

MEETING: CABINET MEMBER - COMMUNITIES
DATE: Wednesday 2 December 2009
TIME: 11.00 am
VENUE: Town Hall, Southport (this meeting will be video conferenced
Town Hall, Bootle)

Councillor

DECISION MAKER: Porter
SUBSTITUTE: Griffiths

SPOKESPERSONS: Booth Veidman

SUBSTITUTES: Weavers Friel

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Olaf Hansen Committee Clerk
Telephone: 0151 934 2067
Fax: 0151 934 2034
E-mail: olaf.hansen@legal.sefton.gov.uk

The Cabinet is responsible for making what are known as Key Decisions, which will be notified on the Forward Plan. Items marked with an * on the agenda involve Key Decisions

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution, is: -

- 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
- 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

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

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A G E N D A

Items marked with an * involve key decisions

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject/Author(s)</u>	<u>Wards Affected</u>
1.	Apologies for Absence	
2.	Declarations of Interest Members and Officers are requested to give notice of any personal or prejudicial interest and the nature of that interest, relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct.	
3.	Minutes Minutes of the meeting held on 4 November, 2009	(Pages 5 - 8)
4.	Revenue and Capital Expenditure Monitoring to 30 September 2009 Joint Report of the Chief Executive and Finance and Information Services Director	All Wards (Pages 9 - 16)
5.	Sefton's Single Equality Scheme Report of the Sefton Equalities Partnership Director	All Wards (Pages 17 - 26)
6.	Area Committee Meetings - Minutes	
A	Litherland and Ford held on 28 October	(Pages 27 - 32)
B	Southport held on 28 October	(Pages 33 - 46)
C	Linacre and Derby held on 2 November	(Pages 47 - 58)
D	Sefton East Parishes held on 12 November	(Pages 59 - 68)

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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 12 NOVEMBER, 2009. MINUTE NO.49 IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".

CABINET MEMBER - COMMUNITIES

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT ON WEDNESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Porter

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Booth and Veidman

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

No apologies for absence were received.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

47. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 November 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

48. COMBINED IMPLICATIONS FOR SEFTON OF THE DRAFT FLOOD AND WATER BILL / PITT REVIEW

Further to Minute No.89 of the meeting held on 22 April 2009, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director Regeneration and Environmental Services that advised of the implications of the Draft Flood and Water Bill and the continuing implications of the Pitt Review recommendations, for Local Authorities either directly or indirectly.

The Cabinet Member commended the insightful and perceptive work of the Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services) Committee on flooding.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report and the identified implications for Sefton arising from both the draft Floods and Water Bill and the Pitt Review recommendations be noted;
- (2) the fact that Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services) had considered a report on Climate Change and Flooding, including future funding for this service be noted;

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- (3) the report be passed to the Cabinet Member - Regeneration, Cabinet Member - Technical Services and Cabinet Member - Environmental for their information; and
- (4) the Regeneration and Environmental Services and Emergency Planning Unit, supported by the relevant partner agencies, form a project team to report on the various options for implementing the new roles and responsibilities and the likely cost implications.

49. SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES PARTNERSHIP CAPITAL ALLOCATION

The Cabinet Member considered the report of Assistant Chief Executive (Safer, Stronger Communities) that provided information on the capital spend allocation of Area Based Grant effecting the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Capital Allocation report be noted; and
- (2) the Cabinet be strongly recommended to include the project in the Capital Programme amounting to £79,711 in 2009/10 and, subject to Home Office confirmation, £79,711 in 2010/11 to be fully funded from Home Office grant.

50. SEFTON TRADING STANDARDS ALCOHOL SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE - AUGUST 2009

Further to Minute No.58 of the meeting of Cabinet Member – Environmental held on 21 October 2009, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the alcohol survey (the Survey) of young people carried out by the Trading Standards North West (TSNW); and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to seek reconsideration of the alcohol sales enforcement strategy by the Public Health Partnership (PHP) in the light of the findings of the Survey.

The report indicated that in 2005 and 2007, TSNW commissioned Ci Research (Ci) to conduct a survey of young people and alcohol use; that the findings of these surveys were used to help inform a strategy for dealing with the sale of alcohol to young people who were underage; that in early 2009 TSNW commissioned Ci to conduct a similar survey to monitor any changes in behaviour and to provide further insight into the sale of alcohol and tobacco; and that the primary objective of the research was to identify how and where youngsters obtained alcohol in order to effectively plan intelligence led campaigns.

The report indicated that the report compiled by Ci was divided into six parts, namely sample profile, alcohol consumption, purchasing alcohol,

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general attitudes and behaviour, understanding of legislation and smoking behaviour; and analysed and commented on the survey outcomes.

The report concluded that the results demonstrated the need for continued investment in the underage enforcement programme operated by Trading Standards and the initiatives commissioned by the PHP Alcohol Related Crime Sub-Group; that the results also highlighted the worrying increase in supply of alcohol by over 18's and parents/adults and the use of 'fake' identification; but however, this could also be interpreted as a measure of the success of current proactive enforcement practices.

A copy of the Survey was attached as an appendix to the report.

The Cabinet Member commented that last Saturday night / Sunday morning was the busiest for the night time economy this year, and the taxi marshals did a fantastic job in shepherding people to taxis in the early hours of the morning.

RESOLVED:

That the Sefton Trading Standards Alcohol Survey of Young People report, be noted.

51. SEFTON TRADING STANDARDS ALCOHOL SURVEY OF YOUNG PEOPLE - "OPERATION SOFT DRINK : PHASE 2 - BUY BOOZE, THEY LOSE"

Further to Minute No.59 of the meeting of Cabinet Member – Environmental held on 21 October 2009, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the outcome of 'Operation Soft Drink: Phase 2 – Buy Booze, They Lose' (the Operation), a strategic intervention tackling the incidence of underage alcohol related anti-social behaviour in Sefton that was commissioned by the Public Health Partnership Alcohol Strategy Group (PHPASG); and indicating that a decision on this matter was required to obtain endorsement for further similar interventions.

The report indicated that the Operation was designed to retain the strongest elements of the original Operation Soft Drink but extended both in terms of its duration and scope to provide support to a range of Local Strategic Partnership objectives; how the Operation was publicised; detailed the evaluation framework of the Operation; and the key outcomes from the separate strands of the Operation.

The report concluded that the Sefton Tracker Survey clearly demonstrated significant reductions in the negative perceptions of underage drinking, groups of teenagers hanging about the street and people being drunk or rowdy in public places; that whilst this positive trend could not singularly be attributed to the activity occurring during the Operation, the targeting of specific interventions directed to address these three perceptions within

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hotspot areas could be assumed to be a contributory factor in this recorded improvement.

The Cabinet Member commented that Sefton had, over many years, enjoyed strong and effective relationships between all partner agencies involved in the night time economy.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on 'Operation Soft Drink: Phase 2 – Buy Booze, They Lose' be noted;
- (2) the continued partnership work within the Public Health Partnership Alcohol Strategy Group and Alcohol-Related Crime Sub-Group for addressing the issues of underage alcohol purchase/consumption and alcohol-related nuisance, disorder and Anti-Social Behaviour be approved; and
- (3) Ian Canning, Health Promotion Specialist, Sefton PCT (Primary Care Trust) be thanked for his valued contribution and general sterling work in encouraging Sefton residents to adopt healthier life styles.

52. AREA COMMITTEE MEETINGS - MINUTES

The Cabinet Member considered the Minutes of the following Area Committees:

Litherland and Ford held on 30 September 2009
St.Oswald and Netherton and Orrell held on 1 October 2009
Formby held on 1 October, 2009
Crosby held on 7 October, 2009

Members discussed the low levels of public attendance at Area Committee meetings and considered whether their meetings could be re-formatted or re-configured to encourage greater public participation.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Minutes of the above Area Committee meetings be noted; and
- (2) the Legal Director be requested to draft a report on the options available to encourage greater public attendance and participation at Area Committee meetings, including options on the possible re-formatting and or re-configuration of the meetings.

Agenda Item 4

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member, Communities
Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Performance and Corporate Services)

DATE: 2 December 2009
15 December 2009

SUBJECT: Revenue and Capital Expenditure Monitoring
to 30 September 2009

WARDS AFFECTED: None directly affected

REPORT OF: Chief Executive – Margaret Carney
Finance & IS Director – Paul Edwards

CONTACT OFFICER: Amanda Langan - 0151 934 2171
Kevin McBlain - 0151 934 4049

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To provide the Cabinet Member with the quarterly forecast position, based on information as at 30 September 2009, in relation to the Portfolio's 2009/10 revenue budget.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Cabinet Member accountability and in line with the corporate performance management process.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Cabinet Member Communities:

- a) Notes the Communities Portfolio's revenue budgets that are subject to risk-based monitoring.
- b) Indicates whether any comments about the overall performance of this Portfolio's revenue budget should be referred to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services).

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services)

- a) Notes the contents of this report and indicates whether any comments about the overall performance of this Portfolio's revenue budget should be referred to Cabinet.

KEY DECISION: No.

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FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Not appropriate.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

None.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None.

Financial: There are no financial implications arising from this report

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/10	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13
	£	£	£	£
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date Y/N				When?
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Not appropriate.

Risk Assessment: The main risk concerns the failure to identify budget variances through the monitoring process which will make it difficult for the Council to manage its spending within available resources. The adopted risk-based approach to monitoring together with regular reporting should help manage this risk.

Asset Management: Not appropriate.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 227 - The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People		✓	

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Agenda Item 4

1. Background / Issues for consideration

- 1.1 In accordance with Cabinet's overall approved process for monitoring the Council's budgets, each Portfolio receives a quarterly report identifying risk-assessed controllable revenue and capital budget areas.
- 1.2 This report forms part of that overall monitoring process by advising the Cabinet Member of the progress against this Portfolio's revenue budget risk areas for the period ending 30 September 2009. Where budget pressures have been identified, Service Directors have reviewed their departmental budgets for compensating savings. Departments have also been asked to consider whether or not all other controllable budgets can be contained within the resources allocated by the Council for 2009/10.
- 1.3 At the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) meeting on 13 October 2009, a request was made to amend the format of the budget monitoring report. This proposal is being put forward to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and any amendments resulting from this will be reflected in future budget monitoring reports.

2. Revenue Budget

- 2.1 Details of this Portfolio's budgets that are monitored and reported on the risk-assessed basis are shown in Annex A. This Committee does not have any schemes within the Council's Capital Programme.
- 2.2 In approving the budget on 26 February 2009 the Council agreed some savings, which are council wide. The total saving for the Communities Portfolio is £35,100 which is in addition to the savings that the Safer, Stronger Communities Division has already made. It is felt that this further corporate saving will be difficult to achieve, and, if it has to be met from within the Safer Stronger Communities Division budget, resource within the division (staff and service) will be significantly strained, as will the ability to continue to fulfill statutory requirements and meet expectation. As a consequence, this budgeted saving will need to be closely monitored during the year.
- 2.3 In relation to Sefton Security Services it has been agreed that this service will generate additional income; there is however pressure on achieving additional income as a result of the current economic climate and constraints on recruitment. This will be closely monitored, and, if necessary, an additional risk budget item may be added as part of this monitoring exercise when specific proposals have been formulated.
- 2.4 All other areas of the budget that are controlled by the Chief Executive will be contained within the resources allocated by the Council for 2009/10.

