

# Public Document Pack

**Sefton Council** 

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday, 17th September 2024

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

## Member

Councillor  
Cllr. Phil Hart (Chair)  
Cllr. Jennifer Corcoran (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr. Karen Cavanagh  
Cllr. Sam Hinde  
Cllr. Nina Killen  
Cllr. Steve McGinnity  
Cllr. Daniel McKee  
Cllr. Mike Morris M.B.E.  
Cllr. Mike Sammon  
Cllr. Veronica Webster

## Substitute

Councillor  
Cllr. Paula Murphy  
Cllr. Dave Neary, PhD  
Cllr. Joanne Williams  
Cllr. Janet Grace  
Cllr. Chloe Parker, NPQH  
Cllr. Brenda O'Brien  
Cllr. Carla Thomas  
Cllr. Sir Ron Watson C.B.E.  
Cllr. Gareth Lloyd-Johnson  
Cllr. Carol Richards

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

**If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.**

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

# **A G E N D A**

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

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

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

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

## **3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held 25 June 2024

## **4. Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2024/25** (Pages 13 - 36)

Presentation by Ian Stephenson, Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority

## **5. Winter Maintenance Policy & Operational Plan** (Pages 37 - 42)

Report of the Assistant Director – Highways and Public Protection

## **6. LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy - Update and Next Steps Towards Approval of Draft LNRS** (Pages 43 - 52)

Report of the Assistant Director – Economic Growth and Housing

## **7. Work Programme 2024/25, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 53 - 86)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

**8. Cabinet Member Reports - June 2024 to September 2024**

(Pages 87 -  
102)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON TUESDAY 25TH JUNE, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Hart (in the Chair)  
Councillor Corcoran (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Cavanagh, Hinde, Killen, McKee, Morris,  
Sammon and Webster

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Dowd, Harvey and Lappin

### 1. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

The Chair, Councillor Hart, welcomed Members to the first meeting of Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) in the 2024/25 municipal year.

Councillor Hart especially welcomed Councillors Cavanagh, Hinde, Killen, McGinnity, Morris and Sammon as newly appointed members of the Committee; and expressed thanks to Councillor Dowd, the former Chair of the Committee, and Councillors Howard, Harvey, Lloyd-Johnson, Catie Page and Sir Ron Watson and former Councillor Christine Maher for their help and involvement on the Committee during the previous year.

### 2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor McGinnity.

### 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interest were made:

Member	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor Killen	Minute No. 6 – Work Programme 2024/25, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan (in relation to the potential to hold an informal meeting to review the topic of Provision of Housing for	Has an involvement in a supported accommodation business. Stayed in the room but took no part in the consideration of the item

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 25TH JUNE, 2024

	Former Looked After Children who are now Care Leavers)	
Councillor Killen	Minute No. 7 – Cabinet Member Reports March to June 2024 (in relation to the reference to Care Experienced Young People in the Cabinet Member Report - Highways and Housing)	Has an involvement in a supported accommodation business. Stayed in the room but took no part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Corcoran	Minute No. 7 – Cabinet Member Reports March to June 2024 (in relation to domestic abuse issues contained in the Cabinet Member Report - Communities and Partnership Engagement)	Is employed by an organisation referred to in the report. Stayed in the room but took no part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Corcoran	Minute No. 7 – Cabinet Member Reports March to June 2024 (in relation to Libraries issues contained in the Cabinet Member Report - Communities and Partnership Engagement)	Is an Advisory Board Member of “At the Libraries”. Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item

## 4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 March 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

## 5. COUNCIL HOUSING PROGRAMME

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing) that updated on the Council's Housing Programme.

The report indicated that Cabinet, at its meeting held on 7 January 2021, (Minute No. 79) approved the strategic case for Sefton Council re-entering the social housing market through the provision of council housing for rent; that the Council currently had approximately £5m of capital available to fund the acquisition of Council Housing as a result of the Right to Buy Receipts Sharing Agreement with One Vision Housing and from commuted sums secured via S106 agreements; and that the strategic rationale for the scheme was that over the past few years there had been a growing acceptance in Government that councils needed to play a greater role in meeting new build housing targets; that although very little additional council housing had been developed in the last 50 years the active participation of local councils acting as developers and landlords was something that government were actively encouraging; and that Sefton had already partly responded to this through the establishment of Sandway Homes, its wholly owned private housing development company.

The report also set out the progress to date; the Phase 1 Business Plan Delivery Model Option Appraisal; that direct delivery option was selected; that under this model homes would be in the legal ownership of the Council and the programme under the Council's direction; and that because the Council had already registered with the Regulator of Social Housing, an application could be made to access Homes England grant on eligible schemes.

The report concluded by detailing the Business Plan Overview for the Council Housing Programme which set out the sites, number of units and timescales for scheme completions.

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

- The classification of temporary accommodation
- The 'Cost Floor Rule' associated with a Council Tenant's Right to Buy their home
- Statistics on the numbers of One Vision Housing properties purchased under the Right to Buy scheme

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 25TH JUNE, 2024

- The Homes England grant on the Buckley Hill Lane housing scheme and the application for Homes England Investment Partner status
- The need to ensure that new build properties enjoyed high levels of energy efficiency; and that there should be an aspiration to achieve energy efficiency levels over and above those specified in current building regulations
- How new build properties would be allocated and the use of Property Pool Plus

RESOLVED:

That the report updating on the Council's Housing Programme be noted.

### **6. WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views on the draft Work Programme for 2024/25; the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings of the Committee; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; that updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; that sought a potential date for an informal meeting of the Committee to consider the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers; and that sought a decision on whether the Committee wished to pursue, at an informal meeting of the Committee, the topic of the formal and informal processes for engagement between officers at the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA) and at Sefton Council, relating to the review, approval, funding, development and implementation of strategies, policies and projects. This relates to both regionally-led (LCR CA-led) and locally-led (Sefton Council-led) proposals.

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

- The benefits of holding informal meetings rather than formal Working Groups to review topics
- The ability to update the Committee's Work Programme at each meeting
- The operation of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the Chief Legal and Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with Members regarding the selection of a date to hold an

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 25TH JUNE, 2024

informal meeting of the Committee to consider the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers; and that it be agreed that the informal meeting be held using Microsoft Teams;

- (3) Sefton's appointed Members on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be requested to raise the issues, at that Committee, of the formal and informal processes for engagement between officers at the Combined Authority and at Sefton Council, relating to the review, approval, funding, development and implementation of strategies, policies and projects. This relates to both regionally-led (LCR CA-led) and locally-led (Sefton Council-led) proposals; rather than the matter be dealt with at an informal meeting of the Committee; and
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

### **7. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - MARCH 2024 TO JUNE 2024**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that included the most recent reports from the Cabinet Members for Cleansing and Street Scene; Communities and Partnership Engagement; Housing and Highways; Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); and Regeneration, Economy and Skills.

Councillor Dowd, Cabinet Member - Communities and Partnership Engagement presented her report and highlighted the following issues:

- The all-Easter Holidays Activity Fund and that in particular that 253 secondary aged young people attended HAF provision over the Easter holidays across 6,595 individual sessions
- The two procurement exercises currently underway with regards to domestic abuse
- The recent successful bid to the Library Improvement Fund that had secured £80,000 of capital funding to pay for improvements to Bootle Library

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

- Why Fly Tip? that was part of a £50,000 grant to tackle rear entry and on street fly-tipping; and whether an evaluation of the scheme would be undertaken to measure outcomes and be reported to Committee
- Compliments were paid for the community engagement activity associated with the Sefton Pride event held in Southport on 15 June 2024
- Satisfaction was expressed at the good news regarding the successful bid to the Library Improvement Fund to secure funding to pay for improvements to Bootle Library

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- With regard to the Youth Engagement team, the selection of sites for the youth bus across the borough
- With regard to work with migrants and sanctuary seekers, the selection of sites in the borough for weekly advice and support sessions

Councillor Harvey, Cabinet Member - Cleansing and Street Scene presented his report and highlighted the following issues:

- That he would be shortly visiting Sefton Arc to gain an understanding of how the service operated
- The prevalence of fly-tipping incidents
- The weed control programme which was now in the second of four sprays for the season; and that sample inspections were undertaken to capture evidence of 'die back' of weeds approximately 10-14 days following the scheduled spray
- Grass cutting on the Formby Bypass
- The continual problem of waste being fly-tipped in rear entries

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

- The supervisory/inspection regime in place to ensure road sweepers undertook their duties to agreed standards
- Problems associated with properties that had no refuse storage facilities and whose residents placed their refuse on the highway
- The use of seagull-proof refuse sacks to prevent the spillage of litter due to scavenging animals
- Regarding grass cutting on the Formby Bypass, it was often difficult to balance the views of those residents who were in favour of the activity against those who were opposed and would rather allow a wildflower verge to flourish
- Weed issues on Marine Drive in Southport that did not give a good impression to visitors to the town
- Performance monitoring of the weed control contract
- Complaints received about the cleanliness of Chapel Street, Southport
- Street scrubbing operations in Southport town centre
- Upkeep and maintenance of small parcels of council land by community and voluntary groups
- Proposals to change the enforcement regime to combat the problems of residents dumping rubbish in their rear entries
- It was stated that some areas of the borough appeared to receive better weed control services than others
- The impact of schools planning to implement changes to the structure of their school day from September 2024 on the School Crossing Patrol service
- Resources associated with the burial and cremation service
- The Careline call response time for 99.3% of calls answered within 60 seconds was praised; and it was acknowledged that additional

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time would have to be taken into account for referrals to other organisations as these too would have their own response targets

Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member - Regeneration, Economy and Skills presented her report and highlighted the following issues:

- LCR Metro Mayor's Young Persons Guarantee
- Sefton@Work's achievement at passing the annual Customer Service Excellence assessment for 2024
- Mersey Care and Sefton Council's collaboration to develop plans for a Mental Health Digital Research Centre at Maghull Health Park

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

- The welcome news in relation to the Fast Track to Counselling for Sefton@work clients
- The level of profit achieved for the Council from the Southport Food and Drink Festival

A Member of the Committee asked a question in respect of Councillor Doyle's Cabinet Member - Public Health and Wellbeing portfolio (Green Sefton element) regarding what would happen when the legacy money for Hesketh Park was spent.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Cabinet Member - Cleansing and Street Scene; Communities and Partnership Engagement; Housing and Highways; Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); and Regeneration, Economy and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted;
- (2) issues associated with weed control/grass cutting be a potential topic for review at an informal meeting of the Committee; and
- (3) Councillors Dowd, Harvey and Lappin be thanked for their attendance at the Committee.

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# MRWA SERVICE DELIVERY PLAN 24/25

LESLEY WORSWICK  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

# Service Delivery Plan 24/25

## CORPORATE PLAN

### **AIM 1:**

- We deliver efficient and effective services

### **AIM 3:**

- We collaborate with partners to develop & deliver strategies and services.

### **AIM 2:**

- We continuously improve our services to meet changing demands.

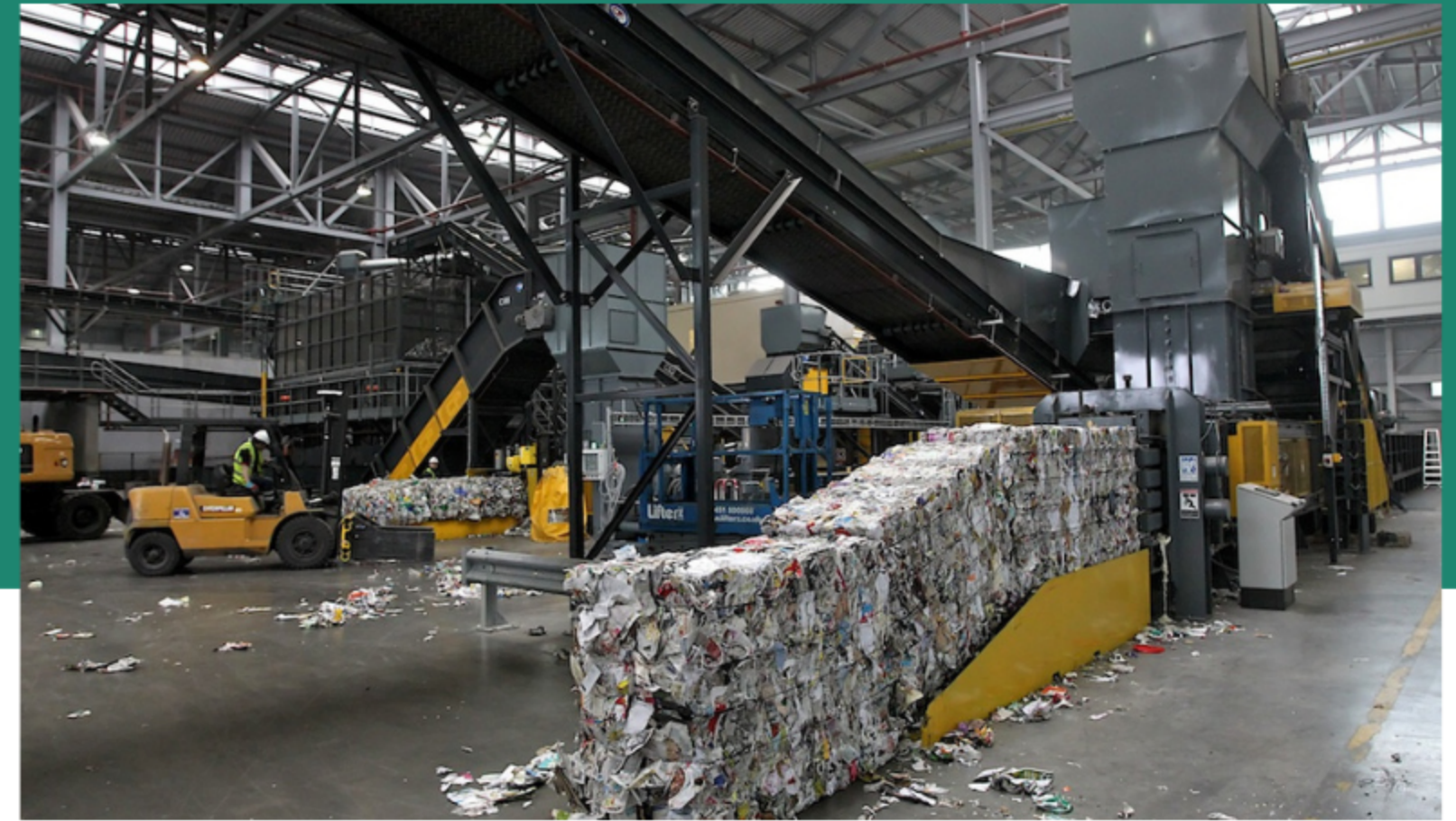
### **AIM 4:**

- We develop a framework for environmental performance and social value.



