Public Document Pack





MEETING: CABINET

DATE: Thursday 30th September, 2010

TIME: 10.00 am

VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

Member

Councillor

Robertson (Chair)

Booth

Brodie - Browne

P. Dowd Fairclough Maher Moncur Parry Porter Tattersall

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Steve Pearce

Head of Committee and Member Services

Telephone: 0151 934 2046 Fax: 0151 934 2034

E-mail: steve.pearce@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.

This page is intentionally left blank.

AGENDA

Items marked with an * involve key decisions

	<u>Item</u> No.	Subject/Author(s)	Wards Affected	
	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		(Pages 7 -
		Minutes of the meeting held on 2 September 2010		16)
*	4.	Transformation Programme Update, Prioritisation and Strategic Budget Review	All Wards;	(Pages 17 - 26)
		Report of the Chief Executive		
	5.	Consultation on Formula Grant Distribution	All Wards;	(Pages 27 -
		Report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy		48)
	6.	Budget Monitoring Report 2010/11 - Position to August 2010	All Wards;	(Pages 49 - 54)
		Report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy		
*	7.	The Green Belt Study	All Wards;	(Pages 55 -
		Report of the Planning and Economic Development Director		66)
*	8.	Further Fordham Research Advice about Housing Matters in Sefton	All Wards;	(Pages 67 - 82)
		Report of the Planning and Economic Development Director		

9.	Safeguarding Employment Land Supplementary Planning Document - Draft for Public And Stakeholder Consultation	All Wards;	(Pages 83 - 114)
	Report of the Planning and Economic Development Director		
10.	Proposed Amendment to the Overarching Development Agreements with Bellway Homes Limited and Keepmoat Limited.	Derby; Linacre; Litherland;	(Pages 115 - 118)
	Report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director		
11.	Reduction in Housing Market Renewal Funding by The Homes And Communities Agency in the Current Financial Year (2010- 11)	Church; Derby; Linacre; Litherland; Netherton and Orrell;	(Pages 119 - 126)
	Report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director		
12.	Plugged-in-Places Programme - Update Joint report of the Planning and Economic Development Director and Environmental and Technical Services Director	All Wards;	(Pages 127 - 134)
13.	Protocol for Lifting the Moratorium on the Siting of Mobile Phone Masts on Council Land	All Wards;	(Pages 135 - 148)
	Report of the Environmental and Technical Services Director		
14.	Capital Investment for Children Subject to Special Guardianship Arrangements	All Wards;	(Pages 149 - 152)
	Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families		
15.	Representation on the North Western Shadow Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	All Wards;	(Pages 153 - 156)
	Report of the Assistant Chief Executive		
16.	Cabinet Member Reports	All Wards;	
	a) Cabinet Member - Children's Services (Pages 157 - 158)	
	b) Cabinet Member - Communities (Pages	159 - 162)	

- c) Cabinet Member Corporate Services (Pages 163 168)
- d) Cabinet Member Environmental (Pages 169 172)
- e) Cabinet Member Health and Social Care (Pages 173 174)
- f) Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism (Pages 175 180)
- g) Cabinet Member Performance and Governance (Pages 181 184)
- h) Cabinet Member Regeneration (Pages 185 186)
- i) Cabinet Member Technical Services (Pages 187 188)



THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY 14 SEPTEMBER, 2010. MINUTE NO'S. 96 (4), 97, 98 AND 99 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

CABINET

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Robertson (in the Chair)

Councillors Booth, Brodie - Browne, P. Dowd, Fairclough, Maher, Moncur, Porter and Tattersall

92. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Parry.

93. URGENT BUSINESS

The Chair reported that he had agreed that the Cabinet would consider the item on the proposed closure of the North Sefton Magistrates Court and Southport County Court (Minute No.104) in view of the urgent need to submit representations on the consultation exercise to HM Courts Service.

94. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

Member	Minute No.	Reason	Action
Councillor Brodie-Browne	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - He is the Chair of the Governors of Farnborough Road Schools referred to in Annex 4 of the report and the charity he works for is a potential purchaser of services from the scheme referred to in Annex 21 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Councillor Maher	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - His wife works at Aintree Davenhill Primary School which is referred to in Annex 6 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon

Agenda Item 3
CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

Councillor Porter	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - She is the Chair of Governors of Merefield Special School referred to in Annex 7 and 8 of the report and a Governor of Shoreside Primary School referred to in Annex 8 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Councillor Robertson	97 - Capital Programme Review	Personal - He is a Member of Lydiate Parish Council and Maghull Town Council which have applied for funding from the scheme referred to in Annex 3 of the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Councillor Fairclough	101 - Treasury Management 2011/12 - First Quarter Update	Personal - His employer is referred to in the report	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon

95. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting held on 5 August 2010 be confirmed as a correct record, subject to the amendment of Minute 71 (Declarations of Interest) by indicating that Councillor Brodie-Browne left the meeting during the discussion on Minute No. 81 and did not vote on the item.

96. PRIORITISATION AND STRATEGIC BUDGET REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 65 of the meeting held on 8 July 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on the development of a prioritisation and budget review process related to the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan and the 2011/12 budget.

The report indicated that as part of the process, six strategic/organisation design project work streams had been identified to close the overall savings gap required by the Council which would have a senior management lead officer and be overseen by an Elected Member Group comprising of a Lead Cabinet Member, a second Cabinet Member (or nominee) and a Scrutiny Chair/Labour spokesperson to ensure all party representation.

The report also set out a number of savings options for progression following an initial review of the outstanding Strategic Budget Review Options and other potential savings.

This is a Key Decision and was included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report, be noted;
- (2) approval be given to the establishment of the identified Strategic/ Organisation Design project work-streams, together with the Lead Officer support and Elected Member Overseeing Groups;
- it be noted that officers intend to present further tactical/operational budget savings options to future meetings of the Cabinet, as the prioritisation process develops, which will work towards the closure of the 2011/12-2013/14 budget gap; and
- (4) the Council be recommended to give approval to the progression of the savings options identified in paragraph 8 of the report to achieve full year budget savings of £2.4m in 2011/12.

97. CAPITAL PROGRAMME REVIEW

Further to Minute No. 81 of the meeting held on 5 August 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director - Communities which provided further details of uncommitted capital schemes which do not have ring-fenced grant monies.

RESOLVED: That the Council be recommended to give approval to the following action being taken on the uncommitted capital schemes:

<u>Sch</u>	neme Name	Recommended Action
1.	Primary Capital Strategy External Consultancy	Release uncommitted resources
2.	Framework Contracting - External Consulting	Release uncommitted resources
3.	Fair Play Playbuilder Programme	Deferred pending clarification from the Department for Education
4.	Extended Schools	Approved for completion

Agenda Item 3 CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

5.	CS IT (Single Child Record)	Approved for completion and a report providing further details of the Scheme be submitted to the Cabinet Member - Children's Services
6.	Children's Services Modernisation Schemes	Approved for completion
7.	Schools Access Initiative Schemes	Approved for completion
8.	New Pupil Places Schemes	Approved for completion
9.	DDA - Disabled Adaptations to Council premises	Reduce budget provision to £30k for emergency use and the remaining uncommitted resources be released
10.	Corporate Services Health and Safety Programme	Approved for completion
11.	Energy Efficiency Measures	Approved for completion
12.	Legal Department ICT Programme	Release uncommitted resources and Officers be requested to look at viable alternative options
13.	IT Equipment Server Replacement	Deferred pending the details of the Government Connect requirements
14.	E Govt Geographical Info Service	Release uncommitted resources
15.	IT Members ICT and Mobile Technology	Deferred pending the views of the Members ICT Steering Group on the specification for the equipment and the appropriate budgetary amount required
16.	Pathfinder Fund Programme	Approval to the expenditure of £10k for the completion of the project at Lifeboat Road, Formby and the remaining uncommitted resources be released
17.	Public Conveniences	Release uncommitted resources
18.	Gypsy and Traveller Site	Release uncommitted resources
19.	Waste Infrastructure Grant	Approved for completion

CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

20.	Health and Social Care IT Strategy	Deferred pending further report. No contractual commitment to be entered into
21.	Mental Health SCE (C) 2008/2011	Release uncommitted resources
22.	Social Care SCE (C) (2008/2011)	Release uncommitted resources
23.	Adult Social Care IT Infrastructure 2008/2011	Deferred pending further report. No contractual commitment to be entered into
24.	Capital Investment for Transformation on Adult Social Care	Deferred pending further report. No contractual commitment to be entered into
25.	Derby Park Refurbishment	Deferred to ascertain if alternative external funding can be provided
26.	Repairs to Park Lodges	Reduce provision to £18k for decent homes provision and a further report be submitted on other aspects of the scheme
27.	Hesketh Park Office/Visitor Centre	Deferred
28.	Southport Sports Park Contribution	Deferred pending the outcome of the funding bids to the Football Foundation and KGV College
29.	Botanic Gardens Museum roof/lift	Reduce budget provision to £25k for mothballing works to the building. Release remaining uncommitted resources
30.	Kings Gardens, Southport	Approved for completion
31.	Southport Tourist Information Centre Relocation	Approved for completion
32.	Leeds Liverpool Canal	Release uncommitted resources
33.	Southport Commerce Park 3rd Phase Development	Deferred pending the outcome of external funding bids