3. Recommendations

That the Cabinet Member Communities is asked to :

- a) Note the Communities Portfolio's revenue budgets that are subject to risk-based monitoring.
- b) Indicate whether any comments about the overall performance of this Portfolio's revenue budget should be referred to Cabinet and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services).

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services)

- a) Notes the contents of this report and indicates whether any comments about the overall performance of this Portfolio's revenue budget should be referred to Cabinet.

Communities Portfolio Revenue Budget Risk Areas to 30 September 2009

ANNEX A

Ref	Service	Budget	Full Year Budget £000	Budget to Date £000	Actual to Date £000	Variance to Date £000	Forecast Outturn £000	Forecast Outturn Variance £000
	Community Safety/ASBU/Security Force	Employee Costs – Community Safety	583.9	292.0	359.1	67.1	583.9	0
		Employee Costs – ASBU	289.4	144.7	94.4	-50.3	289.4	0
							873.3	0

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Proportion of budget reported upon	Expenditure £'000	Income £'000
Total Departmental Budget Reported Upon	873.3	0
Total Budget	4,585.1	-1,497.8
Percentage of Total Budget Reported	19.05%	0%

Comments on key areas of budget (including remedial action)

Employee budgets include an overprovision following the agreement of the 2009/10 JNC pay award.

Employee costs to date for the Community Safety section are currently showing an overspend; however, the department is due contributions from other departments for specific work carried out on their behalf which will bring this in line with the budget figure.

Employee costs for the Anti Social Behaviour Unit to date are currently underspent; a reduction in this budget is still pending however

due to the reallocation of the ABG funding in 2009/10 which will bring the actuals back in line with the budget.

In relation to Sefton Security Services, it has been agreed that the service will bring in additional income. This service is currently operating at full capacity, and, although it is considered viable to increase the income generated by this section, this can only be done with further investment in the service, both capital and revenue. Work is currently underway reviewing the business plan and identifying options which may require a request for approval for investment from the Performance Improvement and Development Fund. In addition to this, there is also pressure to achieve additional income as a result of the current economic climate. This situation will be closely monitored, and, if necessary, an additional risk budget item may be added as part of this monitoring exercise.

Comments on forecast of total budget (including remedial action)

Corporate savings of £35,100 contribute further pressure to the budget, and, as yet have not been identified within the detailed Departmental budget. These savings will need to be considered within the light of the overall budgetary pressures on the Department. Every effort will be made to mitigate the effect of the above pressures, but this may only be achieved with significant reductions in service provision. For this reason options to deal with budget pressures will be presented in future budget monitoring reports.

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Agenda Item 5

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member Communities
DATE: 2nd December 2009
SUBJECT: Sefton's Single Equality Scheme
WARDS AFFECTED: All
REPORT OF: Susan Holden, Equalities Director
CONTACT OFFICER: Ruth Austen-Vincent 0151 928 2233 ext 310
EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

This report details current progress in Sefton Council on the Equality Framework for Local Government formerly the Equality Standard.

In addition to this the report will detail the partnership approach to delivery on equality and diversity developed through the Sefton wide Single Equality Scheme.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To ensure Communities Committee is kept informed of work on the Equality Framework for Local Government and the Sefton Single Equality Scheme.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet Member for Communities is recommended to :-

- i) Note the positive progress made on the equality framework and the developing partnership work around the Single Equality Scheme.
- ii) Receive updates on progress quarterly from Sefton Equalities Partnership on the Equalities Framework.

KEY DECISION: No
FORWARD PLAN: No
IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately following the expiry of the call-in period for this report

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ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Council is required to demonstrate progress in meeting the diverse needs of people who live and work in Sefton for a range of inspections including the Comprehensive Area Assessment. In addition to this the Council must meet the legal requirements placed on it through equality and diversity legislation.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: N/A

Financial:-

There are no immediate financial implications to this report.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

Risk Assessment: Not applicable

Asset Management: Not applicable

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS:

SEP SUPPORTS THE COMMUNITY NETWORKS FOR UNDER REPRESENTED GROUPS WHO HAVE FED INTO THE SINGLE EQUALITY SCHEME AND REGULARLY FEED IN VIEWS AND IDEAS TO EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENTS ETC. WHICH ARE REFLECTED IN SOME OF THE ACTIVITY DETAILED BELOW.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	✓		
2	Creating Safe Communities	✓		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	✓		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		
5	Environmental Sustainability	✓		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	✓		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	✓		
8	Children and Young People	✓		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

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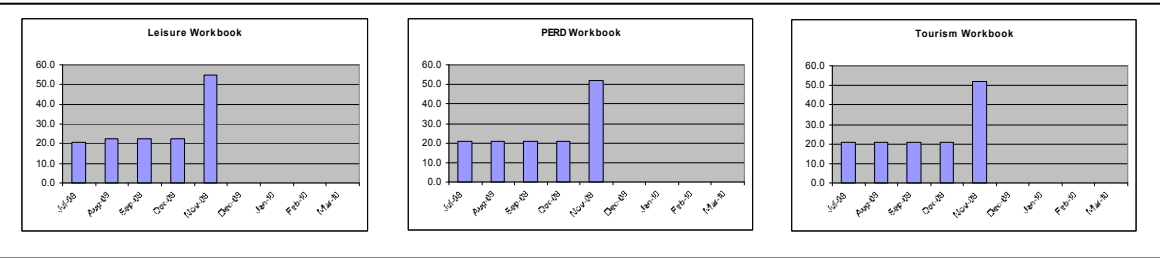
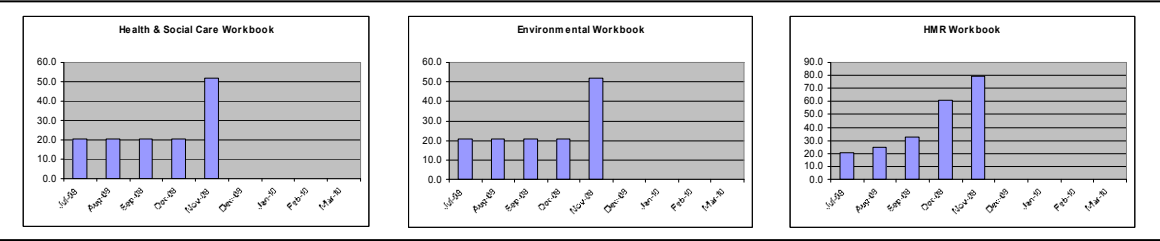
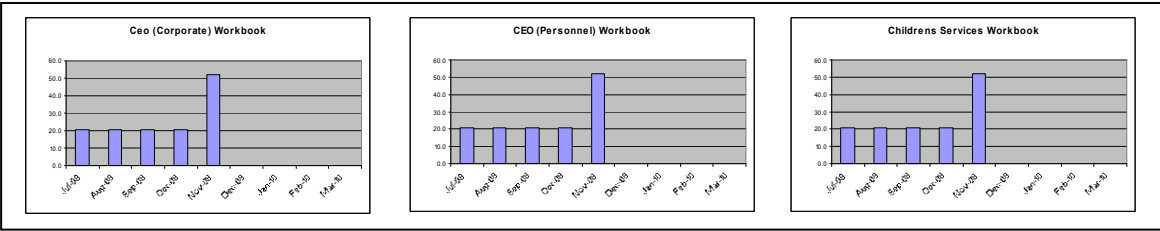
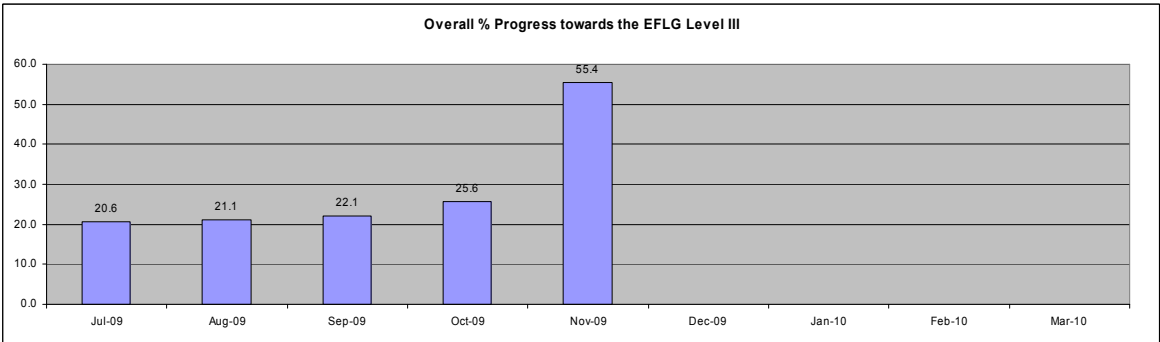
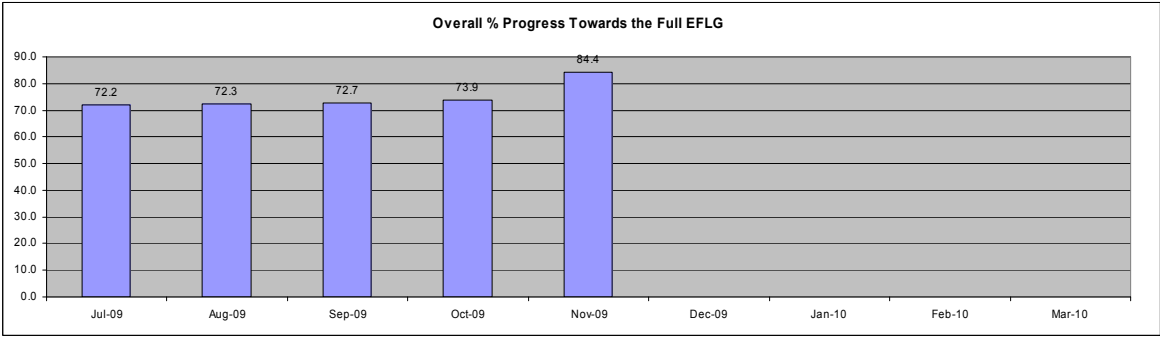
1. **Introduction**

- 1.1 This report will detail current progress in Sefton Council on the Equality Framework for Local Government formerly the Equality Standard.
- 1.2 Sefton Council is currently working towards the Excellent or level three of the Equality Framework that was introduced in April 2009. It is important to note this replaces the Equality Standard that previously had five levels and the Council as reported in June 2009 was nearly at level four on the Equality Standard.
- 1.2 In addition to this the report will detail the partnership approach to delivery on equality and diversity developed through the Sefton wide Single Equality Scheme in Sefton.

2. **Current Progress on the Equality**

- 2.1 The current progress on EFECT is detailed below and is very encouraging with the Council recorded at 55% on the new EFECT performance management system for the framework. It is important to note that a great deal of the evidence currently recorded on the new performance management system is based on corporate work that has been developed and strongly supported by Sefton Equalities Partnership. The key areas of strength and areas for development are detailed beneath the graphs and the existence and delivery of equality and diversity work through the partnership is a strength within the new framework. This therefore means that achieving 60% or above of the Equality Framework Excellent level is possible by March 2010 providing individual workbook areas deliver on the actions and targets set and record the evidence in the system.