## AIM 1: DELIVER EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Our waste contracts deliver frontline services that meet expected standards and to agreed terms and conditions.



### RRC – MERL/SUEZ

- Signed 2013, operational 2017, 30 year lifespan
- Provides residual transfer, transport & treatment services for all of M&H’s residual municipal waste
- RTLS in Kirkby, rail-linked to EfW facility at Wilton on Teesside
- Currently accepting c. 450k tonnes residual waste per annum

### WMRC – VEOLIA

- Signed 2009, runs to May 2029 (<5 years remaining) and provides:
  - 4 waste transfer stations
  - 2 materials recovery facilities (MRFs)
  - 16 HWRCs
  - Materials transport
  - Reprocessing of recyclable materials

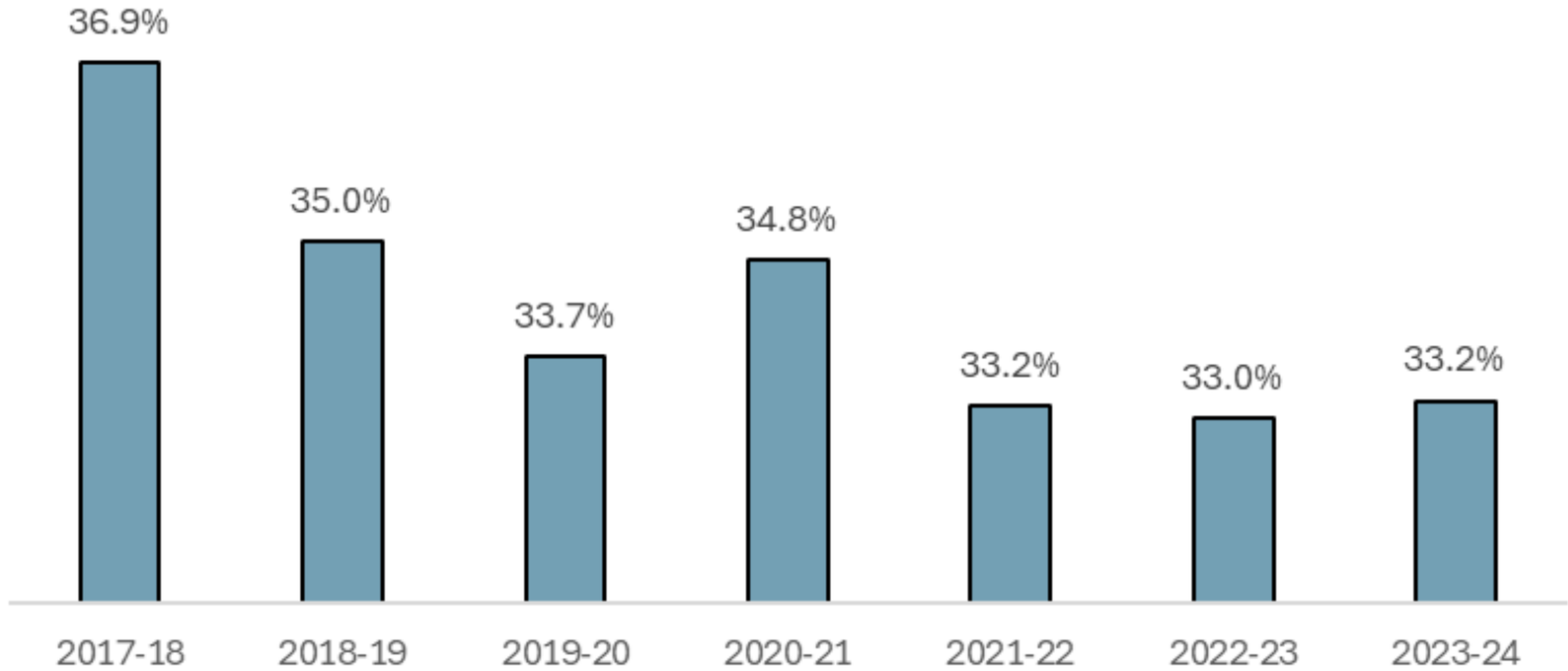


# AIM 2: DELIVER EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE WASTE SERVICES

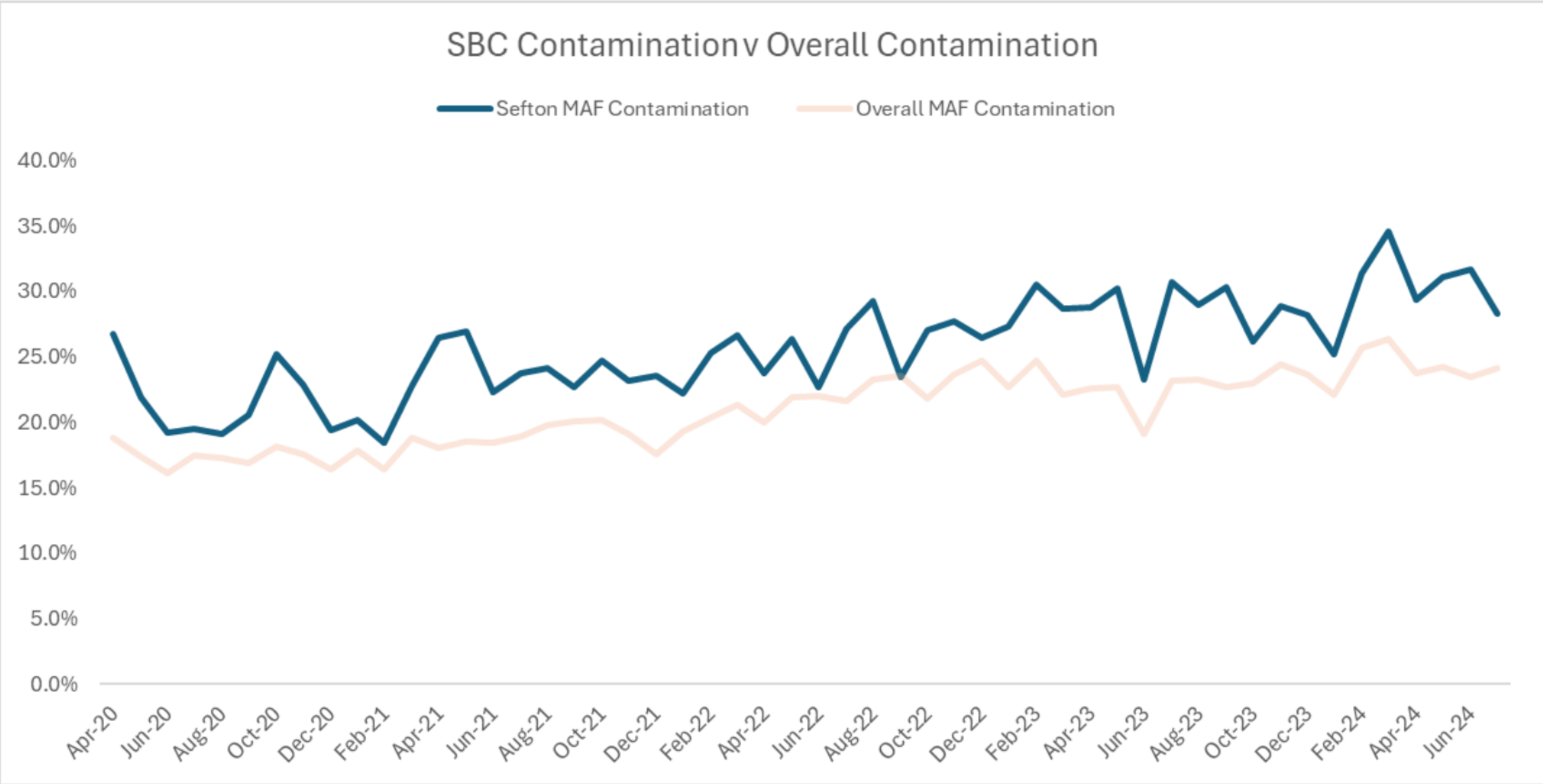
Our waste contracts deliver frontline services that meet expected standards and to agreed terms and conditions.

- RRC handled 459,645 tonnes in 2023/24 (latest available data)
- MRFs handled 106,676 tonnes in 2023/24
- HWRCs handled 162,629 tonnes in 2023/24, with the vast majority of the recyclable material sorted remaining within the UK and reprocessed into quality recycled products
- MRWA's overall recycling rate in 2023/24 – including kerbside collected waste, HWRCs was 34.3%
- Sefton recycling rate for 2023/24 was 33.2% (this is provisional and has not been fully verified by WDF)

## Overall Recycling Rate - Sefton









# Food Waste Collection

- New legislation - separate household food collection by March 2026
- Veolia will provide transfer/transport/treatment service (to 2029)
- Proposals currently in discussion; new buildings at existing locations (Southport & Gillmoss)





# GOING FORWARD

## RESIDUAL WASTE REDUCTION

- Major source of carbon emissions from waste
- National Waste Prevention Programme
- HWRC Reuse Guidance
- Extended Single Use Plastics ban

## DEPOSIT RETURN SCHEME

- Reducing litter from drinks containers
- Incentivising consumers to return items (for recycling)





# GOING FORWARD

## SIMPLER RECYCLING

- Dry recyclables (except plastic film) must be collected by 31 March 2026 for households and 31 March 2025 for relevant non-domestic premises and industrial or commercial waste.
- Food waste collection deadline is 31 March 2026 (unless transitional arrangements are in place).
- Plastic film collection deadline is 31 March 2027.
- The remaining draft regulations (e.g. exemptions to the separate collection duty) to be confirmed after Ministerial review in “Autumn 2024”.
- Also includes exemption for businesses with less than 10 FTE employees which would delay their duty to start from 31.03.25 to 31.03.27.



# WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR LIVERPOOL CITY REGION?



## AIM 1: DELIVER EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Our Behavioural Change Programme promotes the waste hierarchy by supporting consistent messaging on waste avoidance, resource recovery and appropriate waste disposal behaviours.



### RECYCLING DISCOVERY CENTRE

Recycling Discovery Centre at Gillmoss is continuing to deliver education with all age groups.

### PRIMARY SCHOOL WASTE EDUCATION

We are excited to be working with the Southport Eco Centre again, this year they are running the first year of our Primary Waste Education project to schools across the city region.

### CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Phase 2 of our pilot project to delivery circular economy education to students across the LCR is underway. We're working with Farm Urban again, this year running sessions in Halton, Sefton and St Helens.

### COMPOSTING CHAMPIONS

We have entered the delivery phase of our Composting Champions project for young people across the LCR, teaching the science and importance behind composting.



# BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGNS



## LITHIUM BATTERIES

We continue to utilise Material Focus collateral to align with national messaging on the importance of recycling batteries correctly to avoid fire hazards and save resources from going to waste. Following on from our 2023/24 batteries campaign, we delivered the first of two planned phases of 2024/25 communications in April, **reaching 537,500 people via broadcast radio and garnering over 3.6mil impressions on social media**. Phase 2 ran throughout August and featured a mix of radio and digital advertising - campaign results TBC.



## JOURNEY OF RECYCLING

The Journey of Recycling is a new campaign which has been created to build trust in the recycling process and boost domestic recycling rates across Liverpool City Region. The campaign features a suite of videos containing footage from the Materials Recovery Facility in Gillmoss, accompanied with voiceover and animation. Soft launched in July, a digital marketing campaign is planned to run over two phases - October 2024 (aligning with Recycle Week) and March 2025 (aligning with Global Recycling Day).



