process of developing proposals for our future governance arrangements for the Council Housing Programme.

The Cabinet paper on 4 April 2024 sets to seek delegated authority to formally adopt a suite of social housing policies that will be necessary to facilitate the management of any new Council owned homes, complying with legislative and regulatory requirements. The report will set out proposed governance arrangements for the Council Housing Programme which will see the creation of a Housing Advisory Board who will have an advisory role in respect of the operational activity and ensuring that the Council's homes which will be managed by a Managing Agent meet all requirements set out in the regulatory framework.

Given that the properties at Buckley Hill Lane are due for completion April 2025, there may be opportunity to acquire some properties earlier, the report will further consider this as an option, however opportunities are currently being considered in order to inform a potential proposal.



## APPENDIX 6

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

5 MARCH 2024

### BRIEFING NOTE RE: PROCUREMENT OF TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

SUBMITTED BY: ALLAN GLENNON (SERVICE MANAGER, COMMUNITIES)

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#### Background

The Council's latest Forward Plan indicates that a report on procurement of Temporary Accommodation will be considered by Cabinet at its meeting to be held on 23 May 2024. The report to Cabinet has not yet been prepared but bearing in mind the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meets before 23 May 2024, Councillor Dowd, Chair of the Committee, has requested that this briefing note be prepared to provide an outline of the matters to be considered by Cabinet. The information set out below provides an update.

#### Update Position

##### *Summary*

As part of the Council's statutory function in discharging its duties under the Housing Act 1996, Homelessness Act 2002 and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017, the Council must provide interim accommodation while it makes enquiries if it has reason to believe that an applicant may be:

- Homeless
- Eligible for assistance, and
- In priority need.

These functions are delivered through the Councils Housing Options service and accommodation requirements sourced from a mix of Council stock, Commissioned Providers and accommodation providers from the private sector.

Since August 2023 there has been a significant increase in the number of households in temporary accommodation (TA). Consequently, the Council has needed to source an increasing amount of accommodation from the private sector. The Council would like to develop a detailed plan for procuring good quality, furnished, and maintained accommodation for eligible homeless households through a mix of supported, and general needs temporary accommodation.

##### *Current Challenges*

The Local Government Association estimates that the total cost to local authorities nationally is £1.7bn per annum. In July 2023 it was widely reported in the national press that households accessing Local Authority TA in England was at its highest

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 6

since records began. The number of households being placed in TA had risen by 10% in England for the year to July 2023.

During July 2023 there was a spike in Sefton's Housing Options service demand which saw the highest number of households approach the Council for homelessness assistance. Although the following months of August, September and October were very high, they did not surpass the July figure. This increase in demand has also seen an increase in households requiring TA.

### *Procurement Plan*

The proposal is to develop a procurement framework that several providers can join. Each provider would need to agree to standards set out in the service specification before they could join the framework. The price of the accommodation and the duration that it will be available to be used for the purpose of TA, will also be set within the service specification. Procurement of these services will be conducted in line with the council's procurement regulations.

### *Wider considerations*

*Other Council services* - Whilst, initially, the focus of the exercise will be to relieve pressures within the Housing Options service there may be other service areas that require accommodation on a temporary basis and who may wish to participate in the development of the procurement plan. This will remain a consideration throughout the exercise.

*Gaps in service* – Consideration will be given to where there could be a gap in service to meet emerging needs. This could instigate opportunities to work with other agencies.

Consideration will be given to the additional support needs of households accessing temporary accommodation. Although the focus for the exercise is about providing accommodation, there may be opportunities to do things differently with certain cohorts to help households move on to permanent accommodation more quickly.

*Funding models* – Different funding models will be considered. There may be opportunities to partner with TA providers to structure services differently.

# Agenda Item 9

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee -(Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	5 March 2024
<b>Subject:</b>	Cabinet Member Reports – January 2024 to March 2024		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period January 2024 to March 2024.

## 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 9

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>								
<b>Legal Implications:</b>								
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no direct equality implications arising from this report. Any equality implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Cabinet Member reports will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.								
<b>Impact on Children and Young People: No</b>  There are no direct impacts on children and young people arising from this report. Any implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Cabinet Member reports will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.								
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>  The recommendations within this report will <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 Fairclough's, Hardy's, Howard'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.

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

**Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- 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:**

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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.

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b>		
<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	February 2024

## Green Sefton update

### 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, and the year two actions are now commencing on site for winter 2023
- 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 from Winter 2022 to Summer 2023, and to undertake the required surveys and analysis etc, all in order to be able to make a bid some time afterwards (whenever match funding has been secured).

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In the last quarter, this consultation has completed and design workshops have taken place with the Task Group to develop and understand the scale and scope of the project, with the outcome of the consultation in mind – all to be reported to Cabinet Member in due course

- 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 has now been signed with the trustees to formalise this suite of projects to be developed and delivered. Officers are now exploring options for Project Management support, and for the future operator tendering for the Conservatory.
- the Ainsdale Beach gateway schemes reached various blockages, and so a paper was presented in June 23 which agreed to pause all, and to seek resources for development of an overall masterplan for the area instead. A consultant has now been appointed, stakeholder engagement is ongoing, and a new 'vision' for the area should be published early in 2024
- 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. Meanwhile, it has been noted that a local private golf course is developing an investment plan for their site with a very similar model – a watching brief is to be adopted to learn lessons from their efforts
- An unsolicited Expression of Interest has been received by a group of golfers at Bootle Golf Course who are interested in seeking external funding to renovate, and then operate, the clubhouse building at Bootle Golf Course. Officers are assessing their proposal at the time of writing, and which will be discussed with/ reported to Cabinet Member in due course
- the FCERM team continue to work with the Environment Agency and other partner agencies on seeking capital monies to reduce flood risk. Public consultation on the 'Making Space for Water' project in Churchtown/ Crossens commenced in September, and has now concluded – this will lead to a Planning Application to be submitted shortly, together with a funding bid to the Environment Agency early in 2024.

## What is performing well

The 2023 Annual Review was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny (regeneration and skills) committee 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](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/greensefton)

The 2022 review led to the refresh and launching of the Service Vision in April 2023 which was adopted by Cabinet Member, and included taking on board comments from the O+S Committee, Cabinet Member, and the wider team of Green Sefton.

This has then flowed into revisiting the Service Plan, which was adopted by Cabinet Member in October 2023.