Agenda Item 3 CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

34.	Home Improvement Grants 2010/11 Approvals	Approved for completion
35.	Landlord Accreditation/HMOs	Approved for completion
36.	Housing Act Works in Default	Approved for completion
37.	Older Person's Housing Strategy - extra care provision	Deferred pending further details of a scheme and the funding proposals
38.	Contribution to HMRI	Approved for completion
39.	Gypsy and Traveller Accommodation	Deferred pending further details of Government funding proposals
40.	Safer Stronger Communities Fund	Approved for completion
41.	Thornton Switch Island Link Road	Approved for completion
42.	Local Safety Schemes	Approved for completion
43.	Cycling Programme	Approved for completion
44.	Carriageway Maintenance	Approved for completion
45.	Ledson's Canal Bridge	Approved for completion
46.	Millers Bridge	Approved for completion

98. PROPER OFFICER AND MONITORING OFFICER FUNCTIONS

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive on the proposed appointment of officers to undertake the Monitoring Officer role and the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to give approval to:

(1) the appointment of the Assistant Director (Strategic Development & Management), Leisure Services as the Proper Officer for the registration of Births, Marriages and Deaths under the provisions of the Local government Act 1972 and Registration Services Act 1953 and the regulations made thereunder; and

(2) the appointment of the Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services as the Monitoring Officer pursuant to Section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989 with effect from 3 September 2010 until such time as the Head of Corporate Legal Services returns to work following a period of maternity leave.

99. MEMBERS' ALLOWANCES

Further to Minute No. 74 of the meeting held on 5 August 2010, the Cabinet considered the joint report of the Director of Corporate Services and Assistant Chief Executive on the email consultation which had been held with Members of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the recommendations made by the Leaders of the three Political Groups on proposed reductions to the Scheme of Members' Allowances.

RESOLVED:

That the Council be recommended to

- (1) note the views of the Independent Remuneration Panel on the proposals;
- (2) approve the recommendations made by the Cabinet on 5 August 2010; for implementation with effect from 2 September 2010; and
- (3) give approval to the continuation of any increases from 2011/12 being linked to any National Joint Council (NJC) for Local Government employees pay awards.

100. THE LOCAL LAND CHARGES (AMENDMENT) RULES 2010

Further to Minute No. 204 of the meeting held on 25 November 2009 and Minute No. 26 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Corporate Services held on 1 September 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Assistant Chief Executive on the publication and enactment of the Local Land Charges (Amendment) Rules 2010, which have revoked charges relating to personal searches of the Land Charges Register.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) that the implications of the enactment of the above Rules on fee income be noted as a budget issue in this Financial year and future years;
- (2) the income targets for the Land Charges Section for the current year be noted; and
- (3) it be noted that officers will submit a further report on a fee charging regime for Land Searches, following a review of the current charging position, with the aim of bringing charges in line with the

spirit of European legislation and with any Local Government Association guidance issued to Local Authorities.

101. TREASURY MANAGEMENT 2011/12 - FIRST QUARTER UPDATE

The Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy which provided an update on the Treasury Management Activities undertaken in the first quarter of 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

102. INFORMED ASSESSMENT OF THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN SEFTON

Further to Minute No. 40 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Regeneration held on 1 September 2010, the Cabinet considered a joint report of the Planning and Economic Development Director and Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director which provided an update on the comments received during consultation on the draft Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing; and sought approval for the final Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing as part of the evidence base for the Local Development Framework, taking into account consultation comments.

This was a Key Decision and was included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the comments received during the consultation process into the draft study and the responses to the comments be noted; and
- (2) the Final Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing be approved to inform the emerging Core Strategy for Sefton.

103. THE BUILDING (LOCAL AUTHORITY CHARGES) REGULATIONS 2010

Further to Minute No. 60 of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 18 August 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Planning and Economic Development Director which provided details of the enactment of the Building (Local Authority Charges) Regulations 2010 and the need for the Council to make a new Scheme of Building Regulations Charges with effect from 1 October 2010.

RESOLVED:

That the proposed Scheme of Charges under the new 2010 Building Regulations for operation from 1 October 2010 be approved.

104. CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS TO CLOSE SOUTHPORT (NORTH SEFTON) MAGISTRATES' COURT AND SOUTHPORT COUNTY COURT

Further to Minute No. 54 of the meeting of the Southport Area Committee held on 1 September 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Legal Services on the consultation exercise been undertaken by Her Majesty's Courts Service on the proposed closure of North Sefton (Southport) Magistrates' Court and Southport County Court. A copy of the resolution of the Southport Area Committee on this issue was circulated at the meeting.

The report indicated that the proposals set out in the consultation papers were:

- (a) to continue to operate a Magistrates' Court in Bootle (South Sefton) but to close Southport (North Sefton) Magistrates' Court and to merge the North and South Sefton Local Justice areas to create a single Sefton Local Justice area; and
- (b) To close Southport County Court and to transfer the bulk of its workload to the Civil and Family Justice Centre in Liverpool, with work in relation to some parishes to the north of Southport being transferred to Preston County Court.

The consultation which was to run until 15 September 2010 invited comments on the closure of the courts

RESOLVED:

That the resolution of the Southport Area Committee be endorsed and the Head of Corporate Legal Services be requested to submit the following response to Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS):

- (1) "The Council is strongly of the view that it is in the Community's interest to maintain a viable Magistrates' and County Court presence in Southport.
- (2) The Council understands the issues regarding the case for the Court Service vacating the current building in Hoghton Street, but the Council believes that there is a strong case for the County Court to be relocated to the Magistrates' Court, which would still save the £160,000 in premises related costs referred to in the consultation document. The Council request that this be further investigated and provided as a response to the consultation.

Agenda Item 3
CABINET- THURSDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER, 2010

- (3) North Sefton Magistrates' Court is situated in an art deco building located between Southport's Police and Fire Authority Stations. The Council requires confirmation that consideration has been given to the ongoing use of the building should the Magistrates' Court be relocated.
- (4) The Council is of the opinion that before any decision is made, HMCS be requested to provide a detailed analysis of the on-going financial implications of maintaining an empty building, including security, heating, lighting and maintenance costs.
- (5) In the event that HMCS make a decision to relocate the court buildings from Southport, this Council would prefer that the County Court be relocated to Liverpool rather than Preston".

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 30th September 2010

SUBJECT: Transformation Programme Update

Prioritisation and Strategic Budget Review

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Margaret Carney

Chief Executive

CONTACT OFFICER: Jan McMahon

Head of Transformation

0151 934 4431

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To report the progress of the Transformation Programme, Prioritisation and Strategic Budget Review and identify actions that can be taken now to help reduce the 2011/12 – 2013/14 budget gap.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To support timely decision making and allow early actions to be taken to help reduce the 2011/12 - 2013/14 budget gap.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- i) note the VER/VR progress made to date as part of the Transformation Programme
- ii) endorse the Prioritisation/Identification process related to external funding detailed in Annex B
- iii) note that due diligence is taking place with regard to reviewing fixed term and temporary employment contracts
- iv) endorse the commencement of negotiations with the independent nursing home and domiciliary care sectors with a view reaching an agreement on the payment of inflation for 2011/2012
- v) agree that the Adult Social Care Director undertake a review of the charging policy relating to the provision of Adult Social Care
- vi) agree that the Adult Social Care Director undertake a review of the thresholds associated with packages of care managed by the Community Care Panel
- vii) agree that officers commence a consultation process with employees and Trade Unions to secure an agreement on the Terms & Conditions issues outlined in paragraph 4.3, including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if appropriate
- viii) note the intention to present further tactical/operational budget savings options to future meetings of Cabinet, as the prioritisation process develops, to work towards the closure of the 2011/12 2013/14 budget gap.

KEY DECISION: No. This report is not a key decision in itself but forms part

of the process for setting the Council's budget and Council

Tax.

FORWARD PLAN: Yes. Setting the Council's budget and Council Tax is

included on the forward plan.

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the call-in period for this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not to agree the issues identified will increase budgetary pressures on the Council.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: The options and actions proposed in this report will

support the Council's budget setting process for 2011/12 and seek to reduce the currently predicted MTFP budget

gap of ~£53m over the period 2011/12 – 2013/14.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Specific Capital Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded from External Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N		When?	1	1
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Formal budgetary decisions must be made at full

Council.

Risk Assessment: Early decision making in relation to budget issues will

help to mitigate the impact of the consequential changes by giving sufficient time to undertaken the required

formal consultation / notification processes.

Asset Management: None

<u>Agenda Item 4</u>

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Strategic Director Health & Well Being,

Strategic Director Children, Schools & Families,

Strategic Director Communities,

Safeguarding, Early Intervention & Prevention Services Director,

Assistant Chief Executive

Head of Personnel,

Head of Finance.