## RECYCLING CONTAMINATION

Following on from the widespread reach achieved through our 2023/24 Recycle Right campaign, a two-phased approach has been utilised in 2024/25. Messaging advises residents on how to recycle accepted materials in the correct manner and avoid recycling contamination. The campaign utilises a mix of large out of home advertising across Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral, as well as social media advertising. Phase 1 began in July and concluded in August. Phase 2 is planned to launch at the beginning of 2025.



# BEHAVIOUR CHANGE CAMPAIGNS (UPCOMING)



## CHOOSE TO REUSE

Following on from last year's digital Christmas campaign - **which made over 2.6mil impressions via social media and Google advertising whilst also reaching over 220,000 listeners on local radio** - we will once again be sharing a whole host of practical tips which can help residents to avoid waste, save money and protect our environment. Our plan is to launch the 2024/25 campaign early-mid November - more details to be announced nearer the time.



## WASTE HIERARCHY

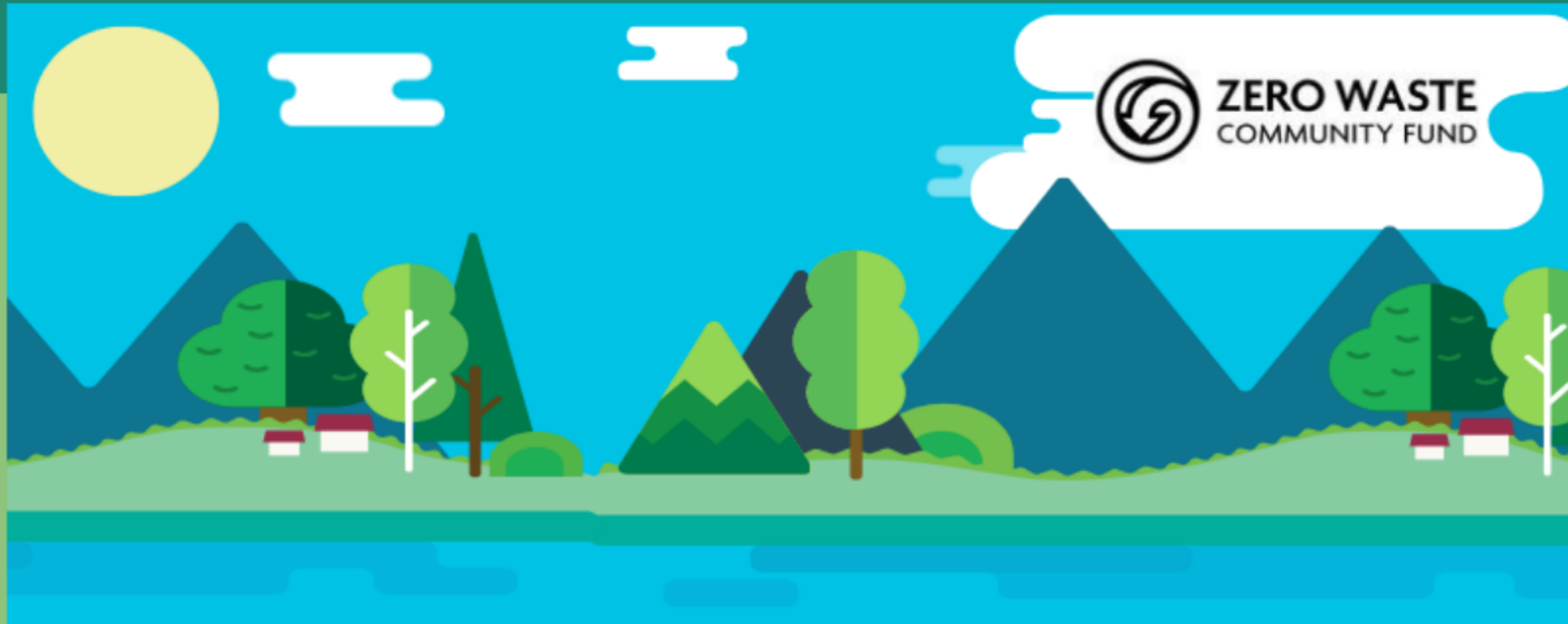
Following on from Keep Britain Tidy's new waste hierarchy launched in February 2024, we will run a small behaviour change campaign. We will utilise official campaign collateral created by Keep Britain Tidy to advise residents how they can reduce and reuse more. More details to be announced.



## FOOD WASTE REDUCTION

During the last financial year, we marked #FoodWasteActionWeek (which occurred from 18 - 24 March 2024) by running a social media and Google advertising campaign directing residents towards WRAP's national campaign, whilst simultaneously promoting our free "Growing Food from Food" and "How to Reduce Food Waste" guides. **The campaign made over 4.8m impressions via social media and Google advertising** - we will be hoping for similar success during Food Waste Action week 2025. More details to be announced.

# ZERO WASTE COMMUNITY FUND 2023/24



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16,533 people engaged



14,547 volunteer hours



16 waste prevention, re-use and recycling projects



£165,000 investment in the environment



631 training sessions and events



Diverted 467 tonnes of materials



# AIM 1: DELIVER EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Our business support functions are effective in supporting the Authority's aims and objectives.



## FINANCIAL SUPPORT

Invoice processing, budget setting & monitoring, transparency reporting and recycling credits



## HUMAN RESOURCES & RECRUITMENT

Support for all staff and Managers, corporate training, payroll & recruitment of new staff



## PA SUPPORT FOR CEX & LEADERSHIP TEAM

Diary management, attend meetings, minutes & correspondence



## CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Internal policies, Authority meetings & Member support



## ONLINE BOOKING SYSTEM AND CUSTOMER SUPPORT

Support to residents & charities wanting to recycle waste & general enquiries via phone and email.



# AIM 1: DELIVER EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Our estate and facilities for which the Authority has responsibility are managed effectively



Environmental monitoring - field work at 7 closed landfill sites to monitor gas emissions, and groundwater obligations, ensuring health and safety and legal obligations are met

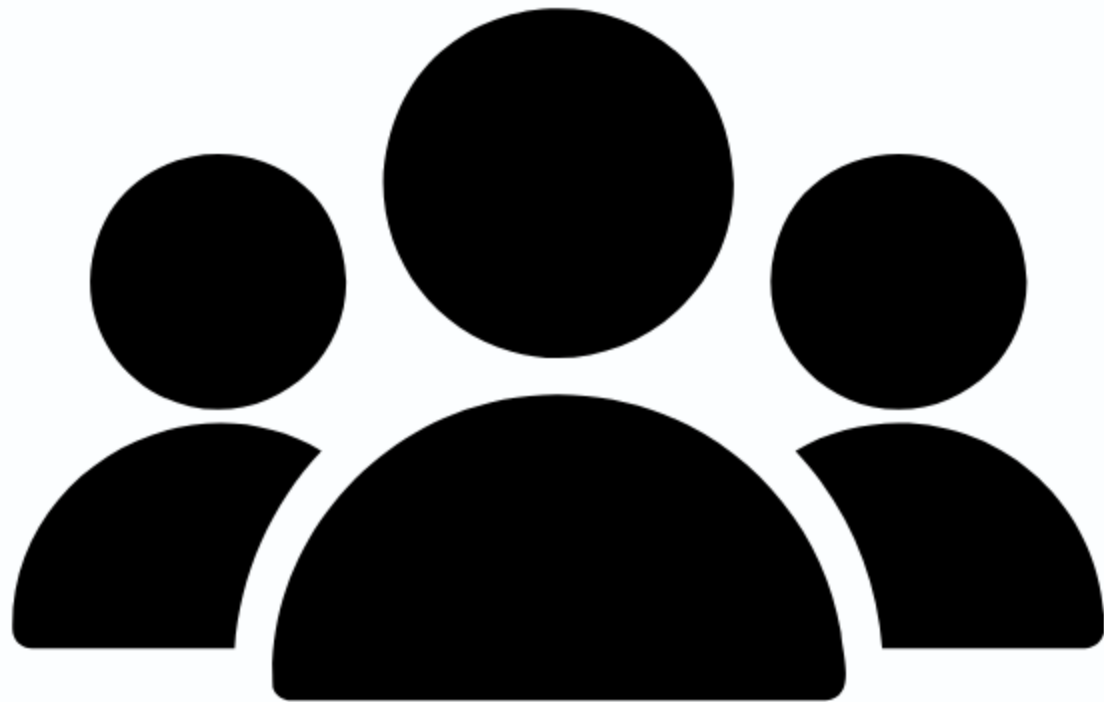


Gas field Management - management of gas field at CLFs, gas balance via flares, emissions surveys and flare maintenance



# AIM 1: DELIVER EFFICIENT AND EFFECTIVE SERVICES

Our staff are deployed effectively and have opportunities to develop the skills needed.



- Specialist staff working across all service areas (Business Services, Contracts, Data & Performance, Finance & Estates, Strategy & Development)
- Mandatory training updates in place (GDPR, Data Protection etc.)
- Role-specific development training in place for all staff

## Certified Carbon Literate



- Majority of staff are now certified carbon literate, with future course completion plans in place for remaining staff members
- Each staff member who has finished the course has received full accreditation and has made two pledges each (a team pledge and an individual pledge) - both pledges are an important step towards putting the carbon literacy training into practice

## AIM 2: CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE SERVICES TO MEET CHANGING DEMANDS

Our Zero Waste Strategy and action plans are consistent with the LCR Zero Waste Framework and set the ambition for delivery of future services.

- Strategy team currently working on MRWA Zero Waste Strategy
- In addition to education, campaigns and the Zero Waste Community Fund, we run a number of community engagement projects across Liverpool City Region with a focus on reuse and waste minimisation
- Projects include community composting, food growing, textile reuse and community reuse and repair
- **LARAC Conference and Celebration Awards 2024:** Our secondary school circular economy pilot project (delivered in partnership with Farm Urban) has been nominated for 'Circular Economy Achievement', while our reusable period products project (delivered in partnership with Hey Girls!) is up for 'Best Waste Minimisation or Prevention Project'.



## AIM 2: CONTINUOUSLY IMPROVE SERVICES TO MEET CHANGING DEMANDS

- **Our Corporate Planning and Performance Management Frameworks ensure a consistent, streamlined and joined-up approach to delivery and performance across the Authority**
- **We support efficient delivery through robust processes and procedures backed up by effective IT infrastructure and services.**
- **We are adequately resourced and prepared to deliver on the changing statutory and future service provision demands.**

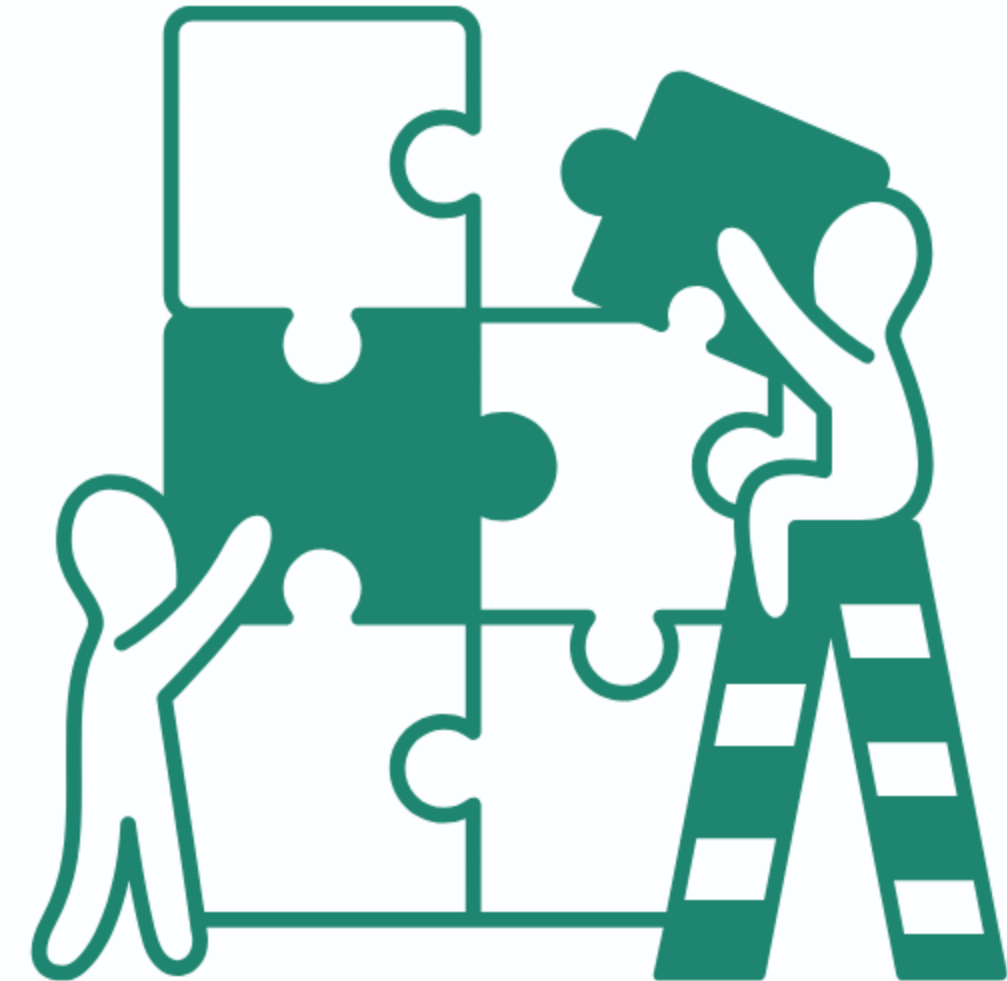




### AIM 3: COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS TO DEVELOP & DELIVER STRATEGIES AND SERVICES

We lead and support the LCR Waste Partnership, including development and delivery of the Liverpool City Region Zero Waste Strategy.