## What requires improvement and what action is being taken



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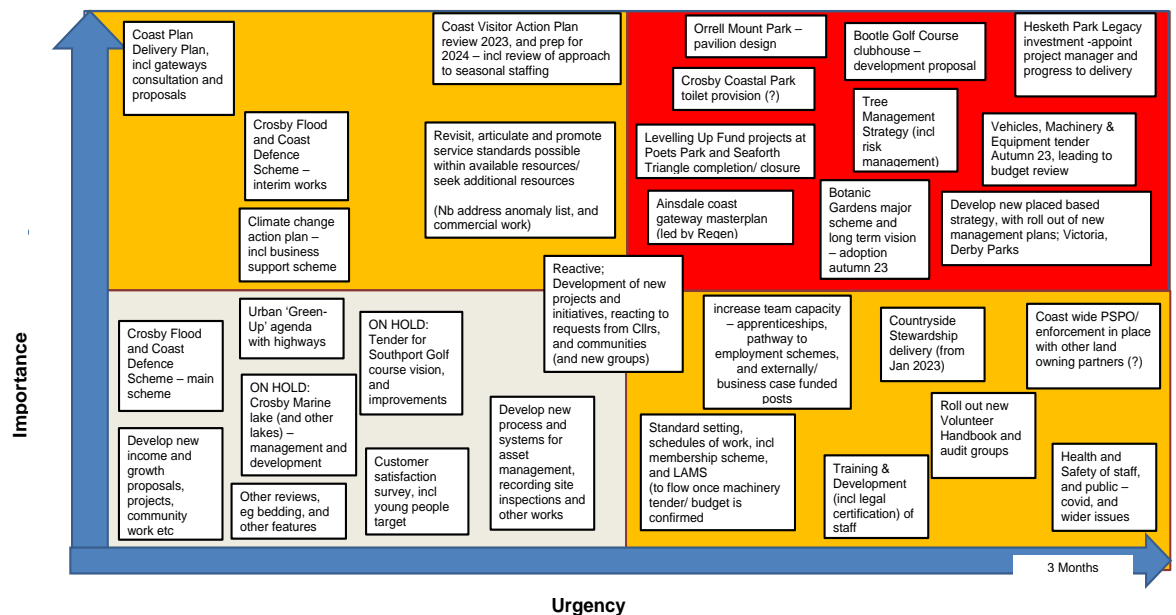
## Overall work programming

The Annual report highlighted the tracking of the services overall performance against the actions contained within the previous Service Plan which was RAG rated over the previous two years. This clearly showed that many actions 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 approach of tracking progress will be replicated moving forwards, measuring progress against the newly adopted Service Vision, and Service Plan

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

**GREEN SEFTON STRATEGIC WORKLOAD MATRIX – as presented to O+S Oct/ Nov 22, and updated 25.11.22, 10.2.23, 10.3.23, 25.7.23, 15.9.23**

(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.

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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 they sign up to the updated document, and expectations contained therein.

## Defining Standards

As part of addressing some of the frustrations from the community referred to above, we have also instigated a piece of work to define our maintenance service standards that we are currently resourced to provide. This is initially being prioritised on the inland parks and greenspaces maintenance aspects of the service, but team leaders are working up thoughts on defining standards across wider areas too. The first draft of this new document was shared with Cabinet Member at the April 2022 meeting, and final amendments are being made before releasing this wider in the coming months, which the upcoming machinery and equipment tender will inform in Winter 23/24

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b>		
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Daren Veidman	Cabinet Member Planning & Building Control	5 March 2024

## Introduction

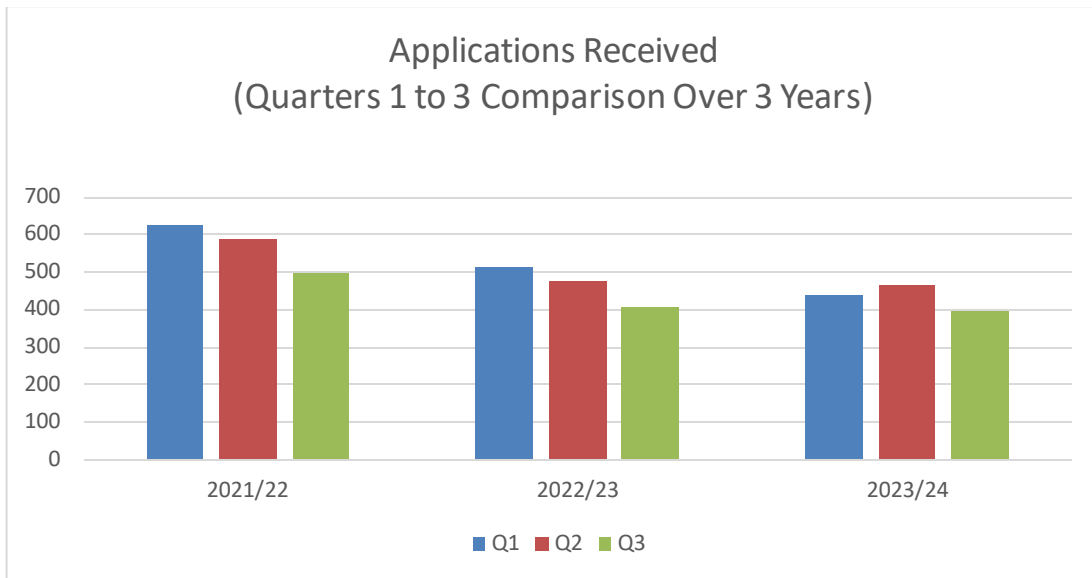
- 1.1 The Planning Service is set up to operate the Council's regulatory functions in relation to the development and use of land.
- 1.2 It comprises the following functions:
  - Development Management
  - Enforcement
  - Building Control
  - Local Plans
  - Heritage and Conservation
  - Trees

These are supported by the Technical Support team.
- 1.3 A key focus of the service has been looking after staff wellbeing. We have carried out two surveys and devised an action plan. These have been received positively and sickness absence has reduced to 40% of pre-Covid levels.
- 1.4 We recognise the importance of customer satisfaction and the need to understand how our customers feel about the service they receive. We have addressed this with a survey of agents who submit planning applications to us and the overall response is they consider us to be the most efficient planning authority in the Liverpool City Region. We are planning to carry out a comprehensive customer survey towards the end of this quarter (beginning March 2024).
- 1.5 We also know how importance it is to look after staff given most are still working from home most of the time and this is likely to continue. The Management Team have completed Mental Health First Aid training during the past year and some other members of staff have now also completed this training.

## Performance Monitoring

- 1.6 A directorate wide plan has been prepared to include all the divisions within the Economic Growth and Housing department, and also a corporate plan for the whole Council. The plan demonstrates the links to Sefton's 2030 vision and to departmental work themes and identifies performance measures to use in the future. These comprise b





## Speed of determining planning applications

- 2.3 Figure 2.2 shows the major applications decided on target. The figure for Quarter 3 (100%) well exceeds both national (60%) and local (63%) targets.
- 2.4 The vast majority of applications are within the 'minor' and 'other' categories. Figures 2.2b & c show an improvement in Quarter 3 in the speed of determination within both categories from Quarter 1 – 'minors' up from 82% to 93%, and 'others' up from 94% to 96%. This is no doubt assisted by an overall decline in the number of applications which has returned to just below pre-Covid levels.
- 2.5 However, the performance needs to be viewed in context. When the numbers of applications were significantly higher during Covid (including April - June 2021), many staff put in extra time – unpaid – to try to maintain previous high levels of performance and the Planning Service was given extra resources to assist with this high workload. Now the applications are easing off, it has enabled the team to take on board many duties which were temporarily put on hold. For example, procedures have been reviewed in a number of areas and this is enabling the team to work more effectively. During Quarter 3 we have provided training on writing reports more efficiently and during Quarter 4 we offered training on good practice in formulating conditions for reports.
- 2.6 The planning process has generally become more complex with an increasing threat of judicial review if procedures are not followed exactly. The team is also preparing for the introduction of a significant new approach - the assessment of Biodiversity Net Gain – which came into force in January 2024. These factors add time to make sure applications are being assessed fully and properly. We are dependent on consultees replying promptly to enable us to determine applications on time and we have been hampered by slow responses from a number of statutory consultees. We are addressing this matter direct with those consultees.