Assistant Director Operations.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

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

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

Report to Cabinet 3rd December 2009 *Transformation Programme Update - Strategic Budget Review*

Report to Cabinet 8th July 2010 Strategic Budget Review and Budget 2010/11

Report to Cabinet 5th August 2010 Consultation Framework on Budget Reductions

Report to Cabinet 2nd September 2010 Prioritisation And Strategic Budget Review

1. Background

- 1.1. At the 3rd December 2009 meeting Cabinet recommended to Council that "the Chief Executive be given delegated authority to agree to any further Expressions of Interest for Voluntary Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy."
 - This recommendation was accepted by Council on the same date.
- 1.2. At the 8th July 2010 meeting Cabinet received a report entitled "Strategic Budget Review and Budget 2010/11" that outlined the impact of recent Government announcements, which resulted in a £7.145m reduction of grants for Sefton in the current financial year, 2010/11. The report also updated the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) to take account of the measures included in the Government's Emergency Budget, particularly the announcements of a 2 year freeze in Council Tax and the Government's intention to reduce public expenditure by an average 25% over the next 3 years. The overall impact of these measures was to increase the predicted 3 year MTFP budget gap from ~£30m to ~£53m.
- 1.3 At the 5th August 2010 meeting Cabinet received a report entitled "Consultation Framework on Budget Reductions", and resolved that
 - (1) the consultation frameworks set out in the report be approved; and
 - (2) specific proposals be submitted to the Cabinet once the scope and impact of budget reductions on staff and service delivery is known.
- 1.4 This report outlined frameworks for consulting both with staff and with the public on changes to service delivery, set in the context of the significant reductions in central Government grant to local authorities. The Government have already made decisions to reduce public sector spending in this financial year and in future years. More information will be available after the Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) in October.
- 1.5 When the Council has been able to analyse the CSR impacts locally, it will be important to communicate its impacts to the public. Any subsequent decisions taken will need to be open and transparent but, due to the pace of change, where significant reductions in services are identified, or where services cease, consultation with those staff and service users directly affected will have to take place quickly. The Chief Executive will ensure that the media are briefed throughout the process to ensure that decisions made are widely communicated.
- 1.6 At the 2nd September 2010 meeting Cabinet received a report entitled "Prioritisation and Strategic Budget Review" and resolved to
 - i) note the report,
 - ii) approve the establishment of the identified Strategic / Organisation Design project work-streams, together with the Lead Officer support and Elected Member Overseeing Groups,
 - iii) note the intention to present further tactical/operational budget savings options to future meetings of Cabinet, as the prioritisation process develops, which will work towards the closure of the 2011/12 2013/14 budget gap,
 - iv) recommend to Council that the savings options identified in paragraph 8, to achieve full year budget savings of £2.4m in 2011/12 be progressed.

The recommendation was accepted by Council on the same date.

2. <u>Transformation Programme Update</u>

- 2.1. The 6 Strategic / Organisational Design project work-streams ("Big Ideas") identified above are now progressing and resourced as described in Annex A. The projects sit within the reporting structure of the Transformation Programme and the Project Managers meet on a regular basis.
- 2.2. All project Lead Officers have met with their overseeing Elected Member group.
- 2.3. To support the Prioritisation process the Transformation Team completed an organisational mapping exercise in conjunction with colleagues from all departments. This enabled the Team to develop a snapshot of the organisation in terms of reporting lines and service delivery. The output of this process is also being used to review existing delegated authorities.
- 2.4. As stated above clear communications, both internally with staff, Trade Unions & Elected Members and externally with partners and the media, continue to be essential if progress is to be made. Presenting regular, consistent and informative messages to staff updating them on the rationale for the Transformation programme and the progress made, is critical to achieving the changes required. Staff communications continue to be provided via a number of channels including, but not limited to, the Strategic Leadership briefings, senior management meetings and workshops, "Informing Sefton" Intranet page, departmental and team meetings.
- 2.5. Staff are able to make suggestions or ask questions relating to the Transformation Programme via e-mail, phone and written correspondence. Responses to Frequently Asked Questions are published on the Intranet and made available to those without access to this facility. Alternative arrangements are made for staff who do not have access to the Intranet.
- 2.6. Transformation Programme progress is reported to Trade Unions on a regular basis.
- 2.7. In September 2009 and June 2010 exercises were undertaken seeking Expressions of Interest for Voluntary Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy (VER/VR). The table below details the current position of received expressions of interest -

Number of Expressions of Interest approved by Cabinet December 2009	
Number of Expressions of Interest approved by Chief Executive (since 3 rd	
December 2009)	
Number of Expressions of Interest declined since September 2009	
Number of Expressions of Interest decision pending	
Number of Expressions of Interest withdrawn by employee	9

2.8. The subsequent VER/VRs agreed have resulted in the following savings being generated:-

2010/2011	£2,488,855 (reflected in setting current year's budget)	
2011/2012	£497,072 (full year impacts of VER/VRs agreed since 1/4/2010)	
2012/2013	£25,110	
Total	£3,011,037	

2.9. The opportunity to express an interest in VER/VR remains open to the workforce.

- 2.10. Cabinet is asked to endorse the VER/VR progress to date as part of the Transformation Programme.
- 2.11 A report on the Capital Programme was presented to Cabinet/Council on 2 September 2010 which identified agreed schemes which had not, as yet, been contractually committed. Cabinet considered each scheme with a view to either agreeing progression to completion or to ceasing further work on the scheme and releasing the uncommitted resources, either prudential borrowing or un-ringfenced grant.

2.12 This review resulted in the release of

- £699,000 in the current year with a further £48,000 in 2011/12 of prudential borrowing requirement, which has a revenue budget impact of £56,000 in 2011/12 rising to £60,000 in 2012/13, (this will be updated in the MTFP) and
- £421,000 of un-ringfenced grants, which could have a revenue budget impact of up to £35,000 as it is intended to use these resources to offset existing prudential borrowing for committed capital schemes. There is still the possibility of Government clawback in relation to these grants and formal amendment to the MTFP will not be progressed until that issue has been resolved.

3. **Prioritisation**

- 3.1. The Council will need to continue to achieve efficiencies or downsize in lower priority areas and this process will need to be effectively managed to ensure service impacts are minimised whilst achieving sustainable savings.
- 3.2. As part of the next stage in determining Council priorities, consideration is being given to those service areas underpinned by external funding. By its nature this funding is additional to the Council's core budgets and is generally applied to achieve a specific set of outcomes.
- 3.3. In developing a prioritisation process it has been generally accepted that these external funding streams are at the highest risk of being reduced, or ceased, by the Government or the sponsoring organisation. The funding streams have often been applied to achieve specific (previous) Government priorities/policy objectives which may no longer be considered a priority by the current Government. This does not mean that the activity is automatically a lower priority for the Council and this will need to be assessed as part of the process.
- 3.4. In order to effectively plan for this the prioritisation/identification process for externally funded activities described in Annex B is being proposed.
- 3.5. This process may reveal areas for savings not previously identified or discussed.
- 3.6. All activity funded externally will be assessed on its priority for the Council going forward. If the activity is deemed to be critical to core business then it will all go into the second phase of prioritisation with the rest of the Council's activities.
- 3.7. Cabinet is asked to endorse this process and note that due diligence is taking place with regard to reviewing fixed term and temporary employment contracts.

4. Strategic & Tactical Savings Options

4.1. Procurement & Commissioning

- a) The re-tender of the Office Supplies contract is now complete. The savings associated are currently being identified and will be reported to Cabinet once confirmed.
- b) The Adult Social Care Director will be progressing re-negotiations with New Directions in relation to contract provisions. All commissioning/contracts will be evaluated to ensure they are providing value for money as part of the "Big Idea" review of services provided by the Third Sector.
- c) The Head of Personnel is about to commence the review of the contractual provision with providers to the Health Unit.
- d) The Operations Director is about commence negotiations with new and existing building cleaning clients to review pricing at the commencement of all new / renewed contracts.

4.2. Integration of Integration of Adults & Children's Services

- a) The closure of Kirwan House is progressing, consultation with staff is underway.
- b) Cabinet is asked to endorse the commencement of negotiations with the independent nursing home and domiciliary care sectors with a view reaching an agreement on the payment of inflation for 2011/2012.
- c) Cabinet is asked to agree that the Adult Social Care Director undertake a review of the charging policy relating to the provision of Adult Social Care.
- d) Cabinet is asked to agree that the Adult Social Care Director undertake a review of the thresholds associated with packages of care managed by the Community Care Panel.