- Detailed strategic roadmap
- Clear & accountable work programme
- Share the load
- Joint procurements
- One strong voice
- LCR Zero Waste Strategy in development
- WRM Circular Food Waste Report



## AIM 3: COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS TO DEVELOP & DELIVER STRATEGIES AND SERVICES WE MAXIMISE JOINT WORKING WITH OUR STAKEHOLDERS THROUGH EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION, CONSULTATION, AND ENGAGEMENT.

**We regularly work and engage with a variety of stakeholders across the City Region, including:**

- Liverpool City Region Combined Authority
- North West Net Zero Hub
- University of Liverpool
- MEAS (Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service)
- Community sector



# AIM 3: COLLABORATE WITH PARTNERS TO DEVELOP & DELIVER STRATEGIES AND SERVICES

- **Key stakeholders are fully engaged in the planning and delivery of future waste services**
- **We develop an Inter Authority Agreement (s) that underpin(s) our procurement objectives.**
- **We facilitate the development of levy mechanism options that drive improved behaviours.**





# AIM 4: DEVELOP A FRAMEWORK FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PERFORMANCE AND SOCIAL VALUE



## SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

We have identified five priority goals and will monitor the Authority's progress against them.

## CARBON FOOTPRINT

Continuing to measure our carbon footprint based on the Greenhouse Gas Protocols and emissions.

## BIODIVERSITY

Undertaken Phase 1 Habitat Surveys on 7 of our closed landfill sites to aid nature conservation and recovery.

## SOCIAL VALUE

We are currently developing a social value framework with a view to measuring social value impact across the organisation.

**THANK YOU.  
ANY QUESTIONS?**



**MERSEYSIDE RECYCLING & WASTE AUTHORITY**

**MERSEYSIDE... A PLACE  
WHERE NOTHING IS WASTED**



**Report:** Winter Maintenance Policy & Operational Plan

Date of meeting:	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024		
Report to:	Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
Report of:	Assistant Director- Highways and Public Protection		
Portfolio:	Housing and Highways		
Wards affected:	All		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

**Summary:**

To consider the revised policy document for 2024/25

**Recommendation(s):**

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

**1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations**

- 1.1 The Department provides a Highway Winter Service to the Borough in accordance with the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan. Officers monitor the weather conditions 24 hours a day throughout the winter season and enact the plan when weather conditions dictate.
- 1.2 The Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (section 111) has inserted an additional section 41(1A) to the Highways Act 1980 which places a duty on the Highway Authorities in respect of winter conditions, and states ‘In particular, a Highway Authority is under duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice’
- 1.3 In addition, The Traffic Management Act 2004 placed a Statutory Network Management Duty on all local traffic authorities in England. It requires authorities to do all that is reasonably practicable to manage the network effectively to keep traffic moving. In meeting the duty, authorities should establish contingency plans

# Agenda Item 5

for dealing promptly and effectively with unplanned events, such as unforeseen weather conditions, as far as is reasonably practicable.

- 1.4 The Council operates to a Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan which has been approved by the Council and is reviewed each summer to ensure that it remains 'fit for purpose'.
- 1.5 Cabinet, at its meeting on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2011, resolved to authorise the Director of Built Environment (now Assistant Director Highways and Public Protection) to make any further revisions to the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan in consultation with Cabinet Member Transportation (now Housing and Highways). There is, therefore, no requirement to take this revision back to Cabinet for further approval.
- 1.6 The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is subject to an annual review, reassessment, and consultation.
- 1.7 In accordance with Cabinet Member's wishes, a consultation letter was sent to every Elected Member and a copy is attached as Annex A. The closing date for responses was 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024.
- 1.8 Merseytravel were also contacted and asked if there have been any revisions to their bus routes since last year.
- 1.9 The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is based on guidance provided by the government in a document titled 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure'. Guidance relating to practical issues and delivery of the service is now contained within the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) Practical Guidance Documents.
- 1.10 Since the introduction of the latest guidance a number of enhancements to the service have been undertaken to increase our resilience and compliance.
- 1.11 Officers continue to monitor and review updated guidance, as and when it is released, to ensure that we are kept fully compliant with the latest recommendations.
- 1.12 We received one response to the consultation exercise, requesting the addition of the footways in Birkdale village to the current gritting routes. Our policy states that footway gritting is targeted towards shopping areas as these are the locations of the highest footfall. We are, therefore, proposing to include Liverpool Road, Birkdale, between the railway station and Bolton Road, in the designated footway routes for the forthcoming season.
- 1.13 Other minor amendments to the policy have been made to reflect the updated age profiles of the equipment and also job title changes of the responsible officers.

## 2. Financial Implications

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

## 3. Legal Implications

Section 41(1A) of the Highways Act 1980 places a statutory duty on Highway Authorities in respect of winter conditions, as follows:-

‘In particular, a Highway Authority is under a duty to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice’.

## 4. Risk Implications

Winter Service is a statutory function and not following the latest guidance will lead to an increased litigation risk to the authority.

## 5 Staffing HR Implications

None.

## 6 Conclusion

That members approve the revised policy for implementation for the forthcoming season.

### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

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

<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.
<b>Impact on Children and Young People:</b> None.
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b> Neutral  The current vehicles are the latest models, which are fuel efficient and more environmentally friendly than previous models.  Officers are continuing to explore options for an electric or hydrogen fleet.

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

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## **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7758/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5858/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(B) External Consultations**

Merseytravel.

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

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

Contact Officer:	Gary Jordan
Telephone Number:	07768 332163
Email Address:	Gary.Jordan@sefton.gov.uk

### **Appendices:**

Annex A – Consultation letter to Elected Members.

### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Annex A



## Highways & Public Protection

Magdalen House  
30 Trinity Road  
Bootle  
Merseyside L20 3NJ

### Councillors

Date:  
Our Ref: NWMWWMGJ  
Your Ref:  
**Please contact: Gary Jordan**  
**Contact Number: 0151 934 4731**  
**Fax No: 0151 934 4801**  
e-mail: [Gary.Jordan@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Gary.Jordan@sefton.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor,

### Winter Service Review 2024

I am writing to you regarding the above. Each year, during the early summer, we review the winter service policy and operational plan from the previous season to ascertain if members have any comments they would like taken into account for next season.

As an overview, last year was relatively mild in terms of temperatures, although we did have two periods of prolonged cold weather during the season. In total we treated the carriageways on 39 occasions and the footways 18 times. The figures were down on the previous season when we gritted the carriageways 57 times and the footways 31 times.

Whilst the figures were down from previous years, we still had officers on duty 24 hours a day during the season to monitor conditions, take decisions on pre-planned operations and to react accordingly to any subsequent events.

Whilst officers are confident that the policy remains fit for purpose, we have been asked to contact all Elected Members to seek their views on the service during the winter of 2023/24, ensure that any issues can be addressed during the summer period and any further revisions considered before the commencement of the winter season 2024/25. I would, therefore, be grateful if you could advise me of any issues you would like to raise regarding the policy and the provision of the winter service. I would be grateful to hear from you by 9<sup>th</sup> August 2024 to allow sufficient time to revise and present the policy for approval.

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

[Gritting \(sefton.gov.uk\)](#)

Following receipt of any issues raised by Elected Members, the policy will be revised as appropriate and presented to Cabinet Member for approval and adoption for the coming winter season. The finalised policy and operational plan will then be presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills) on 17<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Jordan".

# Agenda Item 5

Gary Jordan  
Highway Network Manager

**Report Title: LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy - update and next steps towards approval of draft LNRS**

Date of meeting:	17 <sup>th</sup> September 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills)		
Report of:	Stuart Barnes, Assistant Director of Place (Economic Growth and Housing)		
Portfolio:	Housing and Highways		
Wards affected:	All		
Is this a key decision:	No. The decision by Overview and Scrutiny is not a Key Decision but subsequent decisions of Cabinet will be	Included in Forward Plan:	No. Not in respect of this report but details of subsequent reports to Cabinet will be
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

**Summary:**

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Cabinet have agreed that the Council’s Executive/Scrutiny Protocol be updated to include the following paragraph (paragraph 6.13):

“Executive Directors and Assistant Directors, whose responsibilities fall within the remit of Overview and Scrutiny Committees, should seek the views of the Committees on all strategies and plans prior to submission to Cabinet and Council; and that if it is not possible, due to time constraints, to submit the final strategy or plan for consideration, then an outline or synopsis be submitted to the Committees to allow an oversight of the proposals to be considered and commented upon.

The purpose of this report is to comply with the above decision and to provide details of the preparation and approval of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). While the LCR Combined Authority is the ‘responsible body’ for the approval of the draft and final Local Nature Recovery Strategy, Sefton Council as a ‘supporting authority’ has a specific role in approving both these stages of the Strategy, prior to the Combined Authority’s approval. The LNRS will set out the priorities for enhancing nature (nature recovery) across the LCR, in contrast to the loss of biodiversity nationally and locally in past decades. LNRS preparation has been an opportunity for Sefton to promote its habitat, species and wider environmental priorities, within a wider strategic context.

# Agenda Item 6

## Recommendation(s):

That the Committee considers the approval role of the Council as a 'supporting authority' in the preparation of the LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy, the next steps in the preparation of the LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy and the submission of views to Cabinet or Council.

### 1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

To comply with Paragraph 6.13 of the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol.

### 2. Financial Implications

There are no new funding streams specifically for implementing any LNRS. However, once approved the LCR LNRS could help influence how Council Services such as Green Sefton and Highways (verges), and other landowners, manage their assets within existing resources, or help to justify any future sources of external funding.

There are no direct revenue implications arising for the Council from this report. Sefton's input to the Local Nature Recovery Strategy preparation process, including its formal role as a supporting authority, has been met from existing resources. There are no direct capital implications arising for the Council from this report.

### 3. Legal Implications

There are no direct implications arising from this report, subject to the risk implications below.

### 4. Risk Implications

Preparation of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is required by the 2021 Environment Act. Any failure of the Council to approve the consultation draft and final LNRS in line with the timescale for the subsequent draft and final approval by the LCR Combined Authority could have implications and lead to delays in the draft and final approval of the LNRS by the LCR Combined Authority.

### 5 Staffing HR Implications

There are no direct implications arising from this report.

### 6 Conclusion

This report has been submitted to comply with Paragraph 6.13 of the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol.

### Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None. There is a need to comply with Paragraph 6.13 of the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol.

#### Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy may help increase access to higher quality nature space in Sefton, including for disadvantaged groups.

#### Impact on Children and Young People:



The Local Nature Recovery Strategy may help increase access to higher quality nature space in Sefton, including for disadvantaged groups.

## **Climate Emergency Implications:**

The recommendations within this report will have a Positive / ~~Neutral~~ / ~~Negative~~ impact.

The potential benefits of the Local Nature Recovery Strategy in relation aspects of climate change and the Climate Emergency are set out in the report.

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

### **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Services and Commercial (FD.7766/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5866/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Consultation about Sefton's input to the LCR Local Nature Recovery Strategy has also taken place with Green Sefton, Highways, and other officers, and with Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service. Relevant Cabinet Members have been briefed.

### **(B) External Consultations**

The Combined Authority has carried out consultations with the community, farmers and landowners, health stakeholders, Council officers and other partners. The Local Nature Recovery Strategy has an Advisory Board and Technical board, which include officer representatives from range of organisations and groups including Sefton Council, members organisations also part of Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership, and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service. See the Combined Authority website - [Local Nature Recovery Strategy | Liverpool City Region Combined Authority \(liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk\)](https://www.liverpoolcityregion-ca.gov.uk/local-nature-recovery-strategy)

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

Immediately following the Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Contact Officer:	Andrea O'Connor
Telephone Number:	0151 934 3560
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk">Andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk</a>

## **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report: Local Nature Recovery Strategy Member Briefing Note prepared by the Combined Authority (July 2024)

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 6

## 1. Introduction/Background

1.1 The 2021 Environment Act set out a requirement for the preparation of Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs) across the country, to be approved by March 2025, to:

- Agree priorities for nature's recovery
- Map the most valuable existing areas for nature
- Map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

This is in the light of loss of biodiversity nationally and locally in past decades, for example in grasslands, lowland peat and heathland in Sefton and/or the Liverpool City Region. Sections 3 to 5 of this report deal with each of these points in more detail.

1.2 The LCR Combined Authority is the 'responsible body' for preparing and approving the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for the Liverpool City Region (LCR). Like the other LCR districts, Sefton Council is a designated 'supporting authority' with a specific role in this preparation process. The Combined Authority has consulted Sefton as a key stakeholder formally and informally on an on-going basis, as set out in section 2 below.

1.3 The Combined Authority are intending to approve a draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) for public consultation in autumn/winter 2024/5, and the final LNRS in spring 2025 in line with Government's deadlines.