2.2



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- 2.3 Equality Impact Assessments – These are required to meet the legal requirements placed on the council, but also to comply with the Equality Framework. The council has introduced revised training and a revised pro-forma for completing EIA's. This has been received positively and key areas notably Leisure and Environmental Protection have delivered a number of EIA's in the last six months. The work on this still needs to be delivered consistently across the council. This work would support improvements in performance against the Equality Framework.
- 2.4 Equalities Monitoring – The equalities monitoring weeks have taken place and data has been gathered from service delivery points in the council and from our partners in particular in NHS Sefton. The data is now with Tribal who are likely to report in February 2010 to ensure library data collected in a separate survey is included. This will support and develop our understanding of the people using services broken down by equality strands. This can then influence the customer contact strategy, and also improve our understanding of the local population in relation to the equality strands. The key challenge from this years monitoring weeks will be supporting the embedding of this work in service access points in the council and across Sefton. As a result of the equalities monitoring work undertaken to date the council is in a strong position in this area of work and, providing this embedding takes place across a wider range of departments, we will be able to evidence Excellence in this area of work. In relation to equalities monitoring of staff, consideration is being given in the council to the timing of the workforce monitoring exercise as a result of the strategic budget review. It is important to note that it is a clear requirement of the Excellent level that the staff data is regularly refreshed and progress against equality targets in the workforce is evidenced. In addition to this the council will need to deliver a staff satisfaction survey cut by the equality strands to achieve Excellence.
- 2.5 Equality and Diversity and Procurement / Commissioning – The council has revised its policies and procedures on procurement and equality and diversity and developed training for procurement officers so that they can deliver on these revised procedures. As these procedures are followed the council will be able to evidence Excellence in this area of work. The Council lead officer on procurement together with SEP is currently working with the Equality and Human Rights Commission and a few other partners in the North West as the work developed in Sefton has been identified as having some key strengths in relation to embedding equality and diversity into procurement.
- 2.6 The Corporate Equalities Group met in October to discuss structures and processes to support the council in delivering on the core

requirements in relation to equality and diversity and ensuring best practice is developed in Sefton Council and across Sefton.

These revised structures with director level representation on the Corporate Equalities Group will support the Council in progressing towards Excellence by March 2011. This is the date that all councils who were recorded at level three or four of the Equality Standard are aiming to achieve the new Excellent level.

- 2.7 The revised structure will include an increased number of workbooks in Children's Services and in Chief Executives.
In Children's Services this will support this directorate more effectively in recording good practice and monitoring progress on delivering real actions and change to under represented groups through monitoring and equality impact assessments.
In Chief Executives this will also support effective recording of evidence and development of best practice in line with the new structures developing in the council.
- 2.8 The key challenge in progressing to Excellence in the council across all workbooks is the embedding of equality actions and target setting through the use of equality impact assessments, equalities monitoring and equalities in procurement supported by effective consultation and engagement with under represented groups.
This will require strong leadership from the new directorate leaders to support consistent progress across all the workbooks on the EFECT system.

3. Partnership Work based on the Single Equality Scheme

- 3.1 The council supported by the recently agreed Single Equality Scheme for Sefton can demonstrate significant areas where joint working is taking place. Currently in line with the cross cutting themes in the SES, joint work is developing with partners on :-
- Procurement / Commissioning – Partners from the NHS, health trusts, Children's Trust, Sefton Council, One Vision Housing, Merseyside Police and Merseyside Fire Service are working together to develop joint procedures and training which will be supported by the work developing through the Equality and Human Rights Commission and the North West conference planned for March 2010.
 - Employment / Positive Action – The above partners have met to discuss joint work to improve diversity in the workforce in Sefton and agreed the following priorities :-

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a/ Sharing and improving monitoring data on the workforce in the public and community and voluntary sector in Sefton.

b/ Identify best practice e.g. fire services targeted recruitment campaigns and explore partnership response to this.

c/ Improvement and development of joint staff networks.

d/ Disability and Employment hopefully supported by the Disability and Employment project submitted to the Equality and Human Rights commission and requested to go through to the second round of bidding. This work will support best practice in relation to enabling disabled people who are work ready to enter employment.

- Community Cohesion and Hate Crime – The hate crime week for 2010 is currently being planned with a conference on Tuesday the 9th of February. This includes a presentation given by the Home office lead on hate crime.
In addition to this SEP has secured resources through Celebr8 to support the roll out of the values statement to two more community areas and continue the work in Netherton and Peel Road/ Knowsley Road. This work will be reported as part of the North West Celebr8 programme
- A paper has been produced which will be discussed by the single equality scheme working group in December to support the development of some of the innovative consultation and engagement methods such as ‘Meet the Directors’ across all the community networks. This work will ensure there is a clear link and influence from the community networks for under represented groups on the work delivered to improve equality and diversity in service provision and employment in Sefton.

3.2 In addition to the work on cross cutting themes it is important to note that individual equality strand work is progressing and this includes :-

- Launch of the Navajo kite marking scheme to support best practice in Sefton for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people in employment and who are accessing services.
- Gender Stereotyping Working Group – Developing concrete actions in schools etc. to challenge and address gender stereotypes between boys and girls and men and women.
- Support development for Black and racial / ethnic minority community groups who have recently come forward to SEP.

3.3 All the above work demonstrates positive steps forward which will directly impact on people’s lives in relation to e.g. hate crime /

employment rights / access to employment etc. for people from under represented groups in Sefton. Importantly this is being supported and will be delivered by a range of partners in Sefton which will be important as evidence for Sefton's Comprehensive Area Assessment.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 The above report demonstrates effective progress in a number of areas which will improve delivery on equality and diversity in Sefton. Importantly this is a combination of direct work with people living in Sefton from under represented groups and policy work which will improve access to employment and services for people from under represented groups.
- 4.2 The Council is on course to achieving the target of Excellence on the equality framework by March 2011 with the clear support and drive from senior managers and leaders in the council.

6. Recommendations

- 7.1 The Cabinet Member for Communities is recommended to:-
 - i) Note the positive progress made on the equality framework and the developing partnership work around the Single Equality Scheme.
 - ii) Receive updates on progress quarterly from Sefton Equalities Partnership on the Equalities Framework.

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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON FRIDAY 6 NOVEMBER, 2009. MINUTE NOS. 49 and 51 IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".

LITHERLAND AND FORD AREA COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD AT THE GODDARD HALL, STANLEY ROAD, BOOTLE
ON WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor D.Hardy (in the Chair)
Councillors Brady and P Hardy
Local Advisory Group Members:
Mrs J Burnhill, Mr G McNeight and Mr B Walsh

ALSO PRESENT: 2 members of Merseyside Police
2 members of the public

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Moncur and Tweed, and Advisory Group Members Messrs Kelly and O'Brien.

47. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declaration of interest was received:

Member	Item	Interest	Action
Councillor D.Hardy	Police Issues	Personal – Chair of One Vision Housing	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon

48. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That subject to Minute No.43 (3) being amended to read:

- (3) an allocation of £1,385 be made for Street Signs from the Litherland Ward allocation.

the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September be confirmed as a correct record.

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LITHERLAND AND FORD AREA COMMITTEE- WEDNESDAY 28TH
OCTOBER, 2009

49. OPEN FORUM

During the Open Forum the following questions / comments were submitted:

- (a) Mr.B.Walsh, Advisory Group Member, complained on behalf of Litherland Village Community Group that in Sefton Street, Litherland that were only 2 designated for disabled drivers' parking bays. He asked whether new disabled driver parking bays could be placed opposite the Chemist in Sefton Street.

Members commented that many people who worked in the Sefton Street parked there all day, which exacerbated parking problems in the street.

RESOLVED:

That Mr.Walsh's request be forwarded to the Cabinet Member – Technical Services for consideration.

- (b) Litherland Village Community Group submitted a petition against vehicles turning right into oncoming traffic on Hawthorne Road and also drivers speeding along Marina Avenue. The Group asked whether action could be taken to address this dangerous driving.

RESOLVED:

That petition be forwarded to the Cabinet Member – Technical Services for consideration.

- (c) Ms.K.Horner complained at the state of a patch of land adjoining Marina Avenue / Wilson's Lane, Litherland. The land had become a dumping ground and site of anti-social behaviour, a stained glass window had been broken by a brick thrown from the wasteland. The land had become an eyesore; it was full of rubbish and had become very overgrown. Wastes from fast food venues were also attracting rats. She went on to ask whether an update on the land could be provided.

The Neighbourhood Manager responded that the land was the private property of the Methodist Church, and in the last couple of days the owners had sent a team of contractors round to tidy up the area.

- (d) Tenants at Hawthorne Court, Litherland complained that land adjoining Marina Avenue / Wilson's Lane, Litherland had become a dumping ground. Additional to the site's unsightliness Children often shouted abuse and threw stones at homes and passers by from the site. The area used to be a lovely place to live but this had changed as the area was now attracting anti-social behaviour.

The Neighbourhood Manager responded that the land was the private property of the Methodist Church, and in the last couple of days the owners had sent a team of contractors round to tidy up the area, adding that she would keep the Committee informed of developments regarding the site.

- (e) Mr. and Mrs. Davies complained that block paving outside their home in Sefton Street, Litherland was continually sinking, mainly due to a damaged water pipe beneath the pavement. When contractors repaired the paving, the barriers they erected obstructed the front of the house.

RESOLVED:

That the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director be requested to respond to Mr. and Mrs. Davies' concerns.

50. POLICE ISSUES

Sergeant Muldoon and Police Community Support Officer Trill referred to:

- A rise in youth anti-social behaviour in Hatton Hill Park, which had possibly occurred through a combination of the merger of Bootle and Litherland High Schools and displacement due to the Section 30 Order in place up to Linacre Bridge. One of the methods used to engage the youth was the use of 'Street Games', which had proved a very useful tool in directing people in a positive direction away from anti-social behaviour.
- During the 'mischief period' associated with Halloween youths would be offered free busses to take them to venues where organised activities were occurring to steer them from anti-social activities.

A Councillor commented that there was a void house in Bark Road, Litherland. The house was a One Vision Housing property and was attracting vandalism.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Police be thanked for their presentation; and
- (2) the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director be requested to draft a letter from the Committee expressing their concern at the void house on Bark Road, Litherland.

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LITHERLAND AND FORD AREA COMMITTEE- WEDNESDAY 28TH
OCTOBER, 2009

51. PROPOSED DISABLED PERSONS PARKING PLACES

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director which sought approval for the progression of a Traffic Regulation Orders to provide disabled residents with a parking place directly outside their place of residence. The report indicated that all new TROs for Disabled Parking Permits allowed for the provision of a numbered permit which restricted the use of the bays to the applicant only.

It was proposed to introduce individual Orders for the roads incorporating all existing restrictions.

RESOLVED: That

(1) the Traffic Regulations Orders providing a numbered permit centrally located outside the following addresses, as set out in the plan at Annexe A and as detailed in the report, be approved:

- Centrally located outside No. 26 Bowden Street, Litherland
 - Centrally located outside No. 22 Tattersall Road, Litherland
 - Centrally located outside No. 6 Lonsdale Road, Litherland;
- and

(2) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intension to implement the Orders.