4.3. Terms & Conditions

- a) A number of savings options relating to staff terms and conditions were identified in the informal briefing sessions undertaken with Cabinet and individual Party groups. These included;
 - i) Freezing incremental progression
 - ii) Removal of retainer pay
 - iii) Reduction in car mileage rates
- b) Alongside the pay and grading changes the Trade Unions were also invited to agree to potential amendments to allowances and enhancements. The basis of this proposal focused on mitigating the cost of the pay and grading review and exploring the possibility of extending the pay protection period. The suggested changes to terms and conditions are;
 - i) Night rate and unsociable hours rate becomes a uniform rate of 15%.
 - ii) All overtime at a rate of time and a half.
 - iii) No enhancements paid for additional hours worked (including weekend work) until 39 plain time overtime threshold has been achieved.
 - iv) Free day and rest day working paid at time and a half.

- v) No overtime to be payable on SCP 32 or above, emergency duty allowance payable at a rate of 15%.
- c) It was understood that the Trade Unions intended to seek their members' views by balloting on the general acceptance of the new pay structure and had decided to include the allowances proposals to this process. However, at a meeting on 25th August all 3 Trade Unions reported that they had consulted their Regional Officers who had confirmed that a ballot was no longer considered appropriate and this has been confirmed in writing.
- d) If a collective agreement is not possible, Cabinet is asked to endorse continued consultation including the issue of appropriate statutory notifications to progress these matters further.
- 4.4. Further discussion of detailed savings proposals will be undertaken with Cabinet and Party Leaders over the next month.
- 4.5. Cabinet is asked to note the intention to present further tactical/operational budget savings options to future meetings, as the prioritisation process develops, which will work towards the closure of the 2011/12 2013/14 budget gap.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Cabinet is recommended to:

- i) note the VER/VR progress made to date as part of the Transformation Programme
- ii) endorse the Prioritisation/Identification process related to external funding detailed in Annex B
- iii) note that due diligence is taking place with regard to reviewing fixed term and temporary employment contracts
- iv) endorse the commencement of negotiations with the independent nursing home and domiciliary care sectors with a view reaching an agreement on the payment of inflation for 2011/2012
- v) agree that the Adult Social Care Director undertake a review of the charging policy relating to the provision of Adult Social Care
- vi) agree that the Adult Social Care Director undertake a review of the thresholds associated with packages of care managed by the Community Care Panel
- vii) agree that officers commence a consultation process with employees and Trade Unions to secure an agreement on the Terms & Conditions issues outlined in paragraph 4.3, including the issue of relevant statutory notifications, if appropriate
- viii) note the intention to present further tactical/operational budget savings options to future meetings of Cabinet, as the prioritisation process develops, to work towards the closure of the 2011/12 2013/14 budget gap.

Transformation Programme 2010/11 – Strategic Groups

Annex A

(Note: All Project Managers will meet fortnightly (Neighbourhoods & Invest/Programmes Director will attend on a monthly basis). Head of Transformation Services will report to SLT in order to progress decisions, escalate issues, work with Finance to track savings etc., SLT will agree items within scheme of delegation and agree items to report to Cabinet/Council

Customer Access

Integration of Health & Well Being with Children, Schools & Families

Early Intervention Procurement & Commissioning Review

Community, Voluntary & Faith Sector Service **Delivery & Grants** Review

Integration & Shared Services

Lead Officer: Bill Milburn

Lead Officer: Peter Morgan

Lead Officer: Charlie Barker Lead Officer: John Farrell

Lead Officer: Sam Tunney

Lead Officers: Sam Tunney, Mike Fogg

Project Manager Wayne

Project Manager Ruth Rice

Project Manager Simon Carrigan **Project Manager** Tommy Crawford

Project Manager Roger Robinson

Project Managers Jan McMahon, Wayne Leatherbarrow

age atherbarrow S ategic Group Bill Milburn. Graham

Bayliss, John Farrell, Sue Holden, Wayne Leatherbarrow. Michael Jones. Margaret Loughlin, Linda Price, Peter Moore

Strategic Group Peter Morgan, Colin Pettigrew, Jean Massam. Graham Taylor, Ruth Rice Charlie Barker. Robina Critchley, Graham Bayliss, Amanda Langan, Janet Atherton/ Hannah Chellaswamy, Jan McMahon

Strategic Group Charlie Barker. Sarah Austin Simon Burnett. Nick Carbonaro. Simon Carrigan, Dave Fenney, Liz Johnson. Derek Jones, Jacqui Kerr, Amanda Langan, Alan Lunt, Colin Pettigrew, Cathy Warlow Jan McMahon

Strategic Group John Farrell, Jim Black. Nick Carbonaro. Peter Cowley, Robina Critchley. Tom Clay, Steve Deakin. Brian Gibson, Mo Kundi. Jan McMahon, Gary Massey, Linda Mitchell. Colin Pettigrew, Dave Richardson

Strategic Group Sam Tunney, Olive Carey, Robina Critchley, Sue Holden. Mike Martin. Ian Willman, Angela White plus rep from PCT.

Strategic Group Performance – Sam Tunney, Sue Holden, Wayne Leatherbarrow, Laura Shepherd

Strategic Group Communications -Sam Tunney, Andrea Grant, Dan Grice, Jan McMahon

Strategic Group Finance - John Farrell, Nick Carbonaro, Mike Fogg, Jeff Kenah, Jan McMahon, Mike Martin, Colin Speight, Helen Wilson

Strategic Group Personnel – Mark Dale, Mike Fogg, Jan McMahon

Strategic Group Legal - Jill Coule, Mike Fogg, Jan McMahon, Dave McCullough

Accommodation Strategy, Communication, Consultation, Cultural Change, ICT Strategy, Vacancy Panel, VR/VER, Workforce Development Strategy

Agenda Ite

Prioritisation - Process - Externally Funded Activity

- Identify all sources of external funding for the Council including Government and other organisations.
- Confirm the activity which is delivered with this funding.
- Identify occupied posts/ teams funded from these sources (10th September 2010)
- Identify commissioned activity.
- Confirm scope of services/activities identified and confirm if critical to core business or non critical (Departments 24th September 2010).
- Provide departmental staffing information to Service Directors for review and validation. (14th September 2010).
- Validated staffing information to be returned to Transformation (17th September 2010).
- Confirm salaries associated, whole organisation (Finance & Transformation 23rd September 2010).
- Undertake Equalities Impact Assessment (Personnel 28th September 2010).
- Commence "soft" consultation process (Departments & Personnel date to be agreed).
- Collate and provide scope of services/activities, staffing and financial information to next SLT (30th September 2010).
- Review information provided (SLT 30th September 2010).
- Agree proposals to be presented to Cabinet (SLT 30th September 2010).
- Undertake Equalities Impact Assessment (Personnel 7th October).
- Seminar to be provided re handling consultation process (Personnel date to be agreed).
- Cabinet to consider proposals (28th October 2010).
- For approved proposals creating a redundancy situation approved by Cabinet issue HR1 & Section 188 (Personnel 12th November 2010).
- For approved proposals leading to the cessation of a service/activities confirm and action decommissioning plan.
- For approved proposals leading to the re-direction or diminution of a service/activities confirm and action plan.
- Formal consultation process commences.

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE(S): 30 September 2010

SUBJECT: Consultation on Formula Grant Distribution

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: John Farrell

Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy

CONTACT OFFICER: Jeff Kenah

0151 934 4104

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

This report provides Cabinet with an overview of main potential implications of the changes being considered by the coalition government in relation to Formula Grant Distribution and to advise Members of the response to the consultation paper, published in July 2010, that will shortly be submitted on the Council's behalf.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To enable the Council's views on the proposed changes in Formula Grant Distribution to be considered by the Government.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Cabinet is recommended to agree:

- 1. That the response contained in Annex B be submitted to the DCLG on the Council's behalf.
- 2. That the report be copied to all Members of Council for their information and for their use in lobbying on the Council's behalf against the proposals at every opportunity.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION

DATE: Following the expiry of the call-in for this meeting

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: There are no alternative options.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: Not appropriate

Financial:

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:	0	0	0	0
Sefton Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
Specific Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:	0	0	0	0
Sefton funded Resources	0	0	0	0
Funded from External Resources	0	0	0	0
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N		When?		
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: Not appropriate

Risk Assessment: Not appropriate

Asset Management: Not appropriate

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS: Chief Executive

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corpor ate Objecti ve		Positive Impact	<u>Neutral</u> <u>Impact</u>	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Creating Safe Communities	V		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	V		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	V		
5	Environmental Sustainability	V		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities	$\sqrt{}$		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People	V		

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

Communities and Local Government Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution Consultation Paper (July 2010).

1 Background

- 1.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) have issued a consultation paper for the formula grant (colloquially Revenue Support grant) distribution process from 2011/12 onwards. Responses are required to be sent to the DCLG by 6 October.
- 1.2 This report appends:
 - the detailed technical analysis of the proposals and alternative options set out by DCLG (Appendix 1);
 - a separate annex relating to Concessionary Travel (Annex A); and
 - the Council's proposed response to the specific questions posed by DCLG (Annex B).