1.4 The LNRS will be cross-cutting across several Sefton Cabinet Member portfolios (for example Public Health & Wellbeing, Housing and Highways), and has linkages with the corporate biodiversity duty and mandatory biodiversity net gain in development. Sefton Council as a supporting authority should approve both the draft and final LNRS prior to their approval by the Combined Authority. A member briefing note prepared by the Combined Authority is attached as Appendix 1.

## 2. LNRS linkages and benefits

2.1 The LCR LNRS will agree priorities for nature's recovery, map the most valuable existing areas for nature and map specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals. While the Sefton Coast is internationally valuable for nature (habitats and species), other parts of Sefton are also important, for example farmland birds, coastal and other woodlands and wooded estates as important refuges for red squirrel, bats, breeding birds and farmland mammals such as brown hare. Some parts of more recently-planted community woodlands, other Countryside Recreation Areas (like the Rimrose Valley Country Park), and parks/ greenspaces throughout Sefton's urban areas, may be valuable existing areas for nature, with scope for further nature recovery in future.

2.2 Potentially, nature recovery and restoration of the natural environment has a range of green and blue infrastructure benefits for Sefton: notably to health, people and the environment, but also benefitting the economy. Benefits include recreation and health and well-being benefits and increased access to quality green spaces (accessible nature space), especially regarding urban parks and Countryside Recreation Areas. Responses to the Combined Authority's public consultation in autumn 2023 highlighted the importance of these health and well-being and access to nature benefits to local people. Other benefits may include local improvements to air and water quality, helping adapt to and mitigate for climate change (e.g. temperature, carbon emissions, flood risk).

2.3 There are no new funding streams specifically for implementing the LCR LNRS. However, once approved the LNRS could help influence how Council Services such as Green Sefton and Highways (verges), and other landowners manage their assets within existing

# Agenda Item 6

resources. It may lead to further moves towards particular nature-friendly improvements or management regimes; or help them to take advantage of future funding initiatives, for example environment-led agricultural payments, tree planting/ carbon offsets, off-site biodiversity net gain monies. Potentially also, the LNRS may influence take-up of or help secure any future new nature-related funding income streams, for example increased green skills and training opportunities.

- 2.4 The Combined Authority's formal and informal consultations with Sefton as part of the LNRS preparation process has provided an opportunity for Sefton to promote its habitat, species and wider environmental priorities. Green Sefton, Planning and other Council officers, supported by advice from Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service (MEAS) officers, have had an input to emerging LNRS priorities, in line with corporate landscape development priorities. MEAS have also provided technical advice and support to the Combined Authority. Key Cabinet Members have been briefed. The Combined Authority have consulted the public and specific groups such as landowners as well as the Council.
- 2.5 There is a relationship between Local Nature Recovery Strategies and other provisions of the 2021 Environment Act, which also introduced new environmental reporting duties for local authorities. The Act amended the 'biodiversity duty' introduced by the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006. Sefton Council, like all public authorities, now has a statutory duty to 'conserve and enhance biodiversity in the exercise of its functions' (previously the duty was only to 'conserve' biodiversity). As above, management of Council assets can fulfil both the biodiversity duty and help secure nature recovery and implement the LNRS.
- 2.6 The 2021 Environment Act also introduced the requirement for mandatory biodiversity net gain in all development (except nationally exempt development, such as house extensions). This is now in force. The LNRS would help identify sites and other priorities for specific and measurable biodiversity net gain.

## 3. Emerging LNRS priorities for nature recovery

- 3.1 The emerging LCR LNRS aims to set out habitat and species priorities for nature recovery. It will also explain why these are priorities. Habitat priorities will focus on coastal and estuarine, farmland, urban and suburban, woodland, grassland, and wetland and watercourse habitats. Likely priorities include:
- Interconnected and dynamic coastal habitats and appropriate management of coastal and estuarine recreation
  - Improved water quality in marine, estuarine and intertidal areas
  - Estuarine and intertidal habitats, plus functionally linked land
  - More sustainable farming methods and water management on agricultural peat soils
  - Reconnected and new tree, ditch and hedgerow networks
  - More high quality and interconnected urban green and blue infrastructure
  - Nature at the heart of urban design and planning, with Biodiversity Net Gain on or close to development sites
  - A network of open mosaic habitats on brownfield land
  - Existing species-rich grasslands enhanced, and new grassland networks created
  - Naturally functioning wetland, pond and river habitats networks
  - Restored lowland raised bogs, wet woodlands and fens.
  - Good condition or good management for these habitats.
- 3.2 Species priorities are likely to include bats, ground-nesting birds, willow tits, forester moths, Natterjack toads, non-protected reptiles and amphibians, and red squirrels.

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3.3 The Combined Authority prepared a briefing note for members in July 2024 and this is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.

## 4. Emerging LNRS mapping of the most valuable existing areas for nature

4.1 It is anticipated that LNRS mapping of the most valuable existing areas for nature will include internationally, nationally and locally designated sites (Local Wildlife Site and Local Geological Sites), Nature Improvement Areas (NIAs), ancient woodland and 'irreplaceable habitat', and reflect Priority Habitats.

4.2 For Sefton this will include the Sefton Coast, which includes designated sites, Priority Habitats, Priority Species and protected species and irreplaceable habitats such as sand dunes and salt marsh. The Sefton Coast is also mostly within the Sefton Coast NIA Focus Area.

4.3 Inland areas include Local Wildlife and Geological Sites such as North Meols Estate, Churchtown, Wham Dyke Meadows in Formby, Ince Blundell and Little Crosby Estates, Rimrose Valley and Canal, and Pond and Open space at Copy Lane Netherton, and Whinny Brook in Maghull. NIA Focus Areas include the River Alt and M57 Corridors and Formby Mosslands. Irreplaceable habitats as defined in the National Planning Policy Framework include ancient woodland and lowland fen. Sefton's only ancient woodland is in Lydiate.

## 5. Emerging LNRS mapping of specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals.

5.1 The Combined Authority has recently consulted the public and key stakeholders for suggestions of specific proposals for creating or improving habitat for nature and wider environmental goals although the results of this consultation are not yet available. While detailed site priorities should be identified within individual Service Plans or other Sefton documents, general Sefton priorities include:

- Sites within Sefton's existing green network of parks, Countryside Recreation Areas and other greenspaces, including some Council-owned sites which may be potential sites for 'off-site biodiversity net gain'
- Land at Lunt, and other areas and sites linked to NIA Focus Areas within Sefton
- 'Making Space for Water' (natural flood management) schemes such as that proposed in Churchtown and Crossens
- Green infrastructure-related nature recovery on transport route such as rail, roads, canals, strategic paths, and including significant street tree planting schemes
- Green infrastructure-related nature recovery as part of urban regeneration plans and projects.

## 6. Next steps

6.1 The Combined Authority and Sefton are finalising the timetable for Sefton and the other LCR districts to approve the consultation draft and final LNRS, prior to their respective approvals by the Combined Authority. The intention is that the draft LNRS should be reported to Sefton's Cabinet in autumn/winter 2024/25, seeking approval of the draft LNRS for public consultation. Ideally, the final LNRS would be reported to Cabinet in spring 2025.

6.2 As a designated 'supporting authority' for the LNRS, these Sefton Council approvals are necessary before the Combined Authority as 'responsible body' for the LNRS approves the draft and final Local Nature Recovery Strategy.

6.3 This report relates to Sefton Council's approval of the draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy. A subsequent reporting process will deal with the approval of the final Local Nature Recovery Strategy in due course.

<b>TITLE:</b>	Local Nature Recovery Strategy
<b>FAO:</b>	Elected Members of the Liverpool City Region constituent Local Authorities
<b>AUTHOR:</b>	Emma Galbraith – Environment Officer; LCRCA
<b>DATE OF BRIEFING:</b>	July 2024
<b>OVERVIEW</b>	To provide members with an overview update on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and next steps

## Summary

- The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority is appointed as Responsible Authority for the development of the city region’s Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS), in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders.
- The strategy will identify and map opportunities for nature recovery intervention and is to be completed by summer 2025.
- A public engagement survey was undertaken in autumn 2023 to ask why nature is important and what people would like to see prioritised. Citizens highlighted the importance of nature for their mental and physical health.
- Stakeholder engagement is ongoing and in June 2024 a “call for nature recovery opportunities” gave landowners the chance to highlight where they could help deliver nature recovery, and allowed members of the public to suggest where they would like to see nature recovery happen.
- A further public consultation on the draft strategy is anticipated in early 2025.

## What is a Local Nature Recovery Strategy?

Local Nature Recovery Strategies (LNRSs), established by the Environment Act (2021), are statutory, evidenced based, locally led, strategies that will identify constraints, opportunities and priorities for nature recovery. The LNRS will map areas where funding and efforts would provide most benefit for nature and people.

The LNRS is non-binding, however the Environment Act strengthened the duty on public bodies to conserve and enhance biodiversity, and planning decisions and policies have to “take account” of LNRSs.

There will be 48 LNRSs covering the whole of England, including the Liverpool City Region; a major commitment in the government’s 25 Year Environment Plan.

### **Who is producing the Liverpool City Region Local Nature Recovery Strategy?**

LNRS will be developed by “Responsible Authorities” designated by DEFRA which in the case of the Liverpool City Region is the Combined Authority, with local authorities (designated as “Supporting Authorities”) contributing to the development process.

### **Preparation of the LNRS**

The UK is one of the most nature-depleted countries in the world. Findings from the State of Nature Report 2023 indicate an ongoing decline in nature, with one in six species at risk of extinction, 43% of UK birds under threat, only 11% of UK land protected and just 7% of woodlands in the UK considered in good ecological state.

In the Liverpool City Region, our post-industrial legacy has left biodiversity in a state of decline. 15% of Priority Species, (those identified as threatened and requiring urgent conservation action) recorded in the LCR are likely to have gone locally extinct while a further 14% have not been re-recorded since 1990. Since the early 1980’s there has been approximately 5% loss of all habitats, notably 10% of our most biodiverse grasslands have been lost. These habitats are of critical national and local importance, representing a significant biodiversity resource within the LCR, and our coastal and intertidal habitat is recognised as being of international importance.

The LNRS is being developed in line with statutory regulation and guidance and with collaboration from a wide range of stakeholders from the public, private and voluntary sectors, to create a strategy that works for everyone.

The Combined Authority is working closely with all the Local Authorities in the City Region, including with Planning Officers to ensure the LNRS complements and supports planning policies and Local Plans.

LNRS preparation is also being supported by a technical group of local experts (including local authorities, MEAS, universities, national and local wildlife organisations, health sector, and voluntary groups).

## **What has been done so far?**

A public engagement survey was undertaken in autumn 2023, to understand how the public interacts with nature, the species and habitats they'd like to see prioritised and actions they'd like to see in the strategy.

This consultation received nearly 700 responses. The sentiment of the responses was positive with 78% of respondents suggesting actions for nature recovery such as urban greening and community-based activities. 78% of respondents said that they spend time in nature to enjoy the natural beauty, but the key takeaway was emphasis on the relationship between nature and health, with 85% of respondents listing mental and physical wellbeing as a societal benefit that nature provides.

Wider stakeholder engagement is ongoing and involves one-to-one sessions with landowners, targeted events with farmers, land managers and local experts, and wider stakeholder workshops and focus groups.

Using the ecological evidence base and feedback received from stakeholder groups, a set of strategy priorities have been established, setting out the overarching goals for nature recovery across the region.

In addition, in June 2024 a "call for nature recovery opportunities" gave landowners the chance to highlight where they could help to deliver nature recovery, and allowed members of the public to suggest ideas and existing nature recovery projects.

## **What happens next?**

Work is now being completed to use evidence from public engagement and technical expertise to identify and map deliverable opportunities for nature recovery across the LCR, supported by technical experts and the ongoing stakeholder engagement.

A second round of public engagement will commence in February 2025 with a formal consultation on the draft strategy.

Local authorities will approve the strategy pre-consultation and pre-publication.

Further information and regular updates can be found on a dedicated LNRS webpage on the [combined authority's website](#).

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## Work Programme 2024/25, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

Date of meeting:	17 September 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer		
Portfolio:	Cleansing and Street Scene; Communities and Partnership Engagement; Housing and Highways; Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Regeneration, Economy and Skills		
Wards affected:	All		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

### Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2024/25, identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by informal meetings of the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to seek formal approval of decisions taken at the informal meeting of the Committee in respect of the provision of housing for former looked after children who are now care leavers; and to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

### Recommendations:

That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2024/25, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) the Domestic Abuse Report be deferred and considered at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 5 November 2024;
- (3) consideration be given to the selection of a topic(s) for review by either a Working Group or at informal meetings of the Committee as detailed in section 2 of the report;

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- (4) bearing in mind that a review has recently been undertaken by a Member Reference Group regarding weed control no further action be taken at this time to review the topic of issues associated with weed control/grass cutting;
- (5) In respect of the informal meeting of the Committee held on 28 August 2024 to consider the issue of the provision of housing for former looked after children who are now care leavers:
  - (1) the approach agreed at the Strategic Housing Partnership - Housing for Care Experienced Young People event; and the commitment of housing providers to a Care Experienced Housing Charter be endorsed; and
  - (2) at the conclusion of the Task and Finish Group to develop and agree the Housing Charter, the Assistant Director – Economic Growth and Housing be requested to submit a report to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Regeneration and Skills) and (Children’s Services and Safeguarding) updating on the outcomes of the Group; and the Work Programme be updated accordingly.
- (6) consideration be given to items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above; and
- (7) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

## **1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations**

### **1.1 Work Programme 2024/25**

- 1.1.1 The Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2024/25, as approved by Committee in June 2024, is set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The programme had been produced in liaison with the appropriate Executive Directors/Assistant Directors, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 1.1.2 The Work Programme was produced based on items included in last year’s Programme.
- 1.1.3 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 2024/25 to provide Members with the opportunity to add items to the Programme.
- 1.1.4 Domestic Abuse Report

The Work Programme indicates that a report would be considered at this meeting of the Committee about Domestic Abuse. Work is ongoing on the preparation of this report and therefore it is recommended that this matter be reported to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 5 November 2024.