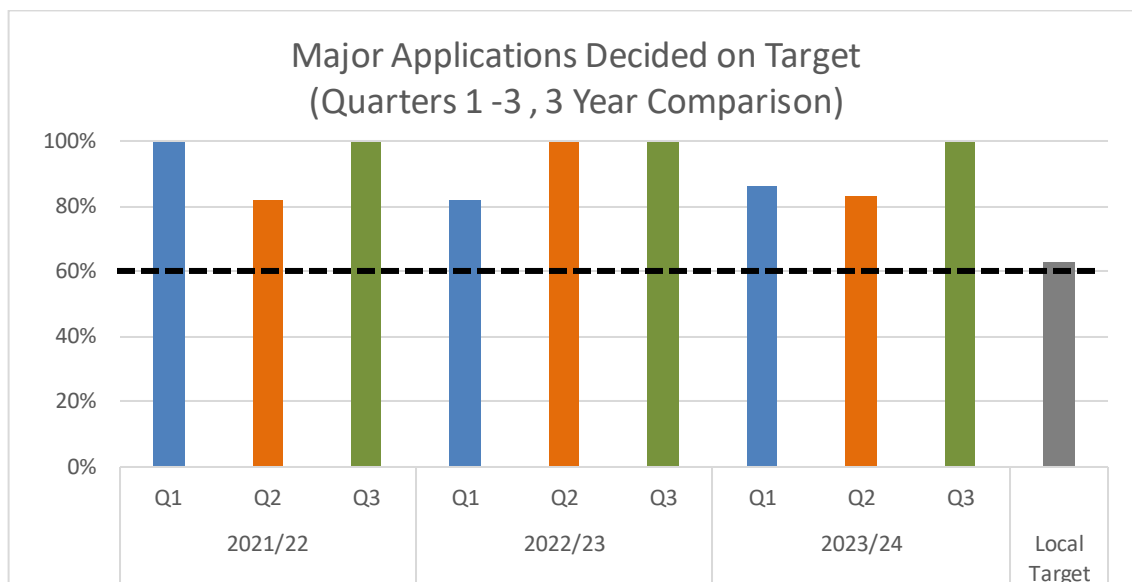
# Agenda Item 9

**Figure 2.2**

Key performance against national targets for speed of decision making:  
Quarters One - Three (April – December)

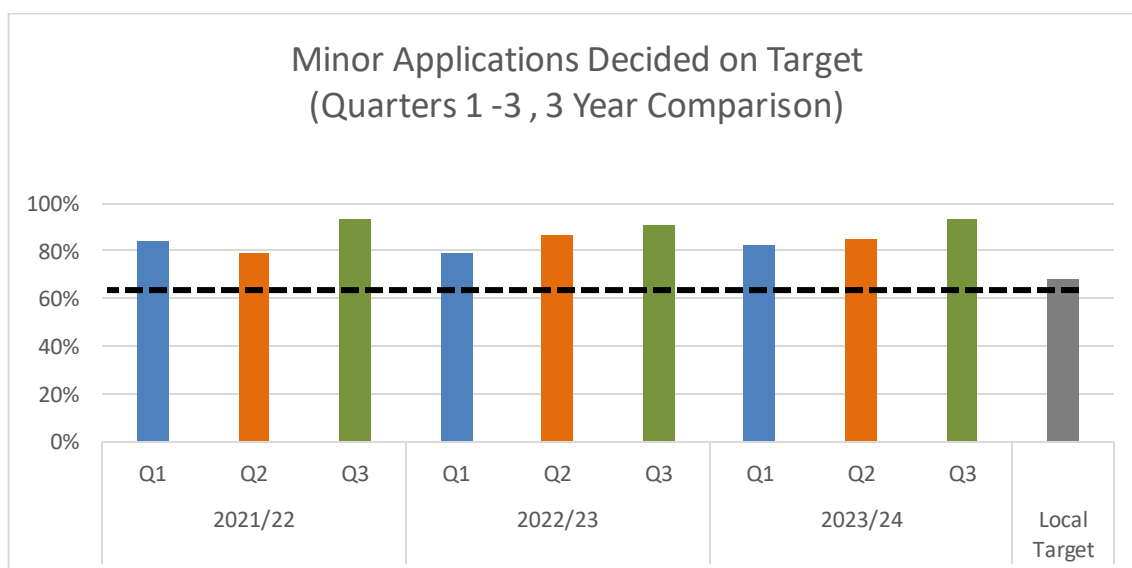
3 Year Comparison: 2021/22, 2022/23 & 2023/24

**Figure 2.2a – Major Applications**



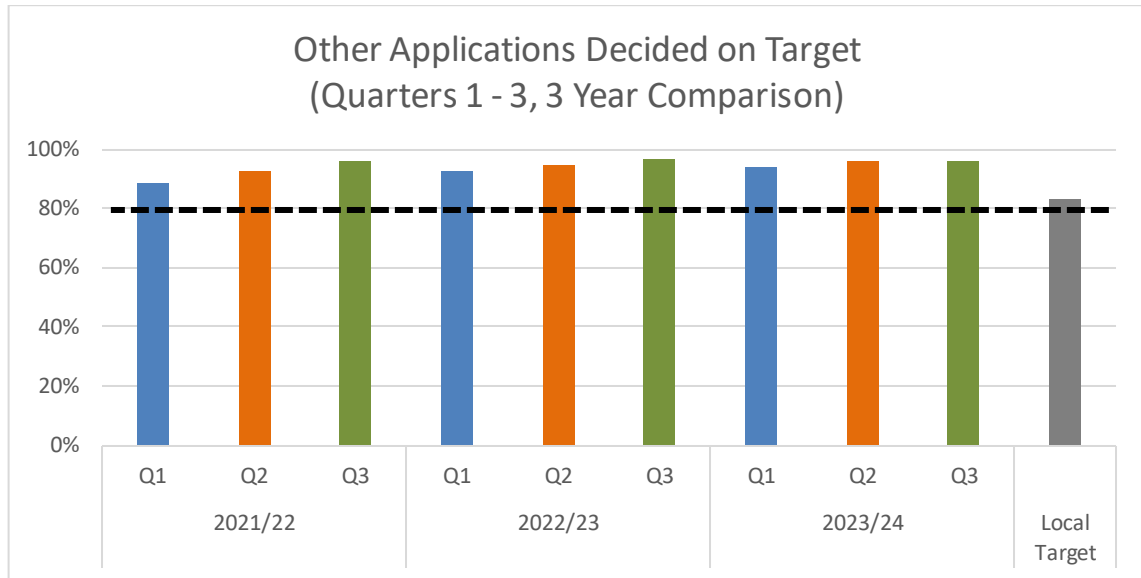
--- National Target

**Figure 2.2b – Minor Applications**



--- National Target

**Figure 2.2c – Other Applications**



--- National Target

2.7 Overall, performance well exceeds national targets and also our own more demanding local targets. However, we manage to do this through agreeing 'Extensions of Time' (EoTs) with applicants to allow further work to be done on applications to enable them to be approved. On 19<sup>th</sup> December 2023 the Government has announced its intention to consult on the restriction of the use of EoTs and we need to review the how we operate to be prepared for any changes which may be introduced.