52. BUDGET MONITORING

Further to Minute No.43 of the meeting held on 30 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director that provided information on available resources for the Area Committee area and progress on those items approved at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the current financial position and progress to date on items previously agreed within the report be noted.

53. PROGRESS AND ACTION ON PLANNING (S106) AGREEMENTS

The Chair informed the Committee that this report had been withdrawn from the agenda.

54. OVERVIEW OF YOUTH PROVISION ACROSS SEFTON

Further to Minute No. 40 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) held on 22 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services, which provided information regarding the provision of youth opportunities for the young people of Sefton by geographical area. The report outlined the following:

- Targeted Provision and Partnership Working;
- Targeted Youth Support and Children and Young People aged 8-19;
- Family Intervention Project; and
- Parent Know How Directory.

Appendix 1 to the report set out an overview of Youth Provision Activity across Sefton.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had approved the report and referred it to the Council's Area Committees for discussion.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the overview of youth provision across Sefton be noted.

55. CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director that set out the comments of the appropriate Officers on matters raised at previous meetings as well as correspondence relating to previous Open Forum questions.

RESOLVED:

That the correspondence and Progress Report be noted.

56. DATE OF NEXT MEETING 6 JANUARY, 2010

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the agreed programme of meetings for this Area Committee, the next meeting will be held on Wednesday, 6 January 2010, at Cathy Roberts Memorial Hall, Osbourne Road, Litherland.

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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON MONDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2009. MINUTE NOS. 84, 85, 86, 87 AND 93 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN"

SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor M Fearn (in the Chair)
Councillors B Rimmer, Bigley, Booth, Brodie -
Browne, Byrom, Dodd, Lord Fearn, Glover, Hands,
T Jones, McGuire, Pearson, Porter, D Rimmer,
Shaw, Sumner, Tattersall, Sir Ron Watson and
Weavers
Local Advisory Group Members:
Mr. J.Fairhurst, Mr. I. Goley and
Mr. S. Sugden

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Parry
Inspector G.Fairbrother and Inspector N. Moss,
Merseyside Police
23 members of the public in attendance.

78. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Preston and Local Advisory Group Member Mrs. M. Pointon.

79. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

80. MINUTES

The Committee considered the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2009.

In connection with Minute No. 76(a) - (Open Forum question re: mosquito devices), Local Advisory Group Member, Mr. I. Goley, indicated that no reference was made in the minute regarding the Committee's request that the log be produced of when the mosquito devices were used.

In connection with Minute No. 74(2)(b) - (re-phasing of traffic lights and re-modelling of junction) Councillor Shaw sought clarification on the exact location of the traffic lights and junction referred to.

RESOLVED: That subject to:

- (a) Minute No. 76(a) being amended to reflect the fact that a request was made to produce the log book of when the mosquito devices were operational; and

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SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE- WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2009

- (b) Minute No. 74(2)(b) being amended to identify the location of the junction referred to as the A570/A59 junction, Ormskirk

the Minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record.

81. BUDGET MONITORING

Further to Minute No. 68 of 30 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director indicating that the balance of the budget available for allocation during 2009/10, including sums set aside for the provision of litterbins, was as follows:

Ward	Available Funds £
Ainsdale	9,260.58
Birkdale	16,171.18
Cambridge	8,795.83
Dukes	14,920.28
Kew	4,331.29
Meols	11,817.25
Norwood	20,514.84
Town-wide	2,812.50
Total	88,623.75

Details of the allocations made by each ward against the general provision in the current year were set out in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the remaining balance of £88,623.75 of the budget available for further allocation for the rest of the year be noted; and
- (2) the following allocations be approved:

Scheme	Ward	Amount £
Additional Street Signs	Ainsdale	1,010
Additional Street Signs	Cambridge	640
Additional Street Signs	Dukes	2,185
Additional Street Signs	Meols	330
Additional Street Signs	Norwood	2,185

Provision of a litter bin on Scarisbrick New Road by the bus stop near to the petrol filling station by the Kew roundabout	Kew	210
Provision of litter bin next to the bus stop outside 62 Marshside Road	Meols	210
Provision of a "No Ball Games" sign on the gable end of 13 Fernley Road	Kew	40
Purchase of six four person tents and cooking equipment for the 11th Kew Woods Scout Pack	Kew	800
Provision of street sign - Bank Nook (off Radnor Drive)	Cambridge	85
Underwriting of a potential deficit associated with the Birkdale Traders Christmas Lights switch on on 3 December 2009	Birkdale	250
Underwriting of a potential deficit associated with the Birkdale Traders Christmas Lights switch on on 3 December 2009	Dukes	250

82. OVERVIEW OF YOUTH PROVISION ACROSS SEFTON

Further to Minute No. 40 of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) held on 22 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services, which provided information regarding the provision of youth opportunities for the young people of Sefton by geographical area. The report outlined the following:

- Targeted Provision and Partnership Working;
- Targeted Youth Support and Children and Young People aged 8-19;
- Family Intervention Project; and
- Parent Know How Directory.

Appendix 1 to the report set out an overview of Youth Provision Activity across Sefton.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee had approved the report and referred it to the Council's Area Committees for discussion.

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SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE- WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2009

RESOLVED:

That the report on the overview of youth provision across Sefton be noted.

83. PROGRESS AND ACTION ON PLANNING SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS

Further to Minute No. 160 of 22 April 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director outlining the recent spending of monies received through Section 106 Planning Agreements made under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 for the provision of tree planting and green space in Southport and setting out details of further similar schemes.

The report also detailed the concerns raised by the Planning Committee at its meeting held on 16 September 2009 relating to the current financial situation. This had had a significant impact on the number of planning applications submitted and the number of commencements on site which, in turn, would mean that there would be far less commuted sums available in the future and placed a greater focus on how money was spent.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the progress on the recent spending on tree planting and public open spaces and information on the forthcoming schemes which will generate further funds for this purpose, as set out in the report, be noted;
- (2) the recommendations for tree planting and public green space, as set out in the report, be approved; and
- (3) the detailed list of new tree planting in Southport, as set out in the report, be noted.

84. PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGES - BISPHAM ROAD SOUTHPORT AND COASTAL ROAD AINSDALE

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director seeking approval for the installation of pedestrian refuges on the Coastal Road, Ainsdale and Bispham Road, Southport; and seeking the introduction of a Traffic Regulation Order in order to facilitate the pedestrian refuge at Bispham Road.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order, as shown on the plan at Annex C and as detailed in the report, be approved;

SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE- WEDNESDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2009

- (2) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Order; and
- (3) subject to a positive outcome from the public consultation, the design and implementation of the pedestrian refuges on the Coastal Road, Ainsdale and Bispham Road, Southport be progressed as soon as possible.

85. MONITORING OF TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director setting out details of current Traffic Regulation Orders in the Southport area which had been approved for implementation.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the monitoring of Traffic Regulation Orders be noted.

86. SCARISBRICK NEW ROAD SOUTHPORT - OBJECTIONS TO TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

Further to Minute No. 53 of 2 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director advising of the receipt of objections to the proposed 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions on Scarisbrick New Road adjacent to the new pedestrian refuge in the vicinity of 23 Scarisbrick New Road.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the objections to the 'At Any Time' waiting restrictions be noted;
- (2) the proposed Traffic Regulation Order to introduce 50 metre sections of 'At Any Time' restrictions on both sides of Scarisbrick New Road be progressed as originally advertised as an integral part of the approved local safety scheme; and
- (3) the objectors be advised accordingly.

87. WIGHT MOSS WAY SOUTHPORT - NEW ACCESS ROAD - PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDER

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director seeking approval for the introduction of Prohibition of Driving Traffic Regulation Orders, the effect of which would prohibit the driving of vehicles, with an exemption for buses, taxis and cycles, on the full length of the new link road extension to Wight Moss Way, Southport.

RESOLVED: That

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- (1) the Traffic Regulation Orders, as set out on the plans and as detailed in the report, be approved; and
- (2) the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders, be approved.

88. PLAY BUILDER PROGRAMME 2009/10 - BOTANIC GARDENS AND BEDFORD PARK

The Committee considered the report of the Leisure Director advising of the second phase of the Council's Play Builder Programme 2009/10; and in particular relating to the proposed works planned for Botanic Gardens and Bedford Park, Southport.

The report indicated that the Council's Play Builder Project Plan, submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, set out how Sefton would provide innovative and stimulating play equipment and landscaping that would facilitate physically active play opportunities for all children, but with particular focus on 8-13 year olds; that whilst the designs for the two parks were currently work in progress, the style of landscaping and type of play structures typically would include:

- landscaped mounding with specimen rocks
- a mixed range of trees and shrubs
- grassed surfacing
- innovative play structures integrated into the landscape
- some original design elements

The report concluded that the works would be tendered in November with a view to a start on site by January 2010; that the landscaping works and play equipment installation would need to be completed by 31 March 2010, and that following a 'settling-in' period, an official opening would be organised in May/June 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed play areas as part of the second phase of Play Builder works at Botanic Gardens, Southport and Bedford Park, Birkdale, be approved.

89. PREVIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE OPEN FORUM

The Committee considered correspondence relating to the above.

With reference to the letters from the Environmental Protection Director to Mr. Fairhurst and from the Legal Director to the Chief Executive of Network Rail concerning graffiti, Councillor Sumner, in his capacity as a member of the Merseyside Passenger Transport Authority, updated the Committee on issues relating to graffiti and litter removal on rail land/premises. Councillor Sumner advised the Committee of:

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- a meeting held at Merseytravel to discuss issues of the Community Payback Team undertaking litter clearance/graffiti removal
- that he had contacted the Rail Services Committee to discuss issues about rolling stock capacity to cope when events such as the Southport Air Show and Flower Show took place
- engineering works that took place this year that caused problems relating to the Southport Air Show
- the operation of Merseyrail's own graffiti removal team
- the intention to provide Northern Rail with a list of major events taking place in Southport next year in the hope that engineering works can be scheduled to avoid clashes with such events

Members commented on their mixed experiences with Northern Rail and concluded that continual chasing of the operator was required to ensure progress

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the correspondence be noted;
- (2) the Legal Director be requested to again write to Northern Rail to ascertain whether representatives of the company would be willing to make a presentation to the Area Committee; and
- (3) Councillor Sumner be thanked for his efforts in trying to resolve graffiti/litter problems associated with the rail network.

90. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service be requested to make a presentation to the Area Committee on the work they undertake within the community; and
- (2) Dr. Phil Smith be requested to make a presentation to the Area Committee on the ecological aspects of Weld Road beach.

91. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the next ordinary meeting be held on **Wednesday, 6 January 2010, at Southport Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport, commencing at 6.30 p.m.**; and

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- (2) it be noted that a special meeting will be held on **Wednesday, 18 November 2009 at the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport, commencing at 6.30 p.m.** to consider the single issue of the Southport Cycle Town East-West Link proposals.