### **1.2 Scrutiny Review Topics 2024/25**

- 1.2.1 It has been usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 1.2.2 However, over the last number of

meetings to consider topics for review rather than establishing Working Groups.

- 1.2.3 The Committee's views are therefore sought on topics for review by informal meetings of the Committee.

1.2.4 **Issues Associated with Weed Control/Grass Cutting**

At the last meeting of the Committee, following Councillor Harvey's presentation of his Cabinet Member - Cleansing and Street Scene report, it was agreed that "issues associated with weed control/grass cutting be a potential topic for review at an informal meeting of the Committee". A number of comments were raised by Members on Councillor Harvey's report and responses to such issues have been sent to Members of the Committee via email on 22 August 2024.

The Assistant Director – Operational In-House services has advised that a significant review of weed control took place in 2021/22 by a Member Reference Group. Also, there is a vacancy for the Street Cleansing Manager position and currently, arrangements are being put in place to appoint to this post. Until this role is filled, it is considered that there isn't the resource capacity to undertake a review of the supervision of the service, particularly bearing in mind that a review has recently been undertaken.

The Assistant Director – Highways and Public Protection alluded to the issue of the comments by members associated with proposals to change the enforcement regime to combat the problems of residents dumping rubbish in their rear entries in the email sent to Members on 22 August 2024. The response indicated that "it has long been an ambition of officers and Members to increase the resource available for environmental enforcement, which would improve our ability to address the issue of residents dumping rubbish in rear entries. Unfortunately, to date, the Council's budgetary pressures have prevented it allocating additional resource to this area. The Council has however recently secured £50,000 of Flytipping Intervention Grant. This was awarded to fund a Pilot Intervention, #WFT (Why Fly Tip), in some parts of Derby and Linacre Wards (the areas worst affected by rear entry flytipping). The funding has enabled a 2-month intervention that has included: a hard-hitting, eye-catching, multi-channel communications and marketing campaign; and employment of additional temporary staff to undertake intensive door-to-door engagement, visiting the streets daily after rear entries have been cleared, promoting the messages, increasing awareness of the household duty of care, and challenging residents as soon as the first waste appears – to try to "nip the problem in the bud". Working with the Council's existing enforcement team, these staff have also supported the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices. As the intervention draws to a close, officers will complete an evaluation of the exercise, and this may help to inform how any future increase in resources might be effectively deployed. The evaluation report will be brought to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for further discussion".

- 1.2.5 For the information of Members, a criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at **Appendix 2**.

1.2.6 **Provision of Housing for Former Looked after Children who are now Care Leavers**

The Committee had previously agreed that an informal meeting of the Committee be arranged to consider the topic of the provision of housing for former looked after children who were now care leavers. An invitation be extended to

# Agenda Item 7

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) to take part in the informal meeting; and that representatives of care leavers, the Corporate Parenting Board and registered social landlords be invited to the meeting.

As members will be aware, the informal meeting took place on 28 August 2024. The meeting was held remotely using Microsoft Teams.

As part of the informal meeting's deliberations on this matter, Members were advised of a Strategic Housing Partnership - Housing for Care Experienced Young People event that took place on 13 June 2024. At the event Housing Providers were also asked to commit to a Care Experienced Housing Charter.

Furthermore, Members were advised that a 'bi-monthly' Task and Finish Group had now been convened with providers to look to:

- Develop and agree the Housing Charter
- Take forward arrangements on the 'Void to Home' work
- Putting in place escalation routes and support for Care Leavers

and it was anticipated that the first Task and Finish Group meeting would take place on the 25 September 2024.

The informal meeting agreed that:

- (1) the approach agreed at the Strategic Housing Partnership - Housing for Care Experienced Young People event; and the commitment of housing providers to a Care Experienced Housing Charter be endorsed; and
- (2) at the conclusion of the Task and Finish Group to develop and agree the Housing Charter, the Assistant Director – Economic Growth and Housing be requested to submit a report to both the Overview and Scrutiny Committees (Regeneration and Skills) and (Children's Services and Safeguarding) updating on the outcomes of the Group.

It is recommended that this meeting of the Committee approve formally the two decisions above and that the Committees Work Programme be updated accordingly.

## 1.3 Pre-Scrutiny of Items in the Key Decision Forward Plan

- 1.3.1 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.
- 1.3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 1.3.3 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.
- 1.3.4 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.

- 1.3.5 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.

## **1.4 Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

1.4.1 As Members will be aware, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 22 October 2019 (Minute No. 20).

1.4.2 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.

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

### **1.4.4 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.

### **1.4.5 Membership**

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

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

### **1.4.6 Chair**

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The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee for 2024/25 are Councillors Steve Radford and Pat Moloney respectively.

## 1.4.7 Quoracy Issues

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

## 1.4.8 Meetings

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

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

Since the last meeting the LCRO&S has met twice and details of matters considered at the meetings are set out below:

### 3 July 2024

- Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair Councillors Steve Radford and Pat Moloney were appointed Chair and Vice-Chair respectively
- Work Programme Update 2024-25
- Appointments of Scrutiny Members to the Audit & Governance Committee 2024/25

### 31 July 2024

- Verbal Update from Mayor Steve Rotheram
- Uk Shared Prosperity Fund – Update
- Review of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee - Interim Report
- Work Programme Update 2024-25

1.4.9 The next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held on 11 September 2024.

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

## 2. Financial Implications

2.1 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/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

**(A) Revenue Costs** – see above

**(B) Capital Costs** – see above

## 3. Legal Implications

3.1 None. Any legal implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Member:Page 58 appropriate time.

## 4. Risk Implications

- 4.1 None. Any risk implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

## 5. Staffing HR Implications

- 5.1 None. Any staffing/HR implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

## 6. Conclusion

- 6.1 The Committee is requested to determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2024/25 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

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

### Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications. Any equality implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

(Please note that Council have agreed care experience should be treated like a protected characteristic.)

### Impact on Children and Young People:

There are no direct children and young people implications arising from this report. Any children and young people implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.

### Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.

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.

# Agenda Item 7

## (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 the report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

Assistant Director – Operational In-House Services  
Assistant Director Highways and Public Protection

## (B) External Consultations

None.

### Implementation Date for the Decision:

With immediate effect.

Contact Officer:	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 2024/25
- Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review
- Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.




**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) WORK PROGRAMME 2024/25**

<b>Tuesday, 25 June 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Report/Item</b>	<b>Report Author/Organiser</b>
1.	Council Housing	Stuart Barnes/Lee Payne
2.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
3.	Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

<b>Tuesday, 17 September 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.	Southport Market Update	Stephen Watson/Stuart Barnes/Mark Catherall
3.	Domestic Abuse Report	Mel Ormesher/Janette Maxwell
4.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
5.	Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

Tuesday, 5 November 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle		
No.	Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
1.	Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report	Michelle Williams/Paul Wisse
2.	Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan	Peter Moore
3.	Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth	Stuart Barnes/Mike Mullin
4.	Sandway Homes Limited - 2022/23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies	Stuart Barnes/Lee Payne
5.	Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited (SHOL) - 2022/23 Outturn Review of Council Wholly Owned Companies	Stephen Watson
6.	Methods to increase Sefton's recycling rates; the introduction of communal bins; and wider waste containment issues	Michelle Williams/Gary Brennan
7.	Investigation of 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	Stuart Barnes/Lee Payne
8.	Investigation of the inclusion, within the Local Plan, of the need to provide recycling/community recycling facilities in development proposals	Stuart Barnes/Derek McKenzie
9.	Inclusive Growth	Stephen Watson
10.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
11.	Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

<b>Tuesday, 21 January 2025, 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.	Presentation from Liverpool City Region Strategic Waste Partnership Manager about the changes in waste legislation and what that will mean due to the statutory requirement for the collection of food waste in 2026;	Paul Fraser to liaise with LCR
3.	Update on the progression of the Liverpool City Region Digital Inclusion Strategy	Andrea Watts
4.	Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services	Michelle Williams
5.	Green Sefton Annual Review 2023	Michelle Williams/Mark Shaw
6.	Serious Violence Duty Review - provide an opportunity for Overview & Scrutiny members to take an active part in the review	Mel Ormesher/Steven Martlew
7.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
8.	Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

<b>Tuesday, 11 March 2025, 6.30 p.m., - Town Hall, Bootle</b>		
<b>No.</b>	<b>Report/Item</b>	<b>Report Author/Organiser</b>
1.	Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth	Stuart Barnes/Mike Mullin
2.	Social Value and the Growth and Strategic Investment Programme	Stephen Watson
3.	Public Engagement and Consultation Panel Annual Report 2024	Jayne Vincent
4.	Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
5.	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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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2024 - 31 JANUARY 2025**

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public at least 28 days before the beginning of each month.

A Key Decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

1. any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater;
2. any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each Key Decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision may not be taken, unless:

- it is published in the Forward Plan;
- 5 clear days have lapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- if the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, 5 clear days notice of the meeting has been given.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 26 (General Exception) and Rule 28 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Oriol Road, Bootle L20 7AE or accessed from the Council's website: [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

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

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

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## APPENDIX 3

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

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

**NOTE:**

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

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

## APPENDIX 3

## FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Maritime Corridor Scheme Phase 1 - Receipt of Capital Funding	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766
Biodiversity Net Gain, Responsible Body Application	Rachael Rhodes rachael.rhodes@eas.sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4963
Procurement of Temporary Accommodation	Allan Glennon allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk
Approval of Sandway Homes Phase 1A Business Plan	Lee Payne lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4842, Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk
Eastbank (Enterprise Arcade) Business Case	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk
Member Responsible for Housing Landlord Complaints	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk
Southport Pier	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk
City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (2027-32) - Update	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766
Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited - Business Plan	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk
Southport Eastern Access Scheme - Receipt of Capital Funding	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766
Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - Receipt of Capital Funding	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766
Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents - Short Term Holiday Lets and Boundary Treatments	Ian Loughlin ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3558
Approval of Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy	Andrea O'Connor andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk

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### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Maritime Corridor Scheme Phase 1 - Receipt of Capital Funding</b> Schemes over £1m in value need Council approval and the necessary funding needs to be included within the Council's Capital Programme. The first Phase of the Maritime Corridor Scheme is expected to cost approximately £12.5m. Subject to approval from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, a Grant Funding Agreement will be received for this amount.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	3 Oct 2024  14 Nov 2024			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Litherland; Molyneux; Netherton and Orrell; St. Oswald			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director - Highways and Public Protection  Assistant Director - Highways and Public Protection			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Members, Residents and Community Groups			
Method(s) of Consultation	Consultation on the highway proposals formed part of the wider consultation on The Maritime Corridor. This consultation was completed in accordance with the proposals approved by the Public Consultation and Engagement Panel in April 2021. Further detailed engagement with Ward Members, key stakeholders, residents and business has recently been completed in September and October 2023 and results appraised. Comments relating to the Phase 1 proposals were summarised in the recent report to Licensing and Regulatory Committee (Nov 23).			