2.8 Figure 2.3 below shows performance so far this year against national targets disregarding the use of EoTs. It demonstrates that performance falls well short in each category of application:

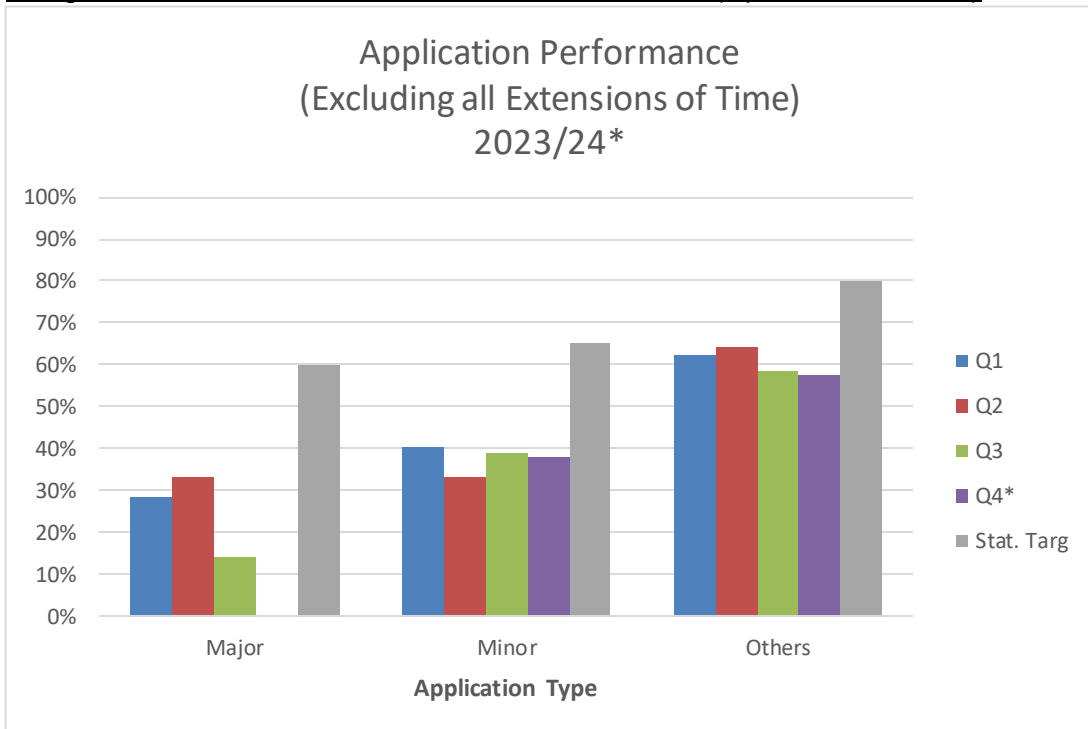
- For 'Majors', less than 30% are determined within this timeframe against a target of 60%
- For 'Minors', the figure is under 40% against a target of 65%
- For 'Other' applications (mainly householders), the figure is around 60% against a national target of 80%.

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- 2.9 We are monitoring performance to see where there may be scope to determine applications more quickly. However, if the Government were to greatly restrict the use of EoTs there would be less opportunity to negotiate improvements to schemes or to await supporting information the need for which may only become apparent during the course of the application.
- 2.10 To meet targets would lead us to make decisions without negotiating improvements or awaiting further information. This would lead to more applications being refused. Currently we enjoy an excellent reputation with the many agents who submit applications. If we were to refuse applications more quickly our reputation would suffer as agents would either have to appeal our decision (which is time-consuming) or obtain the further information and resubmit the application which would require a further fee.
- 2.11 The situation is complicated by the fact that we regularly depend on consultees to provide comments which are necessary to determine an application (e.g. from the Highways and Drainage teams). Although they try to respond within agreed timescales, staffing pressures mean they are not always able to achieve this.
- 2.12 If we are expected to rely less on EoTs it is likely we will need more staff to determine applications within statutory timeframes. If we fail to meet national targets this could lead to intervention/special measures which means that decisions would be taken direct by the Planning Inspectorate.

### Figure 2.3

Performance against national targets for speed of decision making without using Extensions of Time: Quarters One to Three (April – December)