2 Issues of Note

- 2.1 The information contained in the attached appendix and its annexes is of a highly technical nature and until the grant settlement is finalised the actual impact upon the Council's financial position will not be known. However, Members' attention is drawn to a number of areas which, if the DCLG does implement its proposals, would mean significant reductions in the grant receivable by the Council in 2011/12 and later years.
- 2.2 Annex A details the diverse proposals relating to Concessionary Travel. However, the main change is to transfer responsibility for concessionary travel in two-tier areas from Districts to County Council but in making this change the funding will, in part, shift from a Special Grant to Formula Grant. In Merseyside the Transport Authority received the Special Grant but from 2011/12 the Merseyside Districts will receive extra Formula Grant and work is underway to examine whether the grant can be transferred to the Transport Authority via the levy mechanism. The wider impact for Sefton however, shows diverse proposals in grant terms ranging from a gain of £0.124m to a loss of £3.512m.
- 2.3 Of the proposals solely affecting the Council, the first relates to data used in the Children's Services formula. The DCLG propose to change the basis from the current, children of income support/income based jobseekers allowance claimants, to the proportion of people aged 18 and under who are in out of work families receiving Child Tax Credits. Further work is being undertaken by the Merseyside Finance Technical Officers' group to try and compile arguments against the proposal, as this would be a major adverse change for all the Merseyside authorities; the potential loss of grant for Sefton is £3.262m.
- 2.4 The next most significant potential changes relate to the Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services Block. Firstly, DCLG propose to change the factor relating to Coast Protection from that based upon actual expenditure to one based upon Geographical Information Systems which if implemented would see grant reduction for the Council of £1.579m. Secondly, DCLG are proposing to replace the day visitor indicator with a foreign visitor-night

indicator (this also has a minor negative impact upon the Council's Highways Maintenance factor) which has the potential to reduce our grant by £0.689m. Members' attention is drawn to the responses to questions 11 and 13 respectively on these two issues.

- 2.5 As mentioned in previous reports, the DCLG are also investigating proposals to update the population figures. Sefton's forecast population is falling in comparison to the figures currently used in the formula. As a result, there is a risk of a significant adverse impact on Sefton's Formula Grant.
- 2.6 The responses to the Government proposals will be considered by the DCLG; the results of which will be announced through the Spending Review. The high level picture of Formula Grant for local government is expected on 20 October, however, the detailed picture for Sefton is likely to be released a few days after this date.

3 Issues for Members

- 3.1 The consultation paper contains some significant implications for the Council's external funding for the coming financial years which if implemented would see massive reductions in Revenue Support Grant that would exacerbate its financial position further.
- 3.2 The Council is a well performing, low spending but low resourced authority. Members are urged use their best endeavours in all forums and whenever possible to lobby against these adverse potential changes proposed in the DCLGs consultation paper and continue to do so after the consultation deadline of 6 October.

4 Recommendations

- 4.1 That the response contained in Annex B be submitted to the DCLG on the Council's behalf.
- 4.2 That the report be copied to all Members of Council for their information and for their use in lobbying on the Council's behalf against the proposals at every opportunity.

APPENDIX 1

Local Government Finance Formula Grant Distribution Consultation Paper (July 2010).

1. Background

- 1.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government launched a public consultation on options for change to the Formula Grant system on 28th July 2010.
- 1.2 Members are reminded that Formula Grant is the term used for Central Government determined Local Government funding and incorporates both Revenue Support Grant (RSG) and the local share of the National Business Rates Pool (NNDR). Formula Grant currently finances 51.5% of Sefton's net budget requirement and, consequently, changes to the method of allocation can have significant implications for Council Tax levels.
- 1.3 The Formula Grant system was last reviewed in 2007. The formulae have remained unchanged during the three year settlement period 2008/09 to 2010/11. During that time Government have undertaken a review of the formula grant distribution system through the Settlement Working Group. The main aim of the review has been to update and fine tune the existing system.

2. Consultation on Formula Grant Distribution

- 2.1 Following the work undertaken by the Settlement Working Group the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) have published a consultation paper that considers options for change in each of the components of the grant distribution system. These include changes to some of the relative needs formulae, the balance between relative needs and relative resources, and possible improvements to the data used in the formulae.
- 2.2 The main changes proposed in the consultation paper are noted below: -
 - (a) **Social Services for Older People:** The Low Income Adjustment (LIA) is the top-up in the older peoples' social services formula which takes account of local authorities' differing ability to raise income from fees and charges. The current LIA was derived using local authority income and expenditure data from 2005/06. The consultation proposes updating the LIA, so that it is based the latest available data from 2008/09 (Option OPPSS1).
 - (b) **Highways Maintenance:** The current Highways Maintenance formula is based on regression against past expenditure using the average from 2003/04 to 2005/06. The consultation proposes updating the formula using latest available expenditure data from 2006/07 to 2008/09 (Option HM2). The consultation also proposes removing the Day Visitors

- component from the Daytime Population per km indicator used in Highway Maintenance formula. This is because the day visitors data used in the indicator is now 20 years old and no consistent reliable source of day visitor data is currently available to update this indicator (Option HM1).
- (c) Replacing the Day Visitor Indicator: Both the District-level and County-level Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services (EPCS) blocks contain an additional population top-up based on the number of net incommuters and day visitors to the area. The current day visitor data is based on surveys undertaken in 1998/99 and 1991. The CLG believe that this data is no longer fit for purpose due to the fact that it is now 20 years old. As there is no consistent reliable source of day visitor numbers is currently available the consultation proposes replacing the day visitors indicator with a foreign visitor night indicator in the District-level and County-level EPCS blocks (Option EPCS1).
- (d) Flood Defence: The current flood defence formula is based on actual expenditure data provided by local authorities in their annual revenue outturn returns averaged over a three-year period. The consultation proposes moving to a new formula based on an assessment of need based on Geographical Information Systems (GIS) analysis of the length of ordinary watercourses not covered by an internal drainage board (Option EPCS2).
- (e) Coast Protection: The current coast protection formula is based on actual expenditure data provided by local authorities in their annual revenue outturn returns averaged over a three-year period. The consultation proposes moving to a new formula based on an assessment of need based on three GIS-based indicators: weighted properties at risk, length of erodible coastline and length of defended erodible coastline (Option EPCS3).
- (f) Area Cost Adjustment: The Area Cost Adjustment (ACA) is a factor included in the relative needs formulae to reflect the fact that costs are higher in some parts of England than in others. It is made up of two components: (1) the Labour Cost Adjustment (LCA) and (2) the Rates Cost Adjustment (RCA). The consultation proposes updating the weight given to the LCA using an evidence based approach to determining the labour share of third party contractors rather than the judgement based approach used previously (Option ACA1). This reduces the weights given to the LCA in a number of the formulae blocks.
- (g) Scaling Factor used in the Central Allocation Block: The Central Allocation Block distributes money on a per head basis based on the services an authority provides. The consultation proposes adjusting the scaling factor used in the Central Allocation Block so that it is equal to 1.00. This can be achieved by reducing the control total for the Central Allocation block and increasing the control total used in either the Relative Resources Block (CAS1) or the Relative Needs Block (CAS2).
- (h) Floor Damping Levels: The consultation considers whether the floor damping levels used in the formula grant distribution model should be set

close to the average change in funding or set at a lower level so that it allows more of any formula change to come through for authorities above the floor.

- (i) Concessionary Travel Transfer: From 1 April 2011 responsibility for concessionary travel in two-tier areas will move from the district councils to the county councils. At the same time the CLG also intend to transfer the Concessionary Travel Special Grant (which is currently paid directly to the Transport Authority) into Formula Grant. The consultation proposes four options for removing concessionary travel from the district-level EPCS formula (Options CONCF1 to 4) and six options for adding concessionary travel to the county-level EPCS formula. In total there are 24 potential concessionary travel combinations. However, due to resource constraints the CLG have chosen to exemplify only 6 of the possible combinations (Options CONCF5 to 10) in the consultation paper.
- (j) **Employment and Support Allowance Data:** Recent changes in the benefit system have seen the introduction of the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA). Since the 27 October 2008, ESA has been introduced to help people with an illness or disability move back into work. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have recommended that in future, the ESA data is used along with the Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance data within the district-services and county-services EPCS formulae. The CLG intend to implement this change but are not currently able to exemplify this option.
- (k) Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance indicator: The current Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance (IBSDA) indicator used in the district-services and county-services EPCS formulae is a three-year average based on annual data as at August each year. Quarterly data is now available, and so the CLG propose to use this data rather than the annual data to form the three-year average (Option DATA1).
- (I) Replacing the Children of Income Support Claimants Indicator: The 'children of income support/income based jobseekers allowance claimants' (ISKID) indicator used in the Children's Services Formulae has not been updated since the 2004/05 settlement, following the introduction of child tax credits. As this data is no longer available, the consultation proposes using the proportion of people aged 18 and under who are in out-of-work families receiving Child Tax Credit as a direct replacement of the current ISKID indicator (Option DATA2).
- (m) **Student Exemptions and the Council Taxbase:** The taxbase used in the Relative Resources Block of the Formula Grant Distribution model is adjusted for the average number of student exemptions calculated using data recorded in May and in early October. The consultation proposes using student exemptions data recorded in May only.