## APPENDIX 3

	<p>Recognising the importance of ensuring that all members are fully briefed on the development of the scheme, its phasing, duration, likely implications during construction and ultimate benefits, including social value, that the scheme will deliver, a further meeting has been held with Ward Members and some minor changes to the scope of the works completed.</p>
<p>List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker</p>	<p>Maritime Corridor Scheme Phase 1 - Receipt of Capital Funding</p>
<p>Contact Officer(s) details</p>	<p>Andrew Dunsmore <a href="mailto:andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk">andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0151 934 2766</p>

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## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Biodiversity Net Gain, Responsible Body Application</b> To seek approval for MEAS to apply to Defra to become a Responsible Body, which will allow the Liverpool City Region local authorities to establish Biodiversity Net Gain habitat banks.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	3 Oct 2024  14 Nov 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/09/2024 to 03/10/2024. Reason:work is ongoing on the Responsible Body Application			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director - Economic Growth and Housing  Assistant Director - Economic Growth and Housing			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Merseyside Local Authorities; Liverpool City Region			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and briefings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Biodiversity Net Gain, Responsible body application			
Contact Officer(s) details	Rachael Rhodes rachael.rhodes@eas.sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4963			

## 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	3 Oct 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/09/2024 to 03/10/2024. Reason: work on the procurement exercise in on-going			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Part 3)			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director - 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 <a href="mailto:allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk">allan.glennon@sefton.gov.uk</a>			

# Agenda Item 7

## 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	3 Oct 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/09/2024 to 03/10/2024. Reason: work is ongoing on the business plan / business case			
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 – Regeneration, Economy and Assets			
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, Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk			

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Eastbank (Enterprise Arcade) Business Case</b> Business case for Eastbank project (formerly Enterprise Arcade)			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	3 Oct 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/09/2024 to 03/10/2024. Reason: The Business case is still being developed			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Dukes			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Executive Director - Place			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Southport Town Deal Board			
Method(s) of Consultation	via Southport Town Deal consultation process held in 2019-2021			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Eastbank (Enterprise Arcade) business case			
Contact Officer(s) details	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk			



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## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Member Responsible for Housing Landlord Complaints</b> Report identifying Member Responsible for Complaints in accordance with the Housing Ombudsman Service Complaint Handling Code.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	3 Oct 2024			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director - Economic Growth and Housing			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways			
Method(s) of Consultation	Briefings and emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Member Responsible for Housing Landlord Complaints			
Contact Officer(s) details	Suzanne Blundell Suzanne.Blundell@sefton.gov.uk			

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Southport Pier</b> Update relating to Southport Pier, following progression of pre-construction work (and in advance of any award of the required capital funding, at the time of adding to the forward plan)			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	3 Oct 2024  14 Nov 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/09/2024 to 03/10/2024. Reason: work is ongoing on the business plan / case			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Cambridge			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Executive Director - Place  Executive Director - Place			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	potential external funding bodies; other key stakeholder groups such as Southport Pier Trust			
Method(s) of Consultation	external communications activity			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Southport Pier			
Contact Officer(s) details	Stephen Watson <a href="mailto:stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk">stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk</a>			

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## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (2027-32) - Update</b> This report aims to confirm to update Cabinet on the transport schemes to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority for potential funding support from the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (2027-32) and the assessment process.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Nov 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 - Highways and Public Protection			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Members Housing and Highways and Regeneration, Economy and Skills.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Briefings and emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (2027-32) - Update			
Contact Officer(s) details	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766			

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited - Business Plan</b> Updated three-year business plan for SHOL (2024-25 to 2026-27)			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Nov 2024			
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	Appropriate service areas and Cabinet Members			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited - business plan			
Contact Officer(s) details	Stephen Watson stephen.watson@sefton.gov.uk			

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## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Southport Eastern Access Scheme - Receipt of Capital Funding</b> This report seeks Cabinet and Council approval for the receipt of capital funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet Council			
Decision Expected	7 Nov 2024 14 Nov 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 23/05/2024 to 07/11/2024. Reason: Work is ongoing on the scheme and to allow further consultation to be undertaken			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Dukes; Kew; Norwood			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director - Highways and Public Protection			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services; and Chief Legal and Democratic Officer			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Southport Eastern Access Scheme - Receipt of Capital Funding			
Contact Officer(s) details	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766			



## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - Receipt of Capital Funding</b> This report seeks Cabinet and Council approval to receive Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure capital funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and to install electric vehicle charging points as indicated in the report.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	7 Nov 2024  14 Nov 2024 29 August 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 23/05/2024 to 07/11/2024. Reason: to allow funding allocation confirmation from LCR			
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 - Highways and Public Protection  Assistant Director - Highways and Public Protection			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer & Monitoring Officer; and Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Method(s) of Consultation	Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure - Receipt of Capital Funding			
Contact Officer(s) details	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766			

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## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents - Short Term Holiday Lets and Boundary Treatments</b> Approval of Supplementary Planning Documents to help guide new development and support policies in the Local Plan.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Dec 2024 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 03/10/2024 to 05/12/2024. Reason: In order for the matter to be considered by Overview and Scrutiny			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Assistant Director - Economic Growth and Housing			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member, residents, other key stakeholders.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Public consultation has been undertaken prior to this stage through emails, website etc. Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways has been engaged in process.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Adoption of Supplementary Planning Documents - Short Term Holiday Lets and Boundary Treatments			
Contact Officer(s) details	Ian Loughlin ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3558			

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>Approval of Draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy</b>                  The Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS) is a cross-cutting theme across several Cabinet Member portfolios and Services. The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCRCA) are intending to approve a draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy for public consultation in winter 2024/5, and the final LNRS in spring 2025 in line with the government's deadline. Sefton Council as a supporting authority should approve both the draft and final LNRS prior to their approval by the Combined Authority. The purpose of the report therefore will be to seek approval of the draft LNRS for submission to the LCRCA.</p>			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Dec 2024			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Lead Director	Head of Regeneration and Housing			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Green Sefton, Highways, and other officers, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, LCR Combined Authority. Relevant Cabinet Members.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings, emails, briefings.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Approval of draft Local Nature Recovery Strategy			
Contact Officer(s) details	Andrea O'Connor andrea.oconnor@sefton.gov.uk			

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## Cabinet Member Reports – June 2024 to September 2024

Date of meeting:	17 September 2024		
Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer		
Portfolio:	Cleansing and Street Scene Communities and Partnership Engagement Housing and Highways Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Regeneration, Economy and Skills		
Wards affected:	All		
Is this a key decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt/confidential report:	No		

### Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Cleansing and Street Scene; Communities and Partnership Engagement; Housing and Highways; Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); and Regeneration, Economy and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period June 2024 to September 2024.

### Recommendation(s):

That the Cabinet Member - Cleansing and Street Scene; Communities and Partnership Engagement; Housing and Highways; Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); and Regeneration, Economy and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

#### 1. The Rationale and Evidence for the Recommendations

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 The most recent Cabinet Member reports for Cleansing and Street Scene; Communities and Partnership Engagement; Housing and Highways; Public Health and

# Agenda Item 8

Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); and Regeneration, Economy and Skills Cabinet Member are attached.

## 2. Financial Implications

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

(A) **Revenue Costs** – see above

(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

## 3. Legal Implications

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

## 4. Risk Implications

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

## 5. Staffing HR Implications

5.1 Any staffing HR implications associated with the Cabinet Member reports that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

## 6. Conclusion

6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This report has therefore been submitted to comply with the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

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

### Equality Implications:

There are no direct equality implications. Any equality implications arising from the consideration of any decisions contained in the update would have been/will be reported to members at the appropriate time.

(Please note that Council have agreed care experience should be treated like a protected characteristic.)

### Impact on Children and Young People:

There are no direct children and young people implications. Any children and young people implications arising from the consideration of any decisions contained in the update would have been/will be reported to members at the appropriate time.



**Climate Emergency Implications:**

The recommendations within this report will have a Neutral impact.

There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of any decisions contained in the update would have been/will be reported to members at the appropriate time.

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

The Cabinet Member Update Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the attached Cabinet Member update report will be included in those reports as appropriate.

**(B) External Consultations**

Not applicable

**Implementation Date for the Decision :**

With immediate effect.

Contact Officer:	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:

- Cabinet Member - Cleansing and Street Scene
- Cabinet Member - Communities and Partnership Engagement
- Cabinet Member - Housing and Highways
- Cabinet Member - Public Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element)
- Cabinet Member – Regeneration, Economy and Skills

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b>		
<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Mhairi Doyle	Public Health and Well Being	August 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.

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 2024/25.

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 allowed the service to present a balanced budget for 23/24 and onwards. Further, the replacement of machinery and equipment tender has been concluded, with the anticipated shortfall being met with the ring fencing of fees and charges increases (including those of the Burials and Cremations service, see later) – this has all been approved by Cabinet Members for Health and Well Being, and at Cabinet and Budget Council also, and orders have now been placed to a range of new machinery which has started to arrive (some has significant lead in periods).

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 two years work have proved successful attracting regional media attention
- a major bid for Botanic Gardens is in early development, with a Task Group set up (chaired by Cabinet Member, and with ward councillors and community reps), and approval to consult publicly given at the Consultation and Engagement Panel in March 2022. Further, a successful pre-development bid to the HLF has provided resource and capacity to lead and deliver this consultation from Winter 2022 to Summer 2023, and to undertake the required surveys and analysis etc,

# Agenda Item 8

all in order to be able to make a bid some time afterwards (whenever match funding has been secured). In late 2023, 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 – the formal report to note this and agree next steps with Cabinet Member has been published as an approved decision by Cabinet Member.

- 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 have now appointed the part time, fixed term, project manager. The fixed term gardener posts have also been appointed, with the Ranger 3 (lead) gardener, and new apprentice post, commencing in April 2024 and already making a positive impact on the ground. A contractor has been commissioned to undertake the Sensory Garden improvements, and these have been completed in Summer 2024 also.
- 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 'vision' document for the area instead. A consultant has now been appointed, stakeholder engagement is ongoing, and a new 'vision' for the area should be published later 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 (noting however that they were targeting central governments Community Transition Fund (part of the Levelling Up agenda), which may no longer be available since the general election in early July).
- 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.
- The FCERM team are also leading on the development of the major Crosby Coastal Defence scheme – although the funding model requires that the main works cannot start until at least 2027+, monies have been allocated for interim works, on which consultation has begun in March 2024, with an intention that works may commence later in the year.
- A review and audit undertaken on our approach and resourcing for tree management has given rise to funding being allocated for an additional two tree officers to be appointed from 24/25 (one permanent and one fixed term) both of whom have now started. This will add much needed capacity to start to meet HSE standards on regularity of inspection regimes, responding to recent court rulings also, and will also allow officers to explore and understand the tree management of land owned by the Council, but not in the Green Sefton portfolio.

This 'discovery' work will undoubtedly lead to more practical management works needed in time, and discussions will need to assess the resourcing of such.

## What is performing well

The 2023 Annual Review was presented to the Overview and Scrutiny (regeneration and skills) committee at the November 2023 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, and officers now continue to develop the suite of Key Performance Indicators which will flow from this (although we await the updated corporate Performance Framework to inform this).

## What requires improvement and what action is being taken

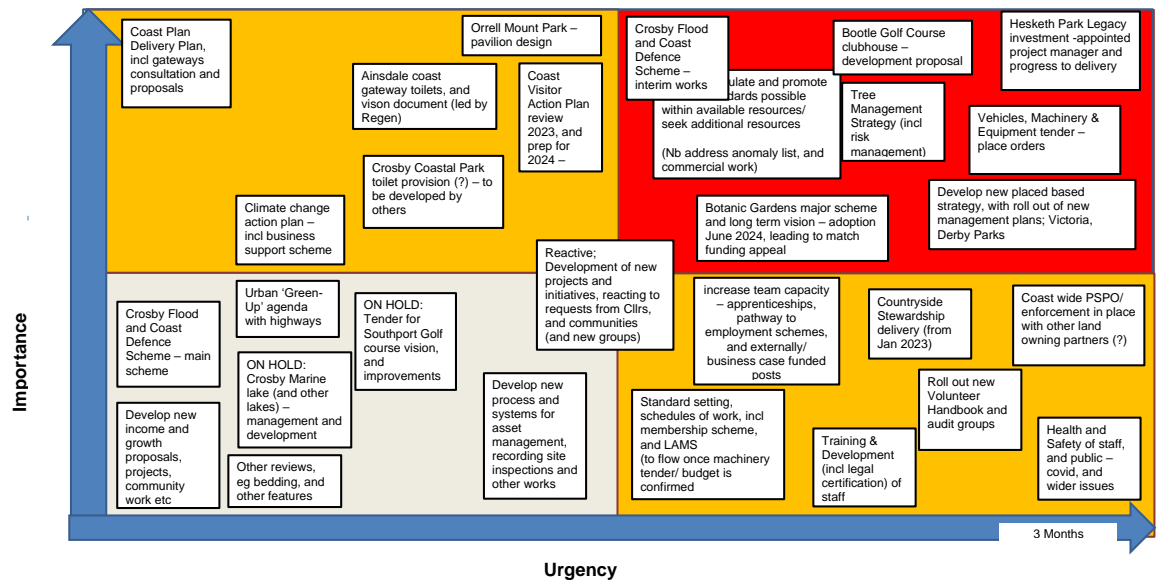
### Overall work programming

The Annual Report highlighted the tracking of the services overall performance against the actions contained within the 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.

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**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, 19.3.24, 30.5.24**  
(to be reported to Cabinet Member on a regular basis, and updated through the year)



## Working with Volunteers

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

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

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

## Defining Standards

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



<b>O &amp; S (Regen and Skills) Update Report</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Date</b>
Peter Harvey	Cabinet Member Cleansing & Street Scene	September 2024

### **Sefton Arc & Sefton Careline**

Sefton Arc & Careline strategy 2024-2027 is now complete. The strategy is intended to demonstrate that Sefton ARC, Careline, Electrical & Alarms Services continue to develop, diversify, and grow its current offerings in accordance with the Council’s vision and core purpose and in alignment with other strategies and policies. This strategy is intended to reinforce the importance of these services. It aims to build on this determination for continuous improvement, and to outline areas of opportunity and action in this respect. The strategy focuses on each of the services provided within Sefton ARC and how it can continue to invest in its future.

Careline has now transitioned to the ELM’s database which will provide more accurate and reflective information relating to Careline allowing future growth for the service. The service has recently reduced the requirement for bulk purchases of lifeline equipment through more efficient recycling of existing equipment and a competitive pricing model. Careline Services have now introduced automated telephony which provides a more efficient service delivery, allowing the service to handle a large volume of calls simultaneously, helping communicate better with clients.