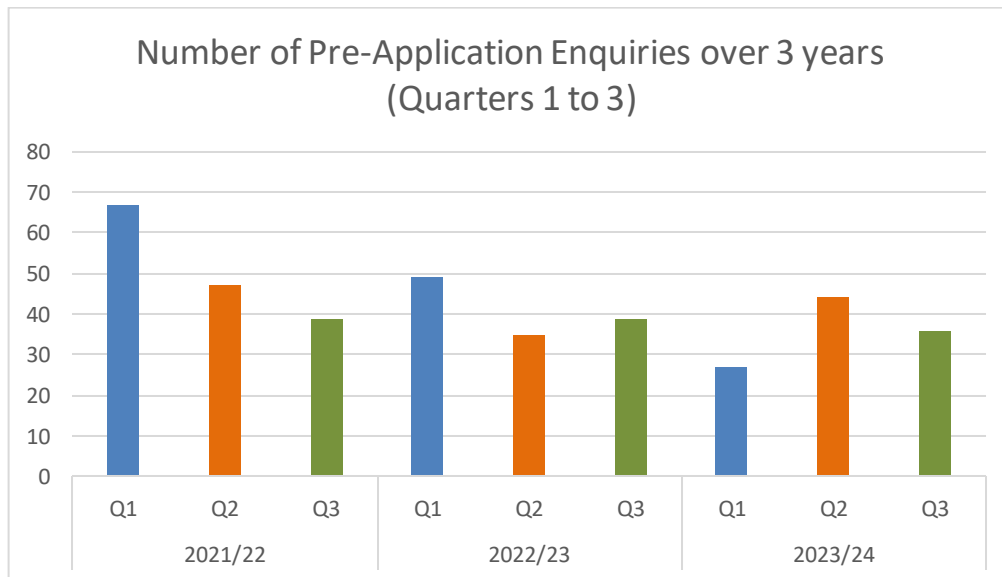


*\*Quarter 4 up to 13/02/2024*

## Pre-application enquiries

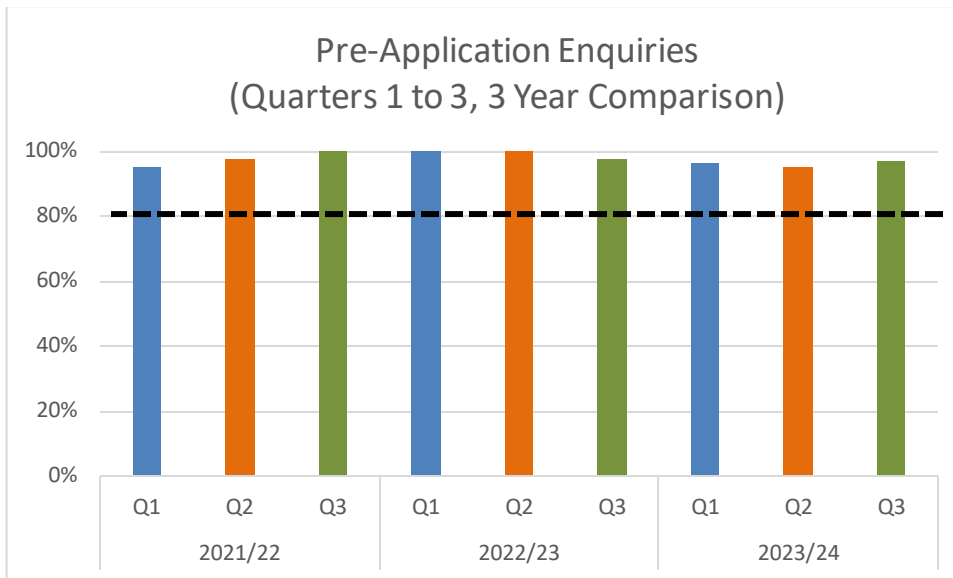
2.13 We have one dedicated officer who focuses on responding to pre-application inquiries. The number of inquiries had dropped considerably over the period shown and has been variable over the past three quarters (see Figure 2.4 below). At its peak, the officer was working in excess of her allocated hours and was responding to inquiries under considerable pressure. The speed in dealing with pre-applications has remained very high and consistently surpasses our target of 80% response rate within 28 days (Figure 2.5). The officer responsible for this area has been able to devote more time to each inquiry and provide a higher quality of response when numbers have been lower, and also takes on a caseload of planning applications when she has spare capacity.

**Figure 2.4** Pre-application Enquiry Responses 2021-24 (Quarters One to Three, 3 Year Comparison)



**Figure 2.5** Pre-Application Responses on Target (Quarters One to Three, 3 Year Comparison)

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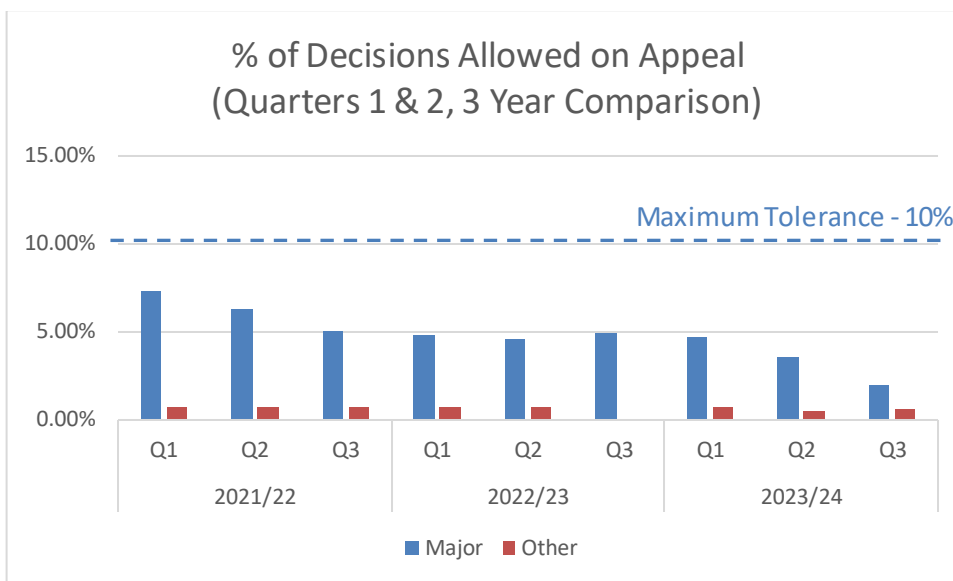
----- Local Target

Proportion of applications allowed at appeal and percentage of applications approved

2.14 The Service has kept significantly under the maximum tolerance in relation to the number of applications allowed at appeal (Figure 2.6). We are just on our target of approving 90% of all applications in the most recent quarter (Figure 2.7). This reflects a stricter approach we have adopted over this quarter. We have advised applicants we will give them one main opportunity to revise their scheme to make it acceptable otherwise we will be likely to recommend refusal. Linked to this we are promoting our pre-application service which enables prospective applicants to seek advice upfront and be more likely to submit an acceptable scheme right from the start. We have highlighted this new approach in the Planning Services Charter, published this quarter.

**Figure 2.6**

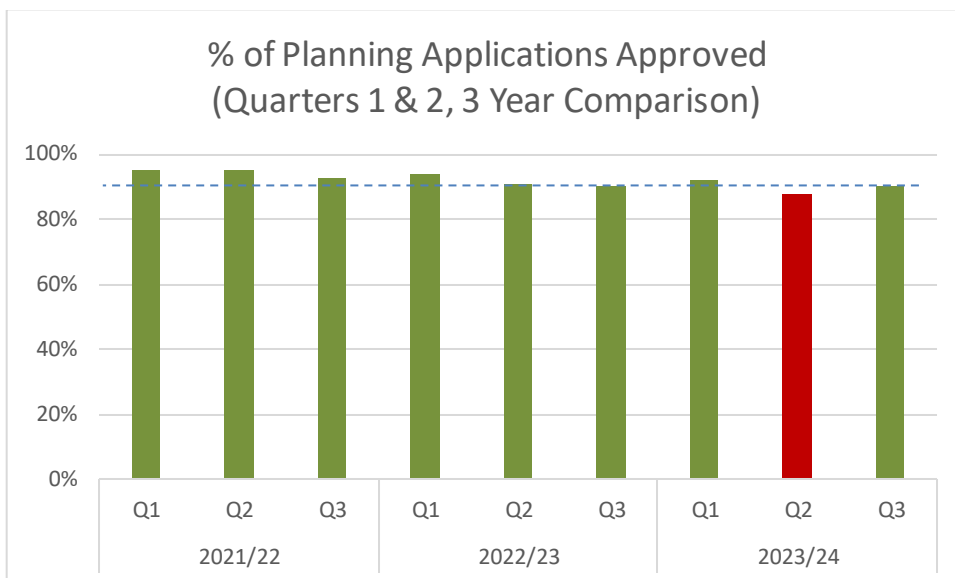
Percentage of decisions allowed on appeal: Quarters One to Three, 3 Year Comparison



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**Figure 2.7**

Percentage of planning applications approved: Quarters One to Three, 3 Year Comparison