- (n) Secondary School Pupils in Low Achieving Ethnic Groups Indicator: The indicator of secondary school pupils in low achieving ethnic groups is used in the Youth and Community formula. The CLG propose updating the definition of secondary school pupils in low achieving ethnic groups based on the latest attainment data (Option DATA4).
- 2.3 The table below shows the impact of the each of the options for change (except for the concessionary travel options) on Sefton's Formula Grant before the application of floor damping based on the 2010/11 Settlement.

Block / Formula / Factor	Proposed Change	<u>Option</u>	Change £000
Older People's PSS	Updating the low income adjustment	OPPSS 1	0
Highway Maintenance	Removing the day visitor indicator	HM1	-16
	Using the latest expenditure data	HM2	-16
EPCS	Replacing the day visitor indicator with a foreign visitor night indicator	EPCS1	-689
	Moving to a new needs based Flood Defence formula	EPCS2	-66
	Moving to a new needs based Coast Protection formula	EPCS3	-1,579
Area Cost Adjustment	Updating the weight given to the Labour Cost Adjustment component	ACA1	+824
Central Allocation Block	Reducing the control total used in the Central Allocation Block and either:		
	increasing the control total used in the Relative Resources Block	CAS1 or CAS2	-305 +302
	increasing the control total used in the Relative Needs Block	0/102	7002
Data	Using quarterly rather than annual Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance data	DATA1	-23
	Using 'the proportion of people aged 18 and under who are in out-of-work families receiving Child Tax Credit' as a direct	DATA2	-3,262

replacement for the current 'children of income support/income based jobseekers allowance claimants' indicator data.		
Adjusting the council taxbase using student exemptions data recorded in May only.	DATA3	-70
Updating the definition of low achieving ethnic groups used in the Youth and Community formula	DATA4	11

- The table shown above excludes the impact of the proposed concessionary fares transfer. Further details of the proposed transfers are provided in <u>Annex A</u> together with tables showing the exemplified impact on Sefton's formula grant as provided within the consultation (these range from -£3.512m to +£0.124m).
- 2.5 The combined affect of the proposals for change to Formula Grant Distribution <u>could</u> result in a significant reduction in Sefton's share of formula grant. The largest reduction in Sefton's Formula Grant would come from the proposed new coast protection formula and the replacement of the 'children of income support/income based jobseekers allowance claimants' indicator data. If these two changes are not implemented the combined effect of the other proposals would be fairly neutral.
- The exemplifications provided are only indicative and do not reflect the cumulative impact the changes could have on the 2011/2012 Settlement. The CLG are still refining some of the options so the actual outcome may change. The consultation also asks for alternative proposals for areas of change. Other authorities and their representative groups may put forward alternative proposals for consideration in order to limit their losses or improve their gains.
- 2.7 The figures presented were modelled by the CLG based on the 2010/2011 Settlement and do not in the main reflect the updated local or national data that could be used to calculate the 2010/2011 Settlement.
- It is worth noting that Sefton's indicative formula grant was £4.0m above the funding floor in 2010/11 and this was scaled back by £2.8m to £1.2m to pay for the funding floor. As a result, a reduction in raw grant of £1m would have led to a reduction of only £0.3m in the actual cash received, so the impact of the proposed changes would not have a pound for pound impact on Sefton's formula grant after damping is applied.
- 2.9 Other factors that will affect the overall level of grant received in 2011/2012 include: -

- (a) the outcome of the Spending Review which is expected to be published in October 2010.
- (b) the impact of any transfers of funding to/from specific grants from/to formula grant, or the introduction of any new functions or responsibilities to be funded through formula grant.
- (c) the impact of the Office for National Statistics Improving Migration Population Statistics (IMPS) Project on the population estimates. The improvements have fed into the 2008-based Subnational Population Projections and the mid-2009 population estimates which could be used in the 2011/2012 settlement.
- (d) the level of the funding floor to be set for 2011/2012.
- 2.10 The consultation paper contains 29 questions and local authorities are asked to submit their responses by 6 October 2010. It is important that the Council responds to the consultation in order to support those proposals that make the formula fairer, recognise real spending needs and improve Sefton's financial position in the long term.
- 2.11 An initial draft response has been prepared on behalf of the Council and is attached at Annex B. This provides arguments for or against the various proposals made in the consultation, however, further work is still being undertaken in order to develop arguments to support our response to some of the questions. The aim of the response has been to identify and support those changes that improve credibility of the system, make the formula fairer and appear to be in the best interest of the Council in securing adequate external funding in the future.
- 2.12 A joint Merseyside response to previous consultations has achieved a positive response from Ministers. The Treasurers of the six Merseyside Authorities (including Halton) are currently finalising a Merseyside wide response to the consultation that highlights those areas of common interest. The final response will be sent separately to the CLG.

Annex A

Transfers and Adjustments: Concessionary Travel

From 1 April 2011 responsibility for concessionary travel in two-tier areas will move from the district councils to the county councils. The amount of grant transferred is likely to be decided during the Spending Review. For the purposes of the exemplifications the CLG have used the 2008/09 Net Revenue Expenditure for Concessionary Travel i.e. £813.388 million.

The CLG also intend to transfer the Concessionary Travel Special Grant (which is currently paid directly to the Transport Authority) into Formula Grant from 1 April 2011. The Passenger Transport Authority are currently looking at how this can be dealt with through the levying mechanism and the financial implications for Sefton have yet to be determined.

The consultation paper discusses options for:

- Removing concessionary travel from the district-level EPCS RNF
- Adjusting the base position for lower-tier authorities
- Adding concessionary travel to the county-level EPCS RNF
- Adjusting the base position for upper-tier authorities

Removing concessionary travel from the district-level EPCS RNF

The Budget 2005 announced a free concessionary bus fare scheme for people aged over 60 and disabled people, which was funded by an extra £350 million added to formula grant in 2006/07. This led to increased weightings on population density, pensioners on income support and incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance being used within the district-level EPCS RNF in 2006/07.

The consultation suggests that because support for concessionary the fares scheme is being removed from district-level EPCS RNF, then the additional weightings used from 2006/07 onwards should be reversed.

The consultation proposes either leaving the district-level EPCS formula unchanged (used in Options CONCF1 and CONCF2) or reverting to weightings used in the 2005/06 district-level EPCS formula (used in Options CONCF3 and CONCF4)

Adjusting the base position for lower-tier authorities

Because responsibility for administering the concessionary travel scheme is transferring from district-councils (lower-tier authorities) to county-councils (upper-tier authorities) the baseline used for floor damping in lower-tier authorities will need to be reduced.

The consultation proposes adjusting the base position using the 2008/09 Concessionary Travel Net Revenue Expenditure (used in Options CONCF1 and CONCF3) or adjusting the base position pro rata to the district-level EPCS formula (used in Options CONCF2 and CONCF4)

Adding concessionary travel to the county-level EPCS RNF

Three basic options have been considered for modifying the county-level EPCS RNF. The first two options are based on regressions against past expenditure (the 2008/09 Concessionary Travel Net Current Expenditure) and the third is based on regression against the estimated concessionary travel trips data. The modifications proposed are shown below:

First Formula	Used in Option CONCF5 and CONCF6	
Basic Amount	1.3006	
Deprivation Top-up	17.5151 x Income Support/Income Based Jobseekers	
	Allowance / Guarantee element of Pension Credit	
	Claimants;	
	minus 3.3142 x Wealthy Achievers	
Car Ownership	3.1365 x Sick and Disabled People in Households with no	
Top-up	Car or Van	

Second Formula	Used in Option CONCF7 and CONCF8		
Basic Amount	1.4533		
Density Top-up	-2.5719 x Population Sparsity for People Aged 60 and Over		
Deprivation Top-up	17.1294 x Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement		
	Allowance		
Car Ownership	5.1353 x People Aged 60 and Over with no Car or Van		
Top-up			

Third Fo	ormula	Used in Option CONCF9 and CONCF10
Deprivat	tion Top-up	22.8808 x Country of Birth of Residents;
		minus 3.3142 x Wealthy Achievers
Car	Ownership	6.8381 x Sick and Disabled People in Households with no
Top-up		Car or Van

Adjusting the base position for upper-tier authorities

There are two parts to the transfer into the county-level EPCS. The first part reflects the Net Revenue Expenditure which is being transferred from the district-level EPCS and the second part reflects the transfer of the concessionary travel special grant into formula grant.

For the transfer from the districts, the CLG believe that the adjustment to the base position for the county councils should simply be the same as the transfer from the shire districts, summed where appropriate.

For the transfer from special grant there are two options – adjusting the base position by the allocation of the special grant (used in Options CONCF5, 7 and 9) or adjusting the base position pro-rata to the new concessionary fare formula (used in Options CONCF6, 8 and 9).