The service continues to focus and support the transition of analogue to digital equipment as part of the switchover, this work is being undertaken daily and numbers continue to fall in terms of replacing the old analogue kit as part of the digital switchover for clients.

Careline has supported other service areas throughout the council with sourcing new lone worker devices. By working with our telecare suppliers this has allowed the service to introduce equipment to service users to provide technology that is designed to deliver monitoring through our Sefton Careline Team via an alert system to ensure lone worker safety. The most basic function of a lone worker device is to raise an SOS alarm when the user needs help, for example if they are in danger, suffer an injury or feel threatened. The Careline team, upon an activation of the alarm, will then follow the process agreed with management at the setup of the lone worker agreement.

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A procurement exercise is underway through YPO (Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation) for the provision of services and maintenance of public conveniences boroughwide. A tendering exercise will be followed to allow a competitive process of the services available in the market, ensuring the council is receiving value for money.

It is several years since this facility provision has been tested on the open market. Sefton ARC have recently welcomed Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service (MFRS) to a site visit to the premises to demonstrate the services provided and how MFRS can utilise those services when visiting vulnerable tenants across the borough. Likewise, Sefton ARC & Careline will be able to signpost any concerns they have when visiting properties within core works with referrals to MFRS if required. The meetings so far have been positive, and MFRS will be returning to Sefton ARC to deliver a training session for staff which outlines areas of vigilance that staff need to be aware of when visiting properties. MFRS have been provided with promotional material relating to Careline services to share with vulnerable people within the Sefton community.

Sefton ARC & Careline have been invited to provide a stand for freshers' fair at Hugh Baird College, Bootle, this month (September). This is a fantastic opportunity for the ARC and Careline to demonstrate the services we deliver and how we support apprentices employed within the service. This is the first time Sefton ARC has been invited to the freshers' fair, and the team is looking forward to the new experience. This is following on from a site visit to Hugh Baird and their staff visiting Sefton ARC, as we continue to further develop relationships with clients and support potential new recruitment opportunities.

## **Building Cleaning Service**

### Building Cleaning

The service continues to perform well both financially and operationally. Schools continue to support the service despite increased costs and the fact that school budgets are under significant pressure.

### Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust (MAT) Cleaning Contract

The above MAT has two schools within Sefton and has put its cleaning services out to competitive tender. The council currently holds the contract for one of the schools, The Salesian Academy of St John Bosco, Bootle. The trust plans to have up to 28 schools in the MAT in the coming years.

### Summer Events – Southport

Where required, the service continues to support colleagues organising the major summer events in Southport such as the air show, flower show, etc, by providing a cost-effective cleaning service.

## **Catering Service**

### Financial Position

2023/24 was a difficult year financially for the service. Although the service achieved a break-even position, this was only possible by increasing charges to schools in September 2023. This understandably was met with some resistance by schools, as charges were increased mid-year at a time when school budgets are stretched. The financial position for 2024/25 is more stable and the service is on track to meet its financial targets.

## Increase in the price of a school meal

The recommended price for a school meal was increased from April 2024 as follows:

- The cost a set meal provided to all primary schools was increased by 4.5% from £2.42 to £2.53
- The cost of a set meal provided to all secondary schools was increased from £2.63 to £2.75

This decision was made following consultation with the Sefton Association of Primary Headteachers and will help to reduce the cost of the subsidy amount that schools pay to support their lunchtime service. Meal numbers have remained stable compared to the corresponding period for 2023.

## Food Costs

In recent years the cost of the service to schools has increased as food costs have risen. However, the food market now appears to be less volatile. This, together with the introduction of a new Electronic Kitchen Management System, is enabling the service to better manage food costs and this will in turn mean that savings can be passed to schools in next year's SLA's.

## Pope Francis Multi Academy Trust Catering Contract

As with Building Cleaning, the MAT has put its catering contract out to tender. At this stage it only involves one school, Sacred Heart Catholic Academy, Crosby. The service currently operates this contract and, as with building cleaning, with more schools expected to join the MAT, it is a contract that we are keen to retain.

## Southport Education Group Award

The service has for many years had an excellent relationship with local colleges, to enable staff to undertake training to further their knowledge and skills, increasing their opportunities to advance in the service. This year, the service was nominated and successfully won the Southport Education Group's award for Hospitality and Catering Apprenticeship Employer of the year 2024. A fantastic achievement.

Members of the service's management team attended the award ceremony in July 2024 and the award is testament to the benefits that the service has gained through the hard work of staff undertaking further training at the college.

## The Council's Obesity Strategy

The catering service continue to support the Council's Obesity Strategy. The Service Manager chairs the 'Live Well' subgroup, which is charged with reviewing and refreshing the council's work to ensure compliance with Food Active's Healthy Weight Declaration accreditation. Progress on this work will form part of a forthcoming report taken to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing.

# Agenda Item 8

## **Transport & Vehicle Maintenance (T&VM)**

The Transport and Fleet Service continue to provide a full maintenance and fleet compliance service to all departments who operate fleet within the authority. The rating from the Traffic Commissioners Office remains green, the highest standard on the rating system.

The service continues to provide a full MOT service to both internal and external customers and remains 100% compliant with inspections and services. T&VM is working on the fleet renewal programme with departments, providing further advanced EV options. As part of the services commitment to reducing carbon emissions they are working closely with colleagues in the Energy Team to discuss the decarbonisation of the council's fleet in the future. Due to increases in technology, the EV market has improved significantly. Work has commenced in identifying areas within the fleet that will require additional resource such as improved infrastructure for EV charging points at council depots and any alternatives to vehicles 3.5t and over.

The service continues with the additives to all fleet vehicles which has reduced emissions by up to 60%. In some cases, it has helped reduce vehicle downtime and improved fuel efficiency. Whilst trials are ongoing early indications are positive, showing an average reduction in emissions by 25% on HGV diesel vehicles.

The service and industry as a whole is struggling to employ mechanics. The private sector has surpassed Local Government in its wage increases over recent years and applicants find the private sector more lucrative in terms of remuneration. At present the service has 4 x vacancies for fully trained mechanics. Following several recent recruitment campaigns the service still holds these vacancies. Discussions with colleagues in HR have commenced to look at potential solutions to help assist with recruitment and retention.

## **School Crossing Service (SCP)**

All School Crossing Patrol staff have returned from their summer break. During August SCP's over the age of 65 undergo their annual medical as part of their conditions of service. The medical service offered has proven invaluable to both service and individual staff. Often during their annual medical, staff are alerted to sight issues or hearing issues that may have deteriorated with time and because of the Health Unit checks they catch them early so the necessary intervention can take place to ensure they are fit and well and able to continue in their role.

Work continued throughout the summer to try and recruit more staff. The service currently has 5 vacancies, 3 in the south of the borough and 2 in the north. The service gives thanks to all patrol staff for the hard work and commitment they demonstrate - past and present - in keeping the children and pedestrians safe whilst crossing the busy roads of Sefton.

## **Specialist Transport Unit (STU)**

The Specialist Transport Unit provides home-to-school and day-centre travel for the most vulnerable in our community. The service currently operates 17 x school routes and 9 x adult social care (ASC) routes. The service is working closely with colleagues in ASC regarding the provision of transport for customers to and from day centres in the south of the borough.

The STU currently provide transport for 131 x SEND service users each day and 52 x ASC service users to and from their destination. The service users are among some of the most vulnerable in our community who need the support and extra care that the STU in-house service provide.

The in-house fleet consists of both Sefton owned vehicles and leased vehicles. The service has recently commenced the procurement of renewing its fleet of vehicles. These vehicles will be custom built minibuses, 2 of which will be fully electric, supporting a boroughwide reduction in carbon emissions. Plans are underway to increase the EV charging capacity at Hawthorne Road Depot, Bootle, to accommodate these vehicles.

## **Burials and Cremations Update**

The Burials and Cremations Service continue to provide a range of bereavement services to the community of Sefton. It recently provided one of the funeral services of the Southport victims with staff opening up the crematoria venue specifically to meet the requirements of the family on a Sunday.

The service was well attended, and staff were very supportive to ensure that the funeral service went ahead as planned without issue or concern. Staff showed unity and commitment at a difficult time to ensure a high-quality service was provided to the bereaved.

The service has recently been working collaboratively with Natural Alternatives (Green Sefton) who have undertaken a variety of required works in Bootle Cemetery. This is continuing to improve the outlook of the cemetery for visitors throughout the year. Work such as the restoration of memorial benches and flower bed maintenance has been undertaken to improve the aesthetics of the site.

Consideration is being given to changing operating hours at Thornton Crematorium to offer a greater selection of booking times. More service times can accommodate requests made by families via funeral directors. It is proposed that the wider variety of time slots will be available from 1st October 2024. This will not have any impact on staff working hours as staff are already available for the duration of the newly proposed booking slots.

A wider range of staff are currently being trained in crematorium technician duties to provide greater resilience within the service which ensures service continuity for the future.

# Agenda Item 8

## **Waste Management**

The service is currently under significant pressure from a resource perspective. In addition to seasonal pressure due to increased holiday requests, there has been a 16% absence rate within this service over recent weeks. This has impacted upon collections of all waste streams and is being closely managed, with available resource to clear any backlog/outstanding service requests. Social media updates have been issued to keep the public informed of the challenges, and the impact on residents.

To address the high sickness absence issue, an enhanced occupational health offer has been requested corporately that will be specific to Operational In-House Services for a 3-month trial period, predominately the Waste Service and based at Hawthorne Road Depot, Bootle. The service is currently awaiting a commencement date for this uplifted OH service.

Both Portfolio Holder and Assistant Director continue to attend their respective meetings of the LCR Strategic Waste Partnership. This autumn will see a move towards regional decision making regarding the future collection and disposal route of recyclate waste streams and agreement around fleet and food caddy procurement ahead of the implementation of food waste collections in April 2026.

## **Street Cleansing**

The service has recently offered significant support following the incidents in Southport, both in terms of a role in the clean-up following the riots and assisting with managing tributes at various sites and movement of expired flowers to the designated composting site in Hesketh Park, Southport, working collaboratively with colleagues from Green Sefton. Significant resource was also deployed from the south of the borough to Southport in preparation for both the royal visit and ensuring that the funeral routes were cleansed. In addition, the service has supported recent events such as the Southport Flower Show and the music concerts at Salt & Tar, Bootle.

## **Public Protection**

In partnership with Merseyside Police and colleagues in Green Sefton, Communications and Community Safety, a Sefton dog-related incident reduction strategy has been launched. The action plan has involved extensive publicity on social media in May 2024 to raise awareness and promote the requirements of the newly extended Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPOs) - Dog Control. This has been successfully followed up with joint enforcement patrols in parks & greenspaces across the borough with Merseyside Police and our environmental enforcement contractor (ACPOA).

Dog walkers have been engaged with and advice offered, and where offences have been observed fixed penalty notices (FPNs) have been issued. Further planned joint enforcement has been impacted by the recent events in Southport.

We have worked along with Knowsley, St Helens, Liverpool and Halton authorities with Merseyside Police to develop a draft Memorandum of Understanding in relation



to dog control and responsibilities and protocols for dealing with dog-related issues including prohibited breeds such as XL bully dogs. It is anticipated this will be signed off soon, but in practical terms is now in operations.

Following short notice from the existing stray dog collection and kennelling contractor that they did not wish to be considered for future tenders, and the break-up of an existing collaboration with other Merseyside local authorities, a procurement exercise was undertaken and contractors successfully appointed. The contract has been in operation since the end of May 2024 and the process for collection & kennelling including out of hours appears to be performing well so far. However, the procurement of stray dog collection and kennelling to ensure compliance with statutory duties did prove challenging as there is a limited market with very few providers. This may prove problematic in future procurement of services before the end of May 2025. Careful monitoring of expenditure throughout this year will be necessary to minimise risk of potential over spends.

We have worked with partners to develop a Taking the Lead Campaign which is being supported by Merseyside Dog Safety Partnership (MDSP), the Police and Crime Commissioner, the Blue Cross, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, University of Liverpool, Royal Mail, the Communication Worker Union (CWU) and other local councils. The aim of Taking the Lead is to offer important safety tips to all dog owners in Merseyside about looking after their pet, especially around children, which could prevent serious injuries. Merseyside Police said there were 469 injuries involving dogs last year, up by more than 21% on the year before. PSPOs are in place at 11 parks in Sefton in a bid to make them safer. It was launched at an event in Southport in July to run through the summer months and secured media coverage, including BBC and Liverpool Echo.

Following a successful application for £50,000 grant funding from DEFRA, the council launched a fly tipping intervention project in July. This two-month #WFT? Why Fly Tip? Project provided hard-hitting messages and has focused on waste in shared rear entries in parts of Derby/Linacre wards in Bootle. The launch featured on BBC Radio Merseyside, BBC Online, the Liverpool Echo and other media outlets, and has been promoted extensively on Sefton Council's social media platforms.

Two regulation and compliance apprentices within the environmental Enforcement and Trading Standards Teams have recently passed their apprenticeships, both with distinctions. However, despite the successes of one of the apprentices who has worked within the Environmental Enforcement team, there is currently no funding to retain them. The team continues to be overstretched with the issue of tackling fly tipping remaining high on the public and political agenda.

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