----- Local Target

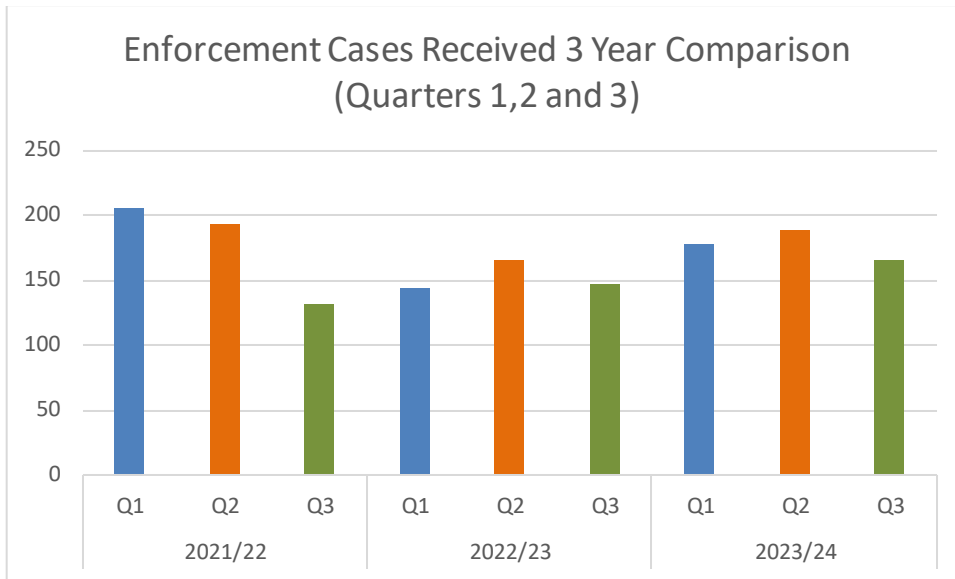
2.15 It is still a significant team effort across the Service to assess and determine applications expediently and in line with Government targets.

### Enforcement

2.16 The number of complaints received has increased over the past three quarters when compared with the equivalent quarters from last year (up from 459 in 2022 to 533 in 2023) - see Figure 2.7 below. There is no obvious explanation for the rise of complaints except that it tends to mirror the amount of development activity taking place.

**Figure 2.8**

Enforcement cases received: Quarters One to Three, 3 Year Comparison



### 3. Building Control

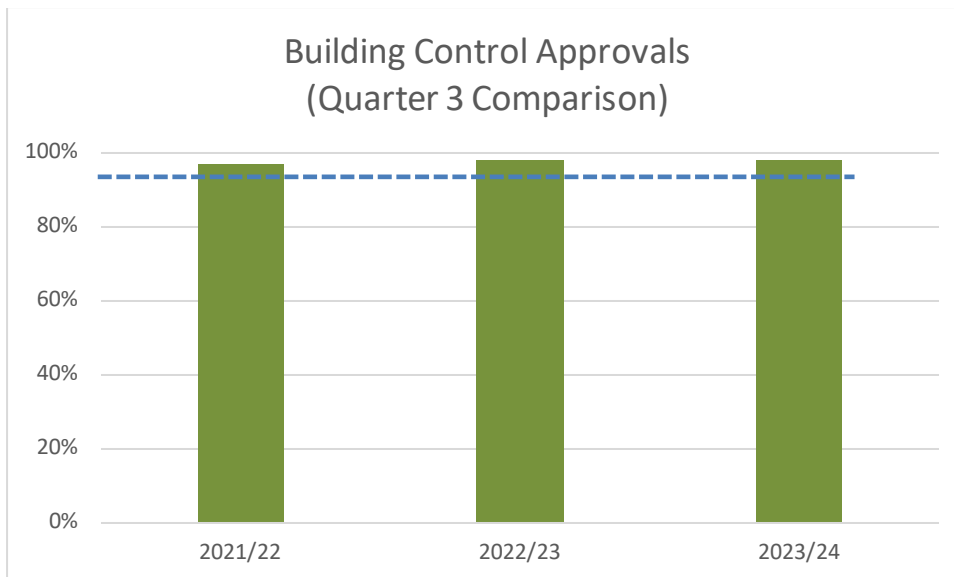
#### Performance targets

- 3.1 This section focuses on the Building Control Team’s performance in the third quarter of 2023/24 and compares overall performance with the same period from the last 3 years.
- 3.2 The Building Control Team continues to meet its key statutory targets in relation to plan-checking and the carrying out of site inspections, although it is struggling to meet its locally set plan-checking targets due to long-term staff absence and dealing with on-going staffing vacancies. However, in spite of this, the percentage of Building Regulation applications given full or conditional approval, is 98% for Quarter 3 of 2023/24, compared to the locally set target of 95%.
- 3.3 The Team’s market share remains just above the national average for local authority building control teams, although over the last 21 months, this figure has reduced, as the recent loss of some key members of staff to private sector Building Control continues to have an adverse effect by them taking key clients with them. An improvement plan has been put in place to address overall performance and once staffing levels are brought back up to the establishment, this should start to take effect.

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**Figure 3.1**

Percentage of building regulation applications approved: Quarter 3, with a 3 year comparison



----- Local Target

## Income and financial performance

3.4 Building Regulation income for the previous 3/5 year financial cycle, shows that the Section's costs continue to be covered - in terms of the fee-earning work element. Financial results from the first three quarters of 2023/24 indicate that Building Control income remains on course to meet projected budgetary levels.

## Safety at sports grounds

3.5 As part of conditions of the Safety Certificates held by Southport FC, Marine FC and Aintree Racecourse, the Building Control Team undertakes annual inspections to check the grandstands are properly maintained. The inspection of the five permanent grandstands at Aintree Racecourse was undertaken in November 2023 and inspections at Southport FC and Marine FC have also been recently carried out. The Building Control Team will shortly commence checking plans and details for the temporary structures planned for the 2024 Grand National race meeting.