Exemplifications

Option

The consultation presents four options for removing concessionary travel from the district-level EPCS formula (Options CONCF1 to 4) and six options for adding concessionary travel to the county-level EPCS formula. In total there are 24 potential concessionary travel combinations. However, due to resource constraints the CLG have chosen to exemplify only 6 of the possible combinations (Options CONCF5 to 10) in the consultation paper. These are all based on lower-tier transfer option CONCF3 (using the 2005/06 district-level EPCS formula and adjusting the base position for lower-tier authorities using the 2008/09 Concessionary Travel Net Revenue Expenditure). Using option CONCF4 would give the same result for Sefton. However, adopting lower-tier transfer option CONCF1 or CONCF2 would result in Sefton's formula grant being £0.817m higher than the amounts exemplified below..

The following options have been exemplified:

CONCF5: Special Grant transfer by the 2009/10 Special Grant allocation.

Option

Using the first formula and adjusting the base position for the Special Grant transfer prorata to the new concessionary travel formula.

Option

Using the second formula and adjusting the base position for the Special Grant transfer by the 2009/10 Special Grant allocation.

Option

Using the second and adjusting the base position for the Special Grant transfer prorata to the new concessionary travel formula

Using the first formula and adjusting the base position for the

Option Using the third formula and adjusting the base position for the CONCF9: Special Grant transfer by the 2009/10 Special Grant allocation.

Option Using the third formula and adjusting the base position for the CONCF10: Special Grant transfer prorata to the new concessionary travel

formula.

Exemplification	CONCF5	CONCF6	CONCF7	CONCF8	CONCF9	CONCF10
Before Floor	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change	Change
Damping	£ million					
Sefton	-0.819	-0.819	0.124	0.124	-3.512	-3.512

Annex B

Sefton Council

Response To The Formula Grant Distribution Consultation Paper

Introduction

This document sets out the response of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to the Government's consultation on Formula Grant Distribution. It addresses a number of specific questions raised in the consultation paper. Our response to those questions is as follows:

Chapter 3: Adults' Personal Social Services

Question 1: Do you agree that we should update the Low Income Adjustment (OPPSS1)?

Agree.

We believe that the most up-to-date information available should be used in determining grant allocations, provided that the data is both accurate and appropriate.

Sefton therefore supports Option OPPSS1 as this is based on the latest available expenditure data.

Chapter 6: Highways Maintenance

Question 9: Do you agree that the daytime visitors component of daytime population per km should be removed (Option HM1)?

Disagree.

We agree that the day visitor data is out of date. However, we believe that it should be updated to reflect the current number of day visitors to each area. The latest Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) data from 2008 indicates that day visitor numbers to our area have increased by more than 10% since 2007 and are more than double the number used in the relative needs formula.

The proposed removal of the daytime visitors component would result in a reduction in funding for Sefton at a time when our funding should be increasing as a result of increased visitor numbers. In the absence of more up-to-date data we think it would be preferable to retain the old data rather than remove this component from the formula.

There are examples of older data continuing to be used in the formula. For example the 'number of days with snow lying' also used in the highways maintenance formula is based on data recorded between 1978 and 1990. There are no proposals to update this data despite recent evidence of climate change.

Removing the day visitor component whilst retaining the overnight visitor night component would skew the highways maintenance formula in favour of those areas that have high numbers of domestic and foreign overnight visitors, whilst disadvantaging those areas like Sefton that attract a large number of domestic day visitors.

If the Government decide to remove the day visitor component from the daytime population per km indicator then the overnight visitors component should also be removed to rebalance the formula.

Question 10: Do you agree that the expenditure data used to determine the coefficients should be updated (Option HM2)?

Agree.

We believe that the most up-to-date information available should be used in determining grant allocations.

Sefton therefore supports Option HM2 as this is based on the latest available expenditure data.

Chapter 7: Environmental, Protective and Cultural Services

Question 11: Do you agree that foreign visitor nights is a suitable replacement for day visitors in the district-level and county-level EPCS RNFs (Option EPCS1)?

Disagree.

We agree that the day visitor data is out of date. However, we do not believe foreign visitor nights is a suitable replacement for day visitors in the district-level and county-level EPCS RNFs.

The foreign visitors nights data is based on information from the International Passenger Survey and it is skewed towards areas served by large international airports. The exemplifications provided with the consultation support this statement as they show that using foreign visitor nights data would result in a large shift of resources to the London Area. The London Area would gain £60.7m of additional funding, whilst Metropolitan Areas and Shire Districts would lose £18.7m and £42m respectively as a result of the proposed change.

It is surprising that the Government are proposing a formula change that reduces funding for tourist areas outside of London at a time when the Prime Minister has been talking about just how important the tourism industry is to the economy and what we need to do now to make the most of it not just in London but right across the country. He recognised in his speech on 12 August 2010 that tourism is not just a great export earner, but there is also a huge domestic market too.

We know that in terms of visitor numbers to our area that a huge majority of our business is from day trips. Most of this is from the domestic market and this

generates costs for public services. The proposed change to the formulae results in a reduction in our Formula Grant at a time when the latest Scarborough Tourism Economic Activity Monitor (STEAM) data from 2008 indicates that day visitor numbers to our area have increased by more than 10% since 2007 and they are more than double the number used in the relative needs formula.

The argument for using more up-to-date, but less relevant data is weak as it does not achieve the objective of that the day visitors indicator was designed for. The shift to using foreign visitor nights fails to recognise the huge domestic market highlighted in the PM's speech and the costs that this imposes on local services.

There are examples of older data continuing to be used in the formula. For example the number of days with snow lying used in the Highways Maintenance formula is based on data recorded between 1978 and 1990. Even the foreign visitor nights data used in the formula is dependent on 1991 census data.

It would preferable to retain the current relevant but out-of-date data rather than adopt data that is not relevant and clearly favours areas that have a large number of international visitors staying overnight rather than those that attract domestic visitors from neighbouring authorities for day visits.

We understand that Visit England working through a group called the English Tourism Intelligence Partnership have been working on the issue of tourism statistics and that they intend to conduct a new day visitor survey in 2011 for release in 2012. Given that the Government have signalled their intention to carry out a review of local government finance it would appear sensible to retain the current day visitor indicator data for the 2011/12 Settlement and consider using new day visit data if this remains appropriate once the review of local government finance has been completed.

Question 12: Do you agree that the new GIS-based flood defence formula should be used (Option EPCS2)?

Disagree.

We have the following concerns over the formula suggested:

As a local authority we have constructed defences under the Land Drainage Act and these are classed as defences against tidal flooding – there is no relationship between these defences and the length of ordinary watercourses. It is not clear whether or not these defences have been accounted for within the proposed formula.

Question 13: Do you agree that the new GIS-based coast protection formula should be used (Option EPCS3)?

Disagree.

We have a number of concerns over the formula suggested:

- 1. The focus on property at risk of erosion will concentrate resources on dealing with properties at risk rather than avoiding properties coming into that category. Risk equals likelihood times significance, property at risk concentrates on areas where both likelihood and significance are high but the best approach to managing risk would be to intervene before this stage by preventing development that leads to high significance. This bias could be rebalanced through the formula taking into account the spatial area at risk of erosion which can be derived from the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping or the Shoreline Management Plans.
- 2. Length of erodible coastline provides an indication of the scale but in one dimension only, we would suggest that inclusion of the rate of erosion would be more representative. This can be derived from the National Coastal Erosion Risk Mapping or the Shoreline Management Plans.
- 3. Length of erodible coastline and defended erodible coast takes into account the length of risk area and accounts for the hard defence assets but does not account for soft defences i.e. those areas of sand dunes owned and managed by the local authority for coast protection purposes. Assets are detailed within the National Flood and Coastal Defence Database.
- 4. DEFRA's objectives seek to enhance environmental aspects where possible but there is no bias in the formula to reflect this. This could be addressed through use of site designations such as Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) or Special Area of Conservation (SAC) / Special Protection Area (SPA).

Chapter 8: Area Cost Adjustment

Question 14: Do you agree with the proposal to update the weights given to the labour cost adjustment (ACA 1)?

Agree.

We support the proposed new evidence based approach to determining the labour share of third party contractors. We agree that this is an improvement judgement based approach used previously.

Chapter 10: Scaling Factor

Question 15: Do you think that the scaling factor for the central allocation should be close to one, so that equal importance is attached to the amounts above and below the minima?

Yes.

Question 16: If so, would you prefer Ministers to be able to set judgemental weights for the Relative Needs Amount, as in option CAS1, or the Relative Resource Amount, as in option CAS2?

Option CAS2.

We support option CAS2 as this places a greater emphasis on relative needs within the formula.

As stated in our response to previous consultations we support resource equalisation and believe that this should occur on a regular basis in line with three-year settlements. However, such changes should be based on evidence and reflect the changes required to ensure that the relative needs formula and relative resources calculations adequately reflect the patterns of spending and spending pressures faced by local authorities and their relative abilities to raise income locally. Changes should not be based purely on judgement.