92. POLICE ISSUES

Members of the public/Councillors raised the following issues:

- a question was asked about what Merseyside Police did to engage with secondary school children via their schools. Inspector Moss indicated that the Police Service had a dedicated Schools Officer who went into schools to talk about issues such as anti-social behaviour and knife crime etc.; within the Southport area each secondary school had a dedicated officer who visited the school with a P.C.S.O.; that visits were frequently made to schools as part of pupil's personal, social education lessons; and that he had recently attended Stanley High School for a period of two days as part of a community cohesion event
- how safe was Coronation Walk at weekends? Inspector Fairbrother indicated that the rate of violent crime in Southport was very low, and that there were less violent offences this year compared to last year; that Southport had a vibrant night time economy and as such there was always scope for alcohol related crimes to be committed; however, the Police took robust action against those premises where crime and disorder occurred and referred to three recent examples where licensing reviews of town centre establishments had been undertaken. Inspector Moss indicated that the perception of crime was worse than the reality
- Various Members indicated that they had been on patrol with the Police on weekend evenings and that it was a very educational experience; and a question was asked whether Liverpool City Centre was safer than Southport Town Centre. Inspector Fairbrother indicated that both locations were very safe
- the Police were praised for their Beachsafe Campaign which proved very successful in tackling underage drinking and alcohol related anti-social behaviour; and thanks were extended to the Police for their role in the initiative
- information was requested on the future role of Police Community Support Officers; reference was made to comments by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner that on the spot fines were not working, that 80% of such fines were allegedly not paid, and general statistics were requested on the numbers of on the spot fines issued in Sefton and the numbers that were actually paid. Inspector Moss indicated that he would endeavour to provide such statistics

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- the increasing problem of dog fouling in the Linaker Street area was referred to. Inspector Moss indicated that his staff worked closely with the Environmental Protection Department on this issue; and that he would ask his colleagues to pay particular attention to the Linaker Street area
- vehicles were being driven over the footpath by the pedestrian crossing at Hoghton Street. Inspector Fairbrother indicated that a scheme to drop the kerbs at this location was being considered; that drivers were allowed to access their premises at this location; and that no enforcement action was being considered
- officers were deployed from Southport to Liverpool to take part in the Rhys Jones murder investigation. Have those officers now returned to Southport? Inspector Moss indicated that he would report back to the next meeting on this issue following consultation with his Area Commander
- reference was made to policing in the Town Centre during the evening. Comments were made that there should be a bigger Police presence; that the Police acted reactively to situations rather than proactively; and that 'pressure points' should be policed more robustly by siting vehicles at such locations. Inspector Fairbrother indicated that Police Officers could not be statically sited in every location; that resources needed to be spread out across the Town Centre; and that two vehicles patrolled the Town Centre every weekend
- it was suggested that the 24 hour licensing regime had been a failure; that a review was to be established but that no agreement had yet been reached on the criteria of such review; that seaside towns may be omitted from such a review; and that strong representations would need to be made on this issue
- could we cut the licensing hours of all premises back to 12.00 midnight? Inspector Moss indicated that it was not within the Police's sphere of influence to do this, but that reviews were sought of premises licenses where crime and disorder was problematic. Councillor Bigley, in his capacity as Chair of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, indicated that the Committee worked very closely with the Police and that Licensing Sub-Committees imposed strong conditions on premises to alleviate problems being experienced by both the Police and local communities

93. OPEN FORUM

During the Open Forum the following questions/comments/petitions were submitted:

- (a) Ms. D. Brannan asked for the results of the recent consultation exercise for the proposed traffic restrictions on Portland Street and the surrounding areas, namely the numbers of those residents who voted yes

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or no. Ms. Brannan continued that if the majority was no, then could the Committee confirm that they would not be going ahead with the proposal. Ms. Brannan also indicated that it was not made clear that the literature delivered to residents was a consultation, as all that was on the ballot form was a comment box; and that some members of the public had been informed that the comments would be used and that the vote would not count, thus the public were misinformed that a yes/no vote would mean the majority vote carried.

Ms. Brannan concluded by asking:

- could the Committee confirm that the vote carried more influence than the comments; and
- requested that when the issue was debated, any votes on the matter be recorded so the electorate could ascertain which way their local Councillor voted.

Ms. Brannan was advised that the results of the consultation exercise would be reported to the Special Meeting of the Area Committee to be held on 18 November, 2009.

(b) Further to Minute No. 39(c) of 1 July 2009, Local Advisory Group Member Mrs. M. Pointon referred to the condition of the former Ribble Buildings on Lord Street; and requested an update on when repairs/improvements may be undertaken at the premises.

Mr. P. Cowley, Principal Solicitor, had advised Mrs. Pointon that the current position with regard to the Ribble Buildings was that on 9 October 2009, the Council had served on the owners of the building a Notice under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990(the Act). The Notice would take effect 28 days after service (subject to any appeal being made) and the owners had three months to comply with the requirements of the Notice; and that there were nine requirements which included removing plant growth; re-painting metalwork; re-instating glass to verandah and fanlight; replacing broken windows; removing graffiti and fly posting; and painting the boarded windows. No response to the Notice had yet been received from the owners of the building.

If the owners did not comply with the requirements of the Notice within the compliance period, then they may be prosecuted for an offence under Section 216 of the Act and that if convicted, they may be liable to a fine of up to £1,000.

(c) Mr. M. Swift indicated that we were in an extraordinary financial climate and that the Council faced many financial challenges in 2010. He asked would elected Members consider leadership to the community and reduce their expenses, allowances and the costs of local democracy by one third. Mr. Swift suggested that this could be achieved by local political parties taking a decision that elected Members who retired by rotation in

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May 2010 did not stand again and that new candidates were not offered in the next round of elections.

Members made the following comments in response to the question:

- allowing a third of Councillors to drop-off as suggested would be unconstitutional and illegal
- agreed that allowances/expenses was currently a very contentious issue
- reduction in number of Councillors per ward would generate greater workloads, Councillors undertake roles on a part-time basis; lots more pressure on time
- could potentially move to four yearly elections and one Member Wards, but would have to be done constitutionally
- four yearly elections would provide more stability and improved strategic planning
- single Member Wards may lead to full-time Councillors which may have increased financial consequences
- an empty chair policy, i.e. by not fielding candidates in 2010 may allow parties like the BNP to have a 'free ride' onto the Council, this would be very dangerous

(d) Mr. D. Jackson indicated that the Seafront Loop formed part of the proposals to develop a high quality cycle network around the seafront area and improve access to the town centre and Sefton coast; that the segregated two-way segregated cycle route on Fairway was completed in May 2009; and that keep right arrow signs had been used at the two points where there was off road access to premises.

Mr. Jackson continued that the Traffic Signs Manual stated that the bollard should be plain with a nearside sign number 955 (circular sign, blue background with white pedal cycle design) to indicate that the route was for cyclists only. The Manual also stated specifically that a keep right sign should not be used as the instruction applied to cyclists as well as other traffic.

In July 2009, an elected Member informed Technical Services Department that the use of the signs was wrong as it meant cyclists could not use the segregated cycle route as the signs applied to cyclists.

In August 2009, Technical Services Department staff agreed with Merseyside Police Traffic Management staff that these signs should not be used and they would be replaced.

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Mr. Jackson concluded that it was now nearly November 2009 (some six months after completion of the route) and the signs were still in place. On a none technical view, the base of the bollard only needed to be rotated through 90 degrees to rectify the problem of the keep right arrow; and asked when could what appeared to be a simple piece of work be carried out, so cyclists could lawfully use the route.

Mr. D. Marrin, Traffic Services Manager, indicated that Mr. Jackson was correct; that he (Mr. Marrin) had contacted Capita about this problem some time ago; and that he would investigate the matter further and respond in writing to Mr. Jackson.

(e) Mr. S. Taylor referred to articles in both the local newspapers about the need for cost savings by the Council and requested an update on the actions taken and the amounts saved.

RESOLVED:

That the Transformation Director be requested to respond in writing to Mr. Taylor.

(f) Mr. L. Stafford indicated that due to the noise from Southport Skip Hire, he had to move out of his home in Montgomery Avenue and rent a home further away as the noise was affecting his health.

The tenant in his old home was now complaining to him about the continual noise levels from the above company. After many calls to Environmental Health on Council advice Mr. Stafford started a petition and received hundreds of signature and the petition was then submitted to John Pugh MP and as of yet no action seemed to have been taken. Environmental Health had monitored the site but it seemed that every time monitoring started the noise stopped, only to start again when monitoring ceased. Mr. Stafford alleged that it seemed like someone was informing the company or its staff had a sixth sense.

Meanwhile the mound at the site was getting higher, well above the level that residents were informed that the company was allowed and that the dust clouds continued coating cars and houses.

Mr. Stafford concluded by asking if anything was ever going to be done about the problem.

Members indicated that a 150 signature petition had been submitted to the Environmental Protection Director complaining about the activities at Southport Skip Hire; that some residents were currently completing incident logs about the activities at the site; and residents were urged to gather as much evidence as possible to provide a strong case and secure convictions.

RESOLVED: That

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- (1) the current investigations/monitoring by residents and the Environmental Protection Director be noted; and
- (2) the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director be requested to investigate the activity at the site to ascertain whether action can be taken under Section 215 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER, 2009. MINUTE NO.s 48 AND 55 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN"

LINACRE AND DERBY AREA COMMITTEE

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON MONDAY 2ND NOVEMBER, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Friel (in the Chair)
Councillors Kerrigan, Gustafson, Larkin and McGinnity
Local Advisory Group Members:
Ms A Myers, Mrs B Rouse, Mr F Roberts and Mr N Woods

ALSO PRESENT Inspector C. Burnham, Merseyside Police and sixteen members of the public

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Fairclough and Local Advisory Group Members Mr. D. Robinson and Mr. J. Costello.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

Member	Minute No.	Interest	Action
Councillor Friel	48 - Strand Road Residents	Personal - has contact with Delta Taxis Company Secretary	Stayed in the room, took part in consideration of item and did not vote
Councillor Gustafson	48 - Provision of Alleygates at Stadium Mews	Personal - works for a company that produces alleygates	Stayed in the room but took no part in consideration of the item and did not vote
Mr. F. Roberts	49 - Presentation on NHS	Personal - works for NHS	Stayed in the room and took part in consideration of the item.

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47. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2009

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the meeting held on 21 September 2009 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the deletion of the word "misappropriation" in the penultimate line of the questions detailed in Minute No. 37(c) (Section 106 Monies), as it was considered by Members to be inappropriate.

48. OPEN FORUM

During the open forum, the following questions were submitted :

(a) Further to Minute No. 84(c) of 3 March 2009, Mr. O’Gorman asked if there had been any response regarding the requested provision of an alleygate at Stadium Mews.

A Member reported that this was not a request for an additional alleygate and that OVH had agreed to fund it but that there may be a dispute over the ownership of the land, which was causing a delay.

Ms. Maxwell, Neighbourhood Engagement Co-ordinator (NEC) informed the meeting that the legal cost for gating orders was approximately £2000 and that if such orders were grouped together, the cost could be reduced. Also that, where three ward Councillors agreed a proposal relevant to the Area Committee budget, it could be agreed without being brought to Committee.

Inspector Burnham was asked if he would speak to residents, as they felt that there was a serious problem.

The Chair expressed concern that grouping together orders would result in delays and stated that the Southey St. Gating order was a priority for this Area Committee.