## Staffing

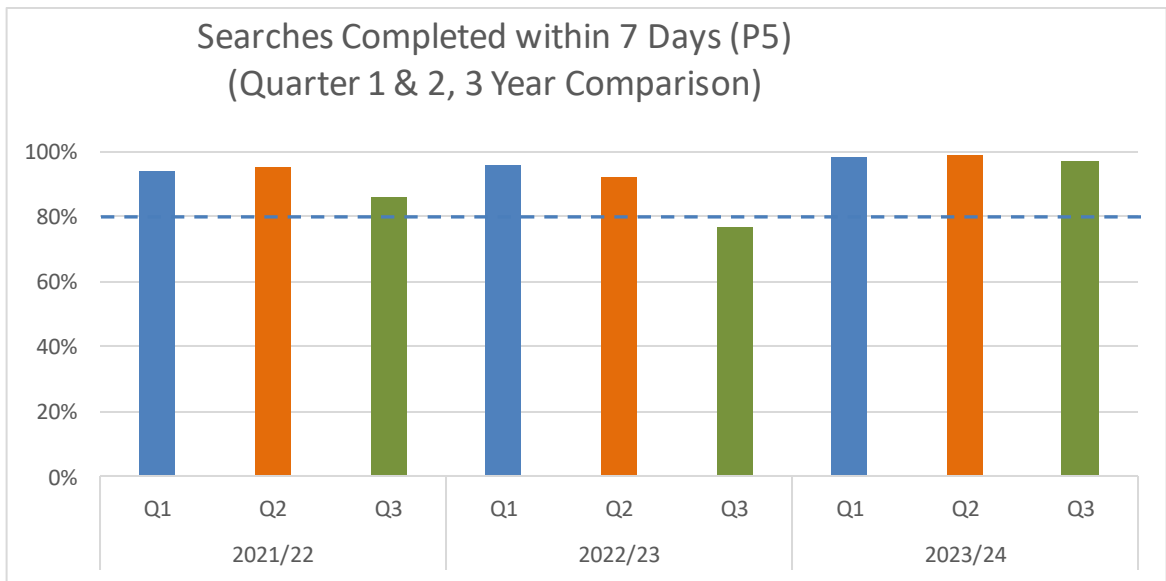
3.6 A vacant Building Control Officer post was filled in early December by an internal candidate, who was a Trainee Building Control Officer being funded by LABC. One of the Building Control Team Leaders has resigned and will be leaving the Authority on 31 December 2023. This post is currently being advertised and it hoped that it will be filled early in the new year. In addition, the Team is also covering for a member of staff currently on maternity leave.

## 4. Technical Support

4.1 Figure 4.1 below shows our performance in quarters one, two and three for the last 3 years. Performance remains above target for all three quarters this year. We are currently running at 17% above target on this indicator.

**Figure 4.1**

Searches completed within 7 days: Quarters One to Three, 3 Year Comparison



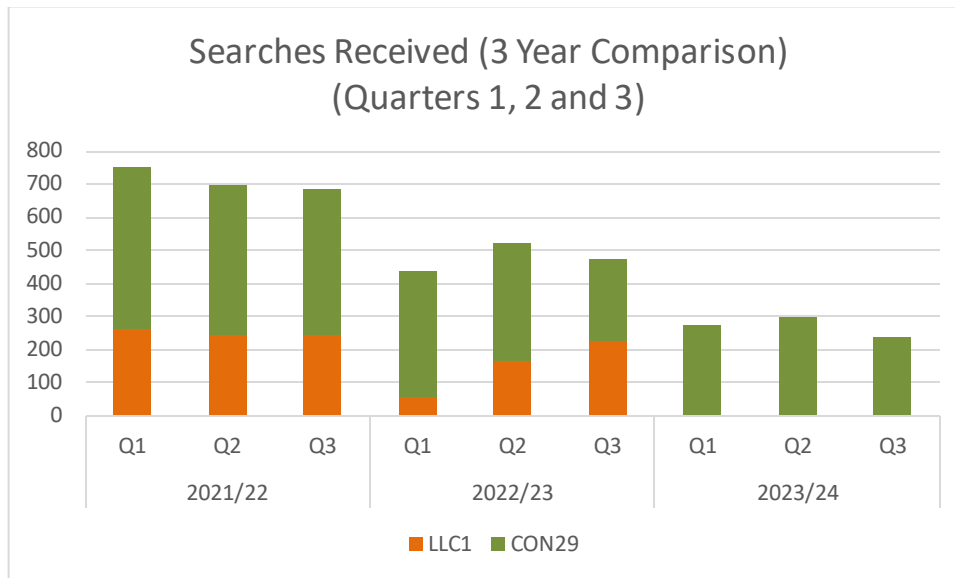
----- Local Target

4.2 In January 2023, the Land Registry assumed responsibility for the Land Charges register. Figure 4.2 below shows the numbers of searches received over the last 3 years for quarters one, two and three. It shows that the makeup of the type of searches received has changed over the last 3 years, since the LLC1 portion of the search moved to the HM Land Registry earlier this year. This is having an overall impact on the total number of searches.

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**Figure 4.2**

Number of searches received: Quarters One, Two and Three, 3 Year Comparison



- 4.3 The fall in the number of searches received has significantly reduced the amount of income expected in Q3. The team is currently carrying vacancies and resources have been reallocated to other areas of the team to ensure resilience in service delivery and improvements to how we monitor performance.

## 5. Local Planning

### The Sefton Local Plan

- 5.1 Changes to the plan-making process are included in the Levelling Up and Planning Act which has recently secured royal assent. This will be supported by secondary legislation and regulations that will be published in 2024 which will guide how the next Local Plan will be progressed. A Cabinet recommendation was recently approved to await clarification on the new plan-making system before any decision is made on a new Sefton Local Plan, even though the current Local Plan is now over 6 years old and would normally be expected to be reviewed by now.
- 5.2 The government has indicated that Councils will be allocated a 'wave' in which to commence a new style Local Plan, based on how old their current Local Plan is. Based on these proposals it is likely, subject to confirmation, that Sefton will be expected to commence a new Local Plan under the new system between autumn 2025 and early 2026.
- 5.3 As of 20 December 2023, planning approval has been granted for 76.6% of the total indicative site capacity on Local Plan housing allocations, up from 74.5% last December. The **Page 232a**l (1<sup>st</sup> March) on a Local Plan housing



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allocation was 146 homes on the Waddicar Farm site in Melling. There are current applications with the Council on 4 other Local Plan housing allocations.

- 5.4 The Council, in its recent Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA), have been able to demonstrate a 8.7 year supply of deliverable housing land. This is much higher than the required 5 year supply required by government guidance. Sefton have also recently passed the latest Housing Delivery Test (published 19 December 2023), having had 142% of the required homes completed over the previous 3 years (to 2021/22).

<b>Year</b>	<b>Homes required</b>	<b>Homes Delivered</b>
2019-20	578	799
2020-21	415	737
2021-22	610	738
Total	1602	2274

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

- 5.5 A number of Supplementary Planning Documents and Information Notes were adopted in 2023. These will now assist in making planning decisions. They are:

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

- 5.6 A number of other SPDs will be progressed during 2024. These are:

- Developer Contributions to Southport Tourist Infrastructure
- Nature (update)
- Boundary Treatments
- Short Term Holiday Lets

## Liverpool City Region work

- 5.7 The Combined Authority have recently published a draft Spatial Development Strategy. The policy team are co-ordinating a Sefton response.

## Bootle Area Action Plan

- 5.8 To help support the regeneration and transformation of the wider Bootle area a Bootle Area Action Plan (AAP) is being progressed. This will set out a vision, objectives, projects, policies and priorities for the area. This is being led by the Planning Policy Team. To assist with the work, the Council has been

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successful in securing funding from a range of sources for various aspects of the Bootle AAP. These are:

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

5.9 Public consultation on the Bootle AAP Issues and Options paper was undertaken from November 2021 to 31 January 2022. The engagement included a 12-page newsletter delivered to all 22,000 homes and businesses in the Bootle AAP area.

5.10 The draft ('Preferred Options') Bootle Area Action Plan was approved at Cabinet on 22 June 2023. Public engagement on the Bootle Area Action Plan was undertaken during September to November. The policy team are currently assessing all comments submitted which will be published early in 2024.

#### Other work

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

5.12 Following recent applications and appeal hearings for traveller accommodation sites, it was decided that the Council's evidence base for gypsy and traveller accommodation needed to be updated. The Council commissioned a Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation Needs Assessment which is now completed and available online.

5.13 The Council has also recently undertaken a replacement Playing Pitch Strategy so that we have the evidence to deal with applications on existing playing pitches or can help secure contributions for improvements to existing pitches from large development proposals. The new strategy will also help support the Council's applications for funding for improvements to its playing pitches. This was a complicated and multidisciplinary piece of work and was managed and led by the Local Planning team. The Council have received a final report which is now approved and available online.

5.14 To inform both the Local Plan review and Bootle AAP (see above) the Council undertook an Employment Land and Premises Supply assessment. This looks at all of Sefton's allocated and designated employment land, including Bootle Office Quarter. The Council have received a final report which is now approved and available online.

5.15 The Local Plan team have recently completed its second Movers' Survey. This looks at where people move **Page 234** built homes in Sefton and why. It also

looks at what services and facilities they have had to switch because of their move. The initial results can be found at <https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/5703/movers-survey-report-2022-first-edition.pdf>. This will be updated early in 2024 with the results of the recent survey.

## 6. Heritage and Conservation

### Heritage at Risk

- 6.1 We are continuing to work towards the removal of the 6 Conservation Areas from the National Heritage at Risk Register. These are Lord Street, Promenade, West Birkdale, North Meols (Southport), Christ Church and Waterloo Park (Waterloo). This includes a number of different work areas including raising their profile through Twitter and Facebook, regeneration funding bids, working with the local community, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, taking enforcement and other legal action in relation to a number of derelict sites and listed buildings in these areas.
- 6.2 Progress has been made on a number of Heritage at Risk sites including working with colleagues and partners on a number of Council owned Listed Buildings to secure their improvement and long term use and sustainability. This year 2 buildings have been removed from the Heritage at Risk register these are 509-515 Lord Street, Southport and St. Nicholas Fountain, Blundellsands.
- 6.3 This year the Council surveyed 152 of its listed building entries, 27% of the total. This exceeds the target of 20% per year.
- 6.4 In order to help prevent major repairs to historic homes and to help in the cost of living crisis the Heritage team have now published helpful guidance for homeowners in the maintenance of their property. Providing useful bespoke guidance for these important buildings will help prevent deterioration and buildings failing into costly disrepair. [Guide to Maintaining Sefton's Historic Homes](#)
- 6.5 In order to help deal with the Climate Emergency and the cost of living crisis the Heritage team have also published guidance for homeowners to help them improve energy efficiency in their historic homes and save money. [Guide to Improving Energy Efficiency in Sefton's Historic Homes - Digital](#)

### Regeneration

- 6.6 The capital build part of the Southport Townscape Heritage project is progressing, and discussions continue with owners of targeted buildings. The first grant application has now been completed - 509-515 Lord Street. The project restored and repaired a long term vacant grade 2 Listed Building and removed it from the Council's Buildings at Risk Register. The project brought back 2 vacant retail units into use and converted the vacant upper floors into 9

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apartments. This was the overall winner at the Sefton Design Awards which took place in October 2023.

- 6.7 The second project has now been completed at 4a Bold Street and works includes a new traditional shopfront and tidying up the verandah. Further grant offers are in place on Bold Street and large scale improvements should be shown over the next 12 months. Discussions are now taking place with the Heritage Fund to extend the project by 12 months.
- 6.8 The learning and skills activities for Southport Townscape Heritage project have been focused on raising awareness of Southport's built heritage and include Heritage skills construction events, guided walks and trails with community groups and schools.
- 6.9 Discussions have taken place on a number of Heritage at Risk sites which are considered to be key strategic sites to find new uses or upgrade them to modern facilities so that they continue to be or find their optimum viable use and save them from further deterioration.

## Advice to Development Management team

- 6.10 The number of consultation responses sent in Q1, Q2 & Q3 for 2023 is 310, for the same period in 2022 is 303 and 2021 is 500.

The decrease from 2021 is due to removing the buffer zones for consultations so it means that requests for consultation are more targeted.

- 6.11 In addition, this part of the Service continues to assist in various appeals, on-site monitoring and enforcement cases.

## **7. Conclusion**

- 7.1 The past almost four years have been unprecedented for the Council and with significant increases in the numbers of applications and staffing issues it was difficult for a period to maintain a high level of performance. However, staffing levels have improved and numbers of applications have reduced so once more targets are generally being exceeded.
- 7.2 Appropriate technology has been put in place to support staff who mainly work from home, and staff have performed very well. Staff surveys show the service has been able to respond to key issues in order to maintain essential services whilst maintaining staff morale. We continue to hold staff 'away sessions' to bring members of different teams together, as well as helping to integrate those who have joined the Service since the start of Covid and have never known what it is like to be part of a Service working together in one office. We still hold on-line chats for mental health and we are leading on mental health in the city region with Combined Authority support.

- 7.3 We prepared a Planning Services Charter during the Quarter 3. This sets out our values, our service standards, our priorities and how we are accountable (including reporting to this Committee). It makes clear that if proposals have not gone through our pre-application advice service, we will spend limited time on securing amendments before determining applications based on the scheme submitted to us. This is critical to the Service working more efficiently. In Quarter 3 we set up the Planning Clinic, a new service to help other departments across the Council engage with us whilst their schemes are in the design phase. About 5 projects have already been submitted to the Clinic and the feedback is that this initiative is appreciated. This should help ensure that our requirements are taken into account in the preparation of schemes and enable smoother progress through the pre-application stage and in making planning and building regulation applications.
- 7.4 The Planning Service received very positive feedback at our last Agents' Forum in October 2023. This was validated by our Service being awarded "Planning Authority of the Year" by the Royal Town Planning Institute North West Branch in June 2023 and being nominated as a finalist for the national awards in London in November. As part of the same awards, the Chief Planning Officer was shortlisted in the category of 'Inspirational Leader of the Year'.
- 7.5 A new initiative was launched this quarter with a Design Awards competition to showcase the best of design in Sefton over the past 10 years. This has attracted a lot of interest and many high-quality schemes were submitted across multiple categories from best heritage and commercial schemes through to best individual house and best house extension. A Design Awards Evening was held in the Grand Hotel, Southport, on 20<sup>th</sup> October. This was a hugely successful event complimented by many who attended both personally and on social forums.
- 7.6 The Service continues to respond to the unsettled context in which we are currently operating. We will closely monitor the number of planning applications we receive and keep staffing under review in the Development Management team, as well as trying to ensure the Building Control team is well equipped to face its own particular challenges. We are prepared to adapt to further changes on the horizon, in particular the major legislative change introduced by the Levelling Up and Regeneration Act 2023. Further reforms to the planning system were announced in December 2023 and we need to be geared up to respond to the challenges they will present.

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