RESOLVED:

That, as the three Ward Councillors were in agreement, the gating order for Southey St. be agreed and funded from the devolved budget.

(b) Councillor Gustafson, on behalf of the residents of Strand Road requested that a traffic counter be installed at Strand Road to monitor traffic flows in that area and that the Assistant Director - Technical Services provide a costing for the Area Committee.

Ms. Maxwell (NEC) informed the meeting that it was not recommended that the Area Committee fund such a scheme as funding was not likely to be available at present for any traffic scheme which might arise from the survey.

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Mrs. Dixon also reported problems with parking restrictions as follows:

Private Hire Taxis picked up/dropped off in Strand Road in spite of yellow lines and that there was no enforcement.

A Taxi Company had purchased houses in the Ash Street area and was using residents' parking permits to park vehicles, which was an improper use of such permits. She also asked if the Chair would declare an interest with Delta Taxis.

The Chair asked that the Legal Director's Solicitor, Mrs. Cain and the Committee confirm to Mrs. Dixon that he had already declared a personal interest. The fact that Mrs. Dixon was in error was confirmed

RESOLVED: That

- (1) funding by the Area Committee for the installation of traffic counters on Strand Road at a cost of approximately £1000 be approved and funded from the delegated budget and the Assistant Director - Technical Services be requested to take the necessary action to implement the proposal; and
- (2) the comments made by residents regarding Private Hire Taxis be referred to Mr. D. Marrin, Traffic Services Manager for investigation.
- (c) Councillor Gustafson, on behalf of Mr. Joynson, asked if a street name plate could be provided at Clayfield Close, as there was none at present.

RESOLVED:

That the provision of the street nameplate be agreed at a cost of approximately £85 and funded from the devolved budget.

(d) Mr. P. Connelly asked about the re-instatement of the traffic island at Christ Church known as Mark Connelly Island, following repairs by Morgan EST on behalf of United Utilities. The name plaque was also removed and repairs had still not been completed.

Members were concerned that Mr. Connelly's complaints were not acted upon and that he was denied access to the department's officers, when he called to Highways Department.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Connelly's complaint be referred to the Highways Department and that an urgent written response be requested.

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(e) Ms. P. Warburton asked about policing issues which were of concern to residents of Silverdale and Holly Court; and requested the provision of Alleygates for Knowsley Road and Chestnut Grove.

RESOLVED:

That this matter be referred to Ms. Maxwell (NEC) for further information and action.

(f) Mr. P. McFadyen, on behalf of South Sefton Urban Garden, requested that the Area Committee assist in identifying land for use as Community Allotments.

Members agreed that this would be a good use of Brownfield sites as existing allotment provision was full and similar schemes such as at St. Winefrides and in Manchester had been successful .

RESOLVED:

That the Committee support the project and that the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director and the Leisure Director help identify such land and communicate with Mr. McFadyen.

(g) Mr C. Jones drew the attention of the Committee to problems with "Stop and Search" operations carried out by Police and how this appeared to victimise young people.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Jones be requested to leave the meeting to discuss the matter outside with the Police Officer, as it was becoming difficult to conduct the meeting.

(h) Mrs Hoang on Strand Road complained that residents were unable to park outside their homes owing to traffic restrictions and illegal parking.

RESOLVED:

That the points raised by Mrs Hoang be referred to Mr. D. Marrin, Traffic Services Officer for investigation.

(l) Mrs Rouse indicate that there had been no response to an issue raised at the July meeting regarding the renewal of traditional nameplates.

RESOLVED:

That Capita Symonds be requested to provide an urgent response.

(j) Mrs Rouse brought to the attention of the Committee the issue of a planning application that had been submitted for an Electricity Generating Facility on the Alexander Dock site, utilising a number of "RODECS"

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(incinerators). Residents were concerned about environmental issues and requested that full consultation take place.

The Chair stated that a presentation had been made at the Town Hall and it would go to the Planning Committee in December 2009 but that, as full Air Quality assessments and other reports were not available yet, it was difficult to object until full facts were known.

Members agreed that further consultation was necessary and that it should have been brought to the last Area Committee. They felt that the application should be deferred until next year or until a public meeting had taken place. The Chair was sympathetic but stated that the Area Committee did not have any powers in this situation, as long as planning procedures were followed by the applicant.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director be advised of the Committee's grave concerns regarding the environmental impact of such a development; and
- (2) he be requested to defer consideration of the application until an urgent meeting is arranged for Planning Officers to inform and consult residents.

49. POLICE ISSUES

Inspector Burnham, Merseyside Police, reported that, overall, the situation was good and there had been a very busy period recently. He gave further information on the following issues:

There had been good consultation with OVH concerning planting and security issues in the Hawthorne Road area.

Vehicle crime on match days for Everton had been reduced and "Mischief Night" had passed with out serious problems.

A number of "ASBO.s had been issued; six arrests made; fifty "Stop/Checks" made and there had been several successes with drug arrests.

Members and Local Advisory Members expressed their pleasure with these statistics and offered congratulations to the Police Officers and commended the good work in Sefton and in the Linacre and Derby Wards, stating that it had not gone unnoticed by residents. However, with the 5 November approaching continuing vigilance was necessary.

Members had no problems with "Stop/Checks" as they increased the visibility of police on the streets.

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In response to a question from a Member, the Inspector agreed that the PCSOs would meet residents of Bedford Road.

Members expressed concern that the funding for two mountain bikes requested previously had not been successful and it was reported that this was the responsibility of the Basic Command Unit. Inspector Burnham stated that it was now out of his hands but he would continue to pursue the matter.

The Chair stated that Neighbourhood Policing was good but that it was necessary to get that message across to the public and re-assure people of the efforts being made on their behalf, as often the negatives were aired but not the good work carried out by the Police.

RESOLVED:

That Inspector Burnham be thanked for his report and dealing with matters promptly.

50. SEFTON PRIMARY CARE TRUST - PRESENTATION ON COMMUNITY SERVICES AND RESPONSE TO PETITION

Further to Minute No. 39 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Area Committee received a presentation from Mr. L. Griffin , Chief Executive of NHS Sefton. Mr. Griffin gave an outline of the way existing services were provided via the District Nurses; Out of Hours provision; Children's Services; G.P. practices, etc and that plans were currently being developed for future Community Health services but that the main challenge would be finances, as the NHS would be subject to reduced funding.

This would necessitate a need to prioritise services and look at localising them by means such as encouraging G.P. practices to work together; improved help line services; "Walk in" and "Out of Hours" Centres; targeting problems such as Smoking and encouraging self help via prevention and Health Visiting. There would also be a need to improve building stock.

Mr. Griffin could not give details of the effect on local services but was keen to engage with residents and invited their contributions. He indicated that hoped to attend further meetings

With regard to the petition submitted by residents, stating that their children were at a disadvantage to other children owing to the poor transport links to the Litherland Town Hall Walk in Centre and requesting the PCT to persuade G.P.s to make out of hours visits to sick children's homes to reduce problems with getting them to the centre, Mr. Griffin was aware of the transport problems and how G.P contracts now excluded them from Out of Hours provision and would arrange a formal response to the petition.

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Members raised the following issues:

That the petition arose from people's concerns that transport was a major issue, particularly for one parent families and that over 60 % of homes in the area were without cars.

That the effect of being unable to get appointments and having to wait three hours had the effect of G.P.s pushing patients to the "Walk in" Centres and that waiting three hours for treatment was not acceptable.

That the objective had been to improve provision but it did not appear to be working. The Triage system meant that people expecting to see specialists saw G.P.s instead and were subsequently obliged to go private. Members asked what was the view of the PCT to the moral implications of this outcome.

Mr Griffin stated that G.P.s could not provide specialist consultancy and asked that specific complaints be referred to him. He further stated that the Out of Hours provision had eased pressures on G.P.s to the point that they were now offering more out of hours appointments.

The Chair stated that three hours waiting was becoming normal, that this was unacceptable and agreed that specific complaints be referred to Mr. Griffin and he welcomed the new build at the Alder Hey site and the provision of more local services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the geographical statistics on respiratory morbidity within the Wards be supplied to Members, and
- (2) Mr. Griffin be thanked for his presentation.

51. OVERVIEW OF YOUTH PROVISION ACROSS SEFTON

Further to Minute No. 40 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (CHildre'sServices) held on 22 September 2009 the Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services on the provision of Youth Opportunities for the young people of Sefton.

Gill Mullen, Area Youth Manager spoke to the report and the statistical information contained in the appendix and stated that a further report would go back to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members commented that there did not appear to be a great deal of detached youth work in the Linacre / Derby Wards and were informed that the detached work in Seaforth was being rolled out to cover the Sefton South area.

In response to a question from the Chair on the loan of equipment to young people for new sports, Ms. Mullen informed the meeting that

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members of youth clubs could ask for their club to apply for funding that was available for such equipment

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Area Youth Officer be thanked for her presentation on her report; and
- (2) the report be noted

52. PROGRESS AND ACTION ON PLANNING SECTION 106 MONIES

The Area Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on the proposed spending from the Section 106 agreements, details of which were contained in the report.

Members expressed a wish that some of the funding be used to provide rangers in parks for security reasons

RESOLVED:

That the allocation and progress of spending from Section 106 monies be noted.

53. THE VETTING OF PROSPECTIVE TENANTS VIA HOMESearch

Further to Minute No. 36 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Housing Market Renewal Director on the review of the vetting process in relation to the letting of social rented accommodation.

Mr. Lunt, Housing Market Renewal Director, gave further information in relation to the report and answered questions from Members.

Members expressed concerns and asked questions in relation to the following:

That problem tenants were still likely unless checks were more thorough, i.e. where an applicant moved from another area and gave wrong information.

That a tenant in Bedford Road had moved in from outside the area and had paid key money.

Could housing benefits paid to problem tenants be restricted ?

That OVH were passing the buck in that officers were not thorough in enforcing the Authority's own regulations and allowed Housing Associations to pass on poor tenants.

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That there appeared to be more concern about the cost of CRB checks than the cost of taking problem tenants - CRB checks should be carried out for all applicants.

Mr. Lunt responded to the questions as follows:

That Housing benefit was now paid to tenants and not the Authority and could not , therefore, be restricted.

That accreditation for Landlords was worthwhile but it was normally the case that only the better Landlords applied.

That Social Housing providers had to work within budgets and frameworks and needed to maintain a balance between service provision and available resources.

That checks were as robust as possible given the vetting costs, the Data Protection issues and that legally, CRB.s could only be used where they were a legal requirement. Also, there were difficulties with exchange of information with other areas, if no client history was known or had been withheld. There were data sharing provisions with Merseyside Police but action could only be taken where there was evidence of offending.

Mr. Lunt informed the meeting that he would take these issues away and report back to the next Committee.

The Chair stated that the suitability of applicants was a serious issue and the impact of wrong decisions was high.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Housing Market Renewal Director be noted.

54. HAWTHORNE ROAD. ANTI SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR HOTSPOT

Further to Minute No. 22(c) of the meeting held on 17 August 2009 and Minute No. 38 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Neighbourhood Manager South, One Vision Housing (OVH) on possible security measures for bungalows in the Hawthorne Road/Wadham Road area.

Mr. Mitchener (OVH) gave details of the works outlined in the report in relation to fencing, a motion detecting camera and cutting back of bushes, as well as improved lighting.

Members stated that the service charge for residents for the camera was not a small charge as they were pensioners and Mr. Mitchener stated that the cost would now be met by OVH.

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RESOLVED:

That Mr. Mitchener be thanked for his report and that the three Ward Councillors be invited to a meeting to discuss any problem areas

55. PROPOSED TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS - WASHINGTON PARADE BOOTLE

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on a proposed Traffic Regulation Order (TRO) for Washington Parade, the effect of which would be to introduce "At any Time" restrictions and a taxi rank to the section of Washington Parade North of Marsh Lane, up to the closure point with Hornby Road Bootle.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Traffic Regulation Order shown on the plan in Annex B and set out in the schedules in Annex C to the report be approved; and
- (2) the Traffic Services Manager be authorised to undertake the necessary legal procedures, including those of public consultation and advertising the Council's intention to implement the Orders.

56. PLAYBUILDER PROGRAMME 2009/10 - SOUTH PARK

The Committee considered the report of the Leisure Director on the second phase of the Council's Play Builder Programme 2009/10 and in particular relating to the proposed works for South Park Bootle.

The report indicated that the Council's Play Builder Project Plan, submitted to the Department for Children, Schools and Families, set out how Sefton would provide innovative and stimulating play equipment and landscaping that would facilitate physically active play opportunities for all children, but with particular focus on 8-13 year olds; that whilst the design for the park was currently work in progress, the style of landscaping and type of play structures typically would include:

- landscaped mounding with specimen rocks
- a mixed range of trees and shrubs
- grassed surfacing
- innovative play structures integrated into the landscape
- some original design elements

The report concluded that the works would be tendered in November with a view to a start on site by January 2010; that the landscaping works and play equipment installation would need to be completed by 31 March 2010, and that following a 'settling-in' period, an official opening would be organised in May/June 2010.

Advisory members expressed general concerns with the number of trees being planted and the huge costs involved, i.e. £295,802 and also that the

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use of trees / shrubs needed careful consideration owing to them being damaged and the loss of sight lines when they became too big.

A Member requested that residents be consulted via a presentation and was assured that consultation would take place with residents and local schools.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed play area as part of the second phase of Play Builder works at South Park be approved.

57. LITTER BINS - LINACRE AND DERBY WARDS

Further to Minute No. 42 of the meeting held on 21 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Environmental Protection Director on the fourteen litter bins to be provided in the wards under the Step Clever scheme.

The Chair explained that these bins were to be provided outside specific small businesses as they were funded by the Step Clever scheme. This meant that the Committee was not able to have an input on the siting of the bins, as previously requested.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Environmental Protection Director be noted.

58. POSSIBLE INTRODUCTION OF BYE-LAWS IN RESPECT OF BALL GAMES

Further to Minute No. 5 (10) of the meeting held on 13 July 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Legal Director on the effectiveness of "No Ball Games" signs funded by the Area Committees and the possible alternatives to be investigated, such as the introduction of new bye laws.

Ms. S. Cain, Solicitor, outlined the issues regarding the effectiveness of such signs, commenting on problems with the enforcement of any possible byelaws; the possible agency that would be responsible for enforcement and the difficulties of obtaining successful prosecution.

Members commented that examples could be made and offenders taken to higher courts but the Solicitor informed the meeting that this was not cost effective.

RESOLVED:

That the report of the Legal Director be noted.

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59. BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director which gave an update on available resources and progress to date on those items approved at previous meetings.

RESOLVED:

That the current financial position and progress to date on items previously agreed be noted.

60. PREVIOUS QUESTIONS RAISED IN THE OPEN FORUM

The Committee considered Minute No. 37 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) held on 22 September 2009 on the Children's Home Strategy

Members reported that incorrect information had been given and a Member asked to refer the petition to Ofsted, which had responded to inform him that he had to write to the Local Government Association.

They were concerned that there was insufficient monitoring of the Small Scale Care homes, particularly in view of the possible explosion in demand for such provision and the possible effects of anti social behaviour on residents in the Wards.

The Chair advised that the Member take the matter to the Cabinet Member - Children's Services to discuss the issues around the lack of response.

RESOLVED:

That Mr. Lunt arrange a meeting with the Ward Councillors and that the Director of Children's Services be asked to attend.

61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

RESOLVED:

That in accordance with the agreed programme of meetings for the Area Committee, the next meeting be held on **Monday 11 January 2009 at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle, commencing at 6.30 p.m.**

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2009.

SEFTON EAST PARISHES AREA COMMITTEE

**MEETING HELD AT THE MELLING PRIMARY SCHOOL, WHEELER
DRIVE, MELLING
ON THURSDAY 12TH NOVEMBER, 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Blackburn (in the Chair)
Councillors Byrne, Colbert, Fenton, C Mainey and
Robertson
ALSO PRESENT: Local Advisory Group Members:
Parish Councillors Baldwin and Baker
Town Councillor Walker
6 Members of the Public
1 Member of Merseyside Police

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillors Connell, Howe and S Mainey and Parish Councillor McKeating

44. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

45. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 10 SEPTEMBER 2009

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 10 September 2009, be confirmed as a correct record.

**46. MELLING PARISH REPRESENTATION TO THE AREA
COMMITTEE**

The Committee welcomed Parish Councillor Ron Baker to the meeting, representing Melling Parish Council and as a new nomination in place of Alan Brown who had now resigned in his capacity as a representative to the Sefton East Parishes Area Committee.

RESOLVED

That Mr Brown be written to, in order to thank him for his services to the Area Committee.

47. POLICE ISSUES

Further to Minute No 34 of the meeting held on 10 September 2009, Sergeant Nelson outlined the crime statistics for the Sefton East Parishes area from 10 September 2009 to 11 November 2009; indicating that figures could not be broken down by ward as requested at the previous

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meeting, but were broken down into each area which made up Sefton East, namely Maghull, Melling, Aintree and Lydiate.

Burglary, it was reported, that there had been a 50% increase, a trend shared with neighbouring authorities in Ormskirk and Kirkby; that 39 incidents had been reported – 19 in Maghull; 10 in Melling; 7 in Aintree; and 3 in Lydiate; that 14 out of the 39 incidents reported were unsecured premises and 4 out of the 39 were attempted but unsuccessful forced entry; that these incidents could be attributed to cross border individuals; that Police were tackling the issue by increasing foot patrols, using unmarked cars to monitor traffic around the area; and that mounted police officers would continue to be deployed until the end of the month. Police had also launched operation “Handle” in order to tackle the issue of unsecured premises; indicating that Police had approached 120 homes and of those 53 had left doors unlocked; that anyone who had left their premises unsecured had been contacted and advised on how to improve this; and that Police had made good progress in apprehending some of the offenders.

Thefts from a motor vehicle remained unchanged from last month; in total, 39 incidents had been reported – 20 in Maghull; 10 in Melling; 5 in Aintree and 4 in Lydiate; that 36 of the 39 incidents were due to opportunist offenders stealing valuable items which were on display; 7 of the 39 incidents were due to unsecured vehicles; Police had sent letters to drivers to advise them of how to better secure their vehicle; and that Police had made one significant arrest in relation to this issue.

7 robberies had been reported; 3 in Maghull; 1 in Melling; 1 in Aintree and 2 in Lydiate. It was believed that these were linked and Police had made arrests and were awaiting forensic evidence.

12 incidents of anti social behaviour had been reported 5 in Magull, 2 in Melling, 2 in Aintree and 3 in Lydiate. Police had taken a number of measures to ensure the mitigation of anti social behaviour, particularly on mischief night, Halloween and Guy Fawkes night.

Councillors asked a variety of questions relating to people trying to get into cars on Oakhill Drive; dog fouling and PSCO powers in relation to this; police resources in the Sefton East Parishes area; anti social behaviour reports in the press; police operating operation ‘Handle’ at 11:50pm; parked cars on Rosslyn Avenue and Liverpool South Road. Officers were also thanked for dealing efficiently with a complaint regarding electricity misuse. Sergeant Nelson answered questions and where appropriate agreed to take details of incidents from Members.

48. OPEN FORUM

During the Open Forum the following questions/comments were submitted:

- (a) Mr P. Harper, resident, had been requested by Aintree residents to raise the matter of three litter bins which were previously sited outside the shops on Altway, Aintree Village (opposite the Library), which had been reduced to a single bin due to damage caused by vehicles mounting the pavement when making deliveries and rendering two bins beyond repair; the consequence of which had meant that the single bin would become full, causing litter to be dropped on the floor by some individuals or the contents of the bin falling from the top of the bin. The Committee were requested to reinstate the 2 missing bins as soon as possible.

RESOLVED:

That the necessary processes be instigated to reinstate the two missing bins and funded from the Molyneux Ward Budget.

- (b) Mr Harper also enquired as to whether the Area Committee could make a request of the Sayers shop or impose any condition on the management to site a bin outside or near to its premises and take responsibility to empty the bin.

RESOLVED:

That the Area Committee investigate the possibility of requesting the Sayers shop in Altway to site a bin outside or near their premises; and investigate the possibility of more bins being sponsored by fast food outlets.

49. MAGHULL INTERCHANGE RAILWAY STATION

Further to Minute No 48 of the meeting held on 10 September 2009, Tony McDonagh, Principal Bus Services Officer and Steve Cook, Forward Planning Officer attended the meeting as representatives of Merseytravel to discuss the issue of buses stopping over at Maghull Interchange Railway Station and their impact on parking issues at the railway station.

Mr McDonagh reported that he and his colleagues had inspected the site and there was an issue with buses laying over due to aggregated time, however it would not be possible to change the bus schedule as this would adversely impact on service; nor would it be possible to change layover time; however it would be possible to investigate the layout of the station and enforcement procedures to ensure cars were not parking in the bus lanes.

Councillors asked a number of questions relating to child parking bays; the capacity of service; the proposals for Maghull North Railway station and its planning application; bus services to Maghull Leisure Centre; transport issues to Melling and the possible extension of the 326 bus service. Mr McDonagh and Mr Cook answered all questions, adding that due to the Maghull North Railway Station proposal, an overall review of the transport

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service within Sefton East would be undertaken before installation of the station.

RESOLVED:

That Merseytravel investigate and suggest any improvement of the Maghull Railway Station designated parking.

50. REVIEW OF PARKING RESTRICTIONS - MAGHULL STATION AREA

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on the current situation following the waiting restrictions to combat all day parking in residential roads in the vicinity of Maghull Railway Station, highlighting comments from local residents on parking conditions, the success in the reduction of parking by commuters in the area and seeking approval for a recommendation as a way forward as commuters were parking in adjacent streets.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted;
- (2) further consultation with residents of Hurst Road, Daisy Mount and Spring Gardens be approved as detailed in the report; and
- (3) initial consultation with residents of Melling Lane, Heathfield Road, Ashleigh Road, Molyneux Road and Poverty Lane be approved.

51. PROPOSED JUNCTION IMPROVEMENT - PRESCOT ROAD / BANK LANE, MELLING

Further to Minute No 36 of the meeting held 10 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director regarding the proposed junction improvement at Prescott Road/Bank Lane; and indicating that a recent public consultation exercise on the matter had been undertaken in which 22 responses had been received of the 37 potential respondents, with a 59% return rate, 13 residents were in favour of the scheme and 9 were against; and seeking approval for progression of the proposed scheme as outlined in the report and upon plans as in Annex B.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the results of the consultation exercise be noted; and
- (2) the proposed roundabout at the junction of Prescott Road and Bank Lane, subject to financial approval by Cabinet Member – Technical Services, be approved for progression.

52. DOG FOULING AROUND HUDSON SCHOOL

The Committee considered the report of Councillor Howe regarding the receipt of a petition from residents of the Alt Estate, particularly Woodley Road, Moorland Road and Moorhey Road, endorsed by Councillor Howe.

The petition on dog fouling around Hudson School indicated that PSCOs, whilst having the delegated powers to penalise dog owners, were under utilising this power; requested Sefton Council or Maghull Town Council to agree a way forward to tackle the issue and outlined a number of suggested resolutions.

Rob Monks, Principal Environmental Health Officer from the Environmental Protection Department addressed the Committee and reported that complaint data from April 2009 to date indicated that 302 complaints had been received from Sefton residents regarding dog fouling with 15 from the Sefton East Parishes area; that based on this data, the 3 dog wardens at his disposal would be allocated to those areas with the highest incidents of reported dog fouling; that only 5 complaints had been received from the Alt Estate prior to the petition; that a meeting had been held to tackle the issue on Monday 8 November 2009 resulting in the implementation of stencils, distribution of leaflets, that the Alt Estate be cleared of current dog foul and PSCOs patrol the estate under 'Operation Collar' to ensure enforcement of any offence and by stopping any one with dogs to ensure they were carrying bags to clear away dog foul.

Councillors and members of the public asked a variety of questions relating to: data used by the Public Health Department; public complaints; contact details for the dog warden; the definition of offences relating to dog fouling and the powers of dog wardens; publicity of the environmental health department and naming and shaming offenders.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Legal Director in consultation with the Environmental Protection Director be requested to investigate whether any by-laws could be introduced to ensure that dog owners carry plastic bags on them and are visible when walking dogs; and
- (2) Councillors encourage members of the public to report any persistent offenders of dog fouling.

53. A TOURISM VISION FOR SEFTON 2020

Further to Minute No 22 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) meeting held on 15 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Head of Tourism on the progress made in relation to the tourism strategy as outlined in "A Tourism Vision for Sefton 2020"; indicating the Tourism Department's proposals for implementation across Sefton; and indicating

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that the Committee note a shift of focus from traditional tourism centres, such as Southport, to initiatives affecting the wider visitor economy.

Councillors asked a variety of questions relating to: Aintree Racecourse and the surrounding area; communication between the Tourism Department and parish Councils; financial contributions of business to the Sefton area; the potential of developments on waterways within the borough and the Frank Hornby Trust.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Tourism respond directly to Ward Councillors regarding their concerns raised.

54. OVERVIEW YOUTH PROVISION REPORT

Further to Minute No 40 of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services), the Committee considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children's Services on the overview of youth provision in Sefton; that indicated targeted provision available for young people in the Sefton by area, excluding private sector providers; that there were a number of targeted provisions delivered by Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and the Local Authority, which were supporting vulnerable or socially excluded young people; and that the report had been referred to the Committee for information and discussion.

John Philips, Area Manager, Children's Services presented the report; Councillors shared information indicating inaccuracies or omissions from the report and asked a variety of questions relating to: Maghull Coffee Bar; Aintree Youth Centre; funding streams for youth activities and provision; and the delivery of youth engagement activity across Sefton, particularly the emphasis of the national curriculum in after school youth activity.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the contents of the report be noted; and
- (2) the Strategic Director of Children's Services be requested to produce a report for the Area Committee outlining the roles and responsibilities of elected members in the operation of Aintree Youth Centre.

55. PROPOSED SPEED RESTRICTION REDUCTIONS - PRESCOT ROAD, MAGHULL LANE, CUNSCOUGH LANE AND M58 MOTORWAY ROUNDABOUT, MELLING

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on the proposed speed restrictions at Prescott Road, Maghull Lane, Cuncough Lane and the M58 Motorway

roundabout, Melling and seeking approval to reduce the speed limit on these routes.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals to reduce the speed limits on A506/B5197 Prescott Road / Cunsough Lane, Maghull Lane and at the roundabout of junction 1, Maghull Lane / M58 motorway as outlined in this report be approved; and
- (2) the necessary legal procedures, including that of public consultation and advertising of the Council's intention to implement the Orders be approved, so that the measures can be implemented early in the New Year.

56. PROPOSED PEDESTRIAN REFUGES – LIVERPOOL ROAD NORTH, DODDS LANE AND DAMFIELD LANE, MAGHULL

Further to Minute No 25 of the Cabinet Member Technical Services meeting held on 15 July 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on the proposed Pedestrian Refuges for Liverpool Road North, Dodds Lane and Damfield Lane, Maghull; seeking approval of progression of pedestrian refuges on the above mentioned roads; and indicating that in order to comply with Department for Transport advice, signalised pedestrian crossing facilities should be provided at locations where PV^2 is exceeded (P =number of pedestrians crossing and V = the volume of traffic).

With the exception of the Crosby by-pass, the remaining 53 sites surveyed did not meet the threshold in order to justify the installation of a signalised pedestrian refuge, however the Technical Services department proposed to use the allocation included within the 2009/10 Capital Programme to suggest eight non-signalised refuges, based on the priority of the location using the above formula.

Councillors asked a variety of questions relating to: the potential for the installation of a refuge on Northway (A59); a mini round about on Damfield Lane; speed humps in Melling and the eyeline of pedestrians of traffic on Dodds Lane into Liverpool Road North. Steve Johnson, Team Leader, Transportation and Development, answered questions, and agreed to address the issues raised.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the design and implementation of the pedestrian refuges on Liverpool Road North, Dodds Lane and Damfield Lane, Maghull, subject to a positive public consultation, be progressed;
- (2) issues with pedestrians' line of sight with regard to traffic from Liverpool Road North from the refuge at Dodds Lane be investigated; and

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- (3) issues relating to pedestrian and cycle crossings along the A59 throughout the Sefton East Parishes area be investigated.

57. TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS - CENTRAL SQUARE, MAGHULL

The Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director on the proposed introduction of Traffic Regulation Orders the effect of which would ensure the full enforcement of the 2 hour limit on waiting at Central Square, Maghull; indicating that two options were being investigated to achieve this aim; that the first option was to introduce a new Traffic Regulation Order which would designate Maghull Central Square as an Off-Street Car Park, but would be dependent on the exact status of the Central Square as a highway and if the existing signing and lining would be sufficient to allow such an order to be enforced; that the second option would retain the existing Order but amend the current lines and signs to allow full enforcement to take place (this option was being costed as a significant number of the signs and lines would have to be renewed to make this option feasible); that the Committee be requested note the options being pursued; and that further update reports would be submitted to a future meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the report be noted and that further update reports would be submitted.

58. WADDICAR LANE DEVELOPMENTS, MELLING

Further to Minute No 34 of the meeting held 10 September 2008, the Committee considered the report of Councillor Robertson which requested an update from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services regarding the Satinwood Crescent development by Morris Homes and Persimmon Homes.

A report from the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services outlining an update on the situation was tabled indicating that the outstanding sewer connection required was completed in April 2009; that as a result of the connection being made, a site meeting was arranged between Sefton Council and the developers and a list of remedial works had been agreed, however, remedial works which were required at the pumping station in The Village development remained outstanding and had resulted in United Utilities not adopting the new sewers; that there was an ongoing dispute between the developers regarding who was responsible for the payment of fees in relation to this matter; and that further meetings would be arranged between all concerned to finally have the adoption of the highways progressed.

Discussions ensued regarding the matter and Councillors and members of the public outlined a variety of concerns regarding the issue.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Assistant Director Neighbourhoods arrange a site meeting with appropriate officers, relevant members of the public and Ward Councillors and thereafter report back to a future Committee meeting; and
- (2) the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director be requested to submit an update report regarding the issue of Waddicarr Lane Developments to each Area Committee.

59. BUDGET MONITORING

Further to Minute No 37 of the meeting held 10 September 2009, the Committee considered the report of the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director that indicated the balance available for the allocation for 2009/10 budget was as follows.

	Balance b/f £	2009/10 Budget £	2009/10 Litterbins £	2009/10 Street Signs £	2009/10 Available £	2009/10 Commitments £	Balance Available £
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SEPAC-wide by Ward							
Molyneux	1,047.00	1,767.00	-	-	2,814.00	-	2,814.00
Park	589.00	1,767.00	-	-	2,356.00	-	2,356.00
Sudell	2,211.00	1,766.00	-	-	3,977.00	-	1,277.00

Parish/Town Councils							
Aintree	-	3,860.00	-	-	3,860.00	3,860.00	-
Lydiate	3,610.00	3,610.00	-	-	7,220.00	-	7,220.00
Maghull	-	12,035.00	-	-	12,035.00	-	12,035.00
Melling	-	1,520.00	-	-	1,520.00	-	1,520.00
Sefton	175.00	175.00	-	-	350.00	-	350.00

Litterbins by Ward							
Molyneux	49.00	-	557.00	-	606.00	380.00	226.00
Park	779.00	-	557.00	-	1,336.00	1,140.00	196.00
Sudell	749.00	-	557.00	-	1,306.00	-	1,306.00

Street Signs by Ward							
Molyneux	-	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Park	-	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00
Sudell	-	-	-	1,000.00	1,000.00	-	1,000.00

Total	9,209.00	26,500.00	1,671.00	3,000.00	40,380.00	8,080.00	32,300.00
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RESOLVED: That

- (1) the balance of the budget available for each Parish/Town Council from the general budget and to each Ward from SEPAC-wide budget allocations for the rest of the year be noted;
- (2) the balances of the litter bin budget for each Ward be noted;
- (3) an allocation of £760 be made for the replacement of 2 litterbins at Altway shops, (opposite the library) from the Molyneux Ward budget;
- (4) an allocation of £380 be made for the placement of a litterbin at the top of Hunt Road from the Sudell Ward budget;
- (5) an allocation of £50 be made for a base of a litterbin to be re-sited from Prescott Road, Melling to outside Natwest Bank, Old Roan shops;
- (6) an allocation of £200 be made for a post mounted bin at Prescott Road from the Molyneux Ward budget;
- (7) an allocation be made for a no through road sign for Knutsford Walk, Lydiate, from the Park Ward budget;
- (8) an allocation of £80 be made for additional street signs from the Molyneux Ward budget;
- (9) an allocation be made for a bin from the Park Ward budget to be placed on the junction of Meadway and the trans-pennine trail footpath and to be emptied everyday; and
- (10) a contribution of £2,000, derived from three equal proportions of each Sefton East Ward budget, to provide Christmas Lights in Maghull Central Square be approved.

60. CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO PREVIOUS AGENDA ITEMS

The Committee considered correspondence relating to items raised from the previous meeting.

RESOLVED:

That the correspondence be noted.

61. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

In accordance with the agreed Schedule of Meetings for this Area Committee, the next meeting will be held on Thursday 21 January 2009 at Maghull Town Hall, Hall Lane, Maghull commencing at 18:30.