Such changes should follow the pattern of equalisation adjustments already established in previous settlements. The Relative Needs Amount should be increased with a compensating change made to the Relative Resources Amount. This type of change was demonstrated in Option 1 from paper SWG/07/47.

Chapter 11: Floor Damping Levels

Question 17: Over the next Spending Review period do you think that the floor level should be set close to the average change or such that it allows some formula change to come through for authorities above the floor?

Close to the average.

The Government have already indicated that public spending will be reduced by 25% in real terms over the next Spending Review period. The Government have also announced that they wish to work with local authorities to deliver a council tax freeze in 2011/12.

Council's have indicated (through the LGA) their willingness to work with the Government to help deliver savings. However, it will be impossible for local authorities to deliver the Government's ambition of a council tax freeze in 2011/12 without stability in the local government finance system.

Floor damping provides stability in the formula grant distribution model. The closer the floor level is set to the average change the greater the level of stability. For this reason we believe that the floor level should be set close to the average change.

Chapter 12: Transfers and Adjustments

Question 18: Which of the four options for removing concessionary travel from lower-tier authorities do you prefer (CONCF1, CONCF2, CONCF3, CONCF4)?

CONCF1

Further work is being undertaken to develop an argument to support this response.

Question 19: Which of the six options for rolling in concessionary travel to upper-tier authorities do you prefer (CONCF5, CONCF6, CONCF7, CONCF8, CONCF9, CONCF10)?

CONCF7

It is important that Metropolitan Districts are not disadvantaged as a result of the proposed administrative change in two tier areas. Based on the exemplification provided with the consultation options CONCF 7 and CONCF 8 are the only options presented that would ensure that all Metropolitan Districts on Merseyside are not adversely affected by the proposed transfer.

We also believe that the exemplifications of options CONCF 9 and CONCF 10 show a redistribution of funds to the London Area that simply cannot be justified as the result of an administrative change in another tier of local government.

We would prefer that the proposed transfer of the Concessionary Travel Special Grant into Formula Grant did not go ahead, as the patern of distribution within the Formula Grant block cannot match the distibution of the current grant or match levy payments required by our Passenger Transport Authority.

Question 20: Should concessionary travel have its own sub-block?

In principal we would have no objection to a separate concessionary travel sub-block being incorporated in the formula, as it would make it easier to target funding for this specific area. However, the consultation paper does not provide sufficient information on the impact of this proposal to draw a conclusion.

Question 21: Do you agree with the methodology for adjusting the base position for unadopted drains?

No.

The consultation indicates that the funding for unadopted drains will be transferred from the lower-tier EPCS block. The number of properties in each authority is not an indicator used in this block and it is therefore not appropriate to use this data to adjust the base position. The main driving factor in the determining the distribution of this block is population. So we would prefer that the base position is adjusted using the 2009 mid-year population estimates or alternatively the latest population projections for 2011/12.

Chapter 13: The Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance indicator

Question 22: Do you agree that the incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance indicators should use quarterly data rather than annual data (DATA1)?

Agree.

We support the proposed change as it allows the use of the latest available data.

Chapter 14: Replacing the Children's Income Support Benefit Indicator

Question 23: Do you agree that children in out-of-work families receiving Child Tax Credit (CTC) should replace the current children of IS/(IB)JSA claimants (DATA2)?

Disagree.

Further work is being undertaken to develop an argument to support this response.

Chapter 15: Student Exemptions and the Council Tax Base

Question 24: Would you prefer that May data only is used for the student exemptions adjustment in the taxbase projections (DATA3)?

No.

Data provided to the SWG in Annex A of paper SWG-09-40 based on Manchester's records of student exemptions showed that student exemptions peaked in June and were at their lowest in January. The chart clearly illustrated that using May only data would overestimate the average number of student exemptions for the year.

On the basis of the data provided by Manchester it would appear that using the average of January and June data would provide a better picture of the average number of student exemptions. Although this would need to be tested against the exemption profiles in other authorities.

Assuming that it is not possible to use January and June data, we prefer the continued use of both October and May data as this is likely to provide a more accurate picture of the average number of student exemptions given in the year.

Chapter 16: Updating data on low achieving ethnic groups

Question 25: Do you agree that the new definition of secondary school pupils in low achieving ethnic groups should be used (DATA4)?

Yes.

Whilst we support the proposed update of the definition of 'secondary school pupils in low achieving ethnic groups', we would prefer to see this indicator removed from the formula as we believe the formula should try to distribute funding to all low achieving pupils not just those in specific ethnic groups.

ANY OTHER COMMENTS

Do you have any alternative proposals?

- 1. The current 'Social Services for Older People' relative needs formula was introduced in the 2006/07 settlement. The formula recognises that the cost of care is much higher for those aged 90 and over and provides a top-up for this age range. At the time that the current formula was introduced the Government also considered using an alternative formula that was based on detailed analysis of what factors might be related to the need for care. The formula developed from this analysis included two age related top-ups one for residents aged 80 to 84 and another for residents aged 85 and over. This was option SSE1 in the 2005 Formula Grant Consultation. This option was withdrawn at the consultation stage as it was decided that the sample used to derive the formula was not statistically robust enough. Sefton has a higher than average elderly population and we find that the demand for social services increases rapidly once people reach 80 years old. We would like to see the Department of Health revisit the research under taken on option SSE1 and develop a formula that better reflects the increased demand for social services in the 80 to 89 age group.
- 2. Population projections were first used in 2006/07 Settlement when multi-year settlements were introduced. We believe that the use of population projections are flawed and do not match the real movements in population. If the Government are considering scrapping multi-year settlements or reducing the number of years covered by the next settlement then we believe the latest mid-year population estimates should be used in the formulae rather than the projected figures.
- 3. The current area cost adjustment uses both public and private sector pay information. The private sector pay information includes the salaries of employees who earn far in excess of any public sector employee employed by an English Local Authority. We believe that the area cost adjustment should be based purely on public sector pay as salaries differ by much lower margins than in the private sector. However, if the Government continues to take account of private sector pay then pay data relating to any employee paid in excess of £150,000 per annum should be excluded from the area cost adjustment. This would fit with the Government's own policy to discourage excessive pay in the public sector.

Do you have any other comments?

In order to assist local authorities in managing the forthcoming reductions in local government spending. We believe that stability should be the key consideration in deciding what changes should be made to the Formula Grant Distribution.

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 30 September 2010

SUBJECT: Budget Monitoring 2010/11 – Position to August 2010

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: John Farrell

Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy

CONTACT OFFICER: John Farrell Jeff Kenah

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To provide Members with information regarding the budget monitoring position for 2010/11 as at the end of August 2010.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

This report provides information on the current year's budget monitoring in order for Members to consider whether any corrective action is needed.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

Cabinet is recommended to note:

- a) The projected year-end position; and
- b) That further work is being undertaken by officers to ensure that all areas of identified overspend are monitored in order to manage the budget toward an overall year-end underspend position.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the call-in period for this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: The budget provides the limits of expenditure by the

Council for the year and helps set the framework for

future years' financial planning.

Financial: The report presents the projected outturn position for the

Authority for 2010/11. The identified a projected potential underspend of £0.050m will be monitored regularly to identify whether any future corrective action is required to ensure a balanced budget at the year-end.

rigoriaa itorri o	2010/	2011/	2012/	2013/
CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Specific Capital Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Funded from External Resources	N/a	N/a	N/a	N/a
Does the External Funding have an expiry da	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

None Legal:

The projected underspend for 2010/11 will need to be **Risk Assessment:**

> monitored over the coming months so that the Authority's expenditure remains within the overall

budget.

Asset Management: None

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Chief Executive

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community	$\sqrt{}$		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
3	Environmental Sustainability	√		
4	Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Children and Young People	√		
6	Creating Safe Communities	√		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and	√		
	Strengthening local Democracy			

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

Departmental Budget Monitoring Statements for August 2010.
Page 50

1. **Introduction**

- 1.1. This report presents the 2010/2011 budgetary position for the Council, as at the end of August 2010.
- 1.2. A report elsewhere on the agenda updates Members on the Transformation process for delivering a balanced budget for the next three years.

2. Budget Monitoring 2010/11 – Projected Outturn as at August 2010

- 2.1. This month's statement identifies a projected year-end net underspend of £0.050m; the main variations are analysed below: -
- 2.1.1. Expenditure in <u>Children's Services</u> is projected to underspend by £0.214m. The main areas of underspend is on Supplies and Services and Schools Premature Retirement Compensation expenditure; these total some £0.496m. However, the number of children coming into care is projected to increase and consequently a further 11 social workers have been employed to provide family support / preventative services; the aim being to reduce the number of children coming into care and thereby reducing the overall cost to the Council. The projected year-end employees budget overspend is £0.143m;
- 2.1.2. <u>Environmental Services</u> are projecting a net underspend of £0.100m, principally due to staffing and supplies and services savings;
- 2.1.3. The <u>Finance Department</u> budget is projecting an underspend of £1.317m. This is made up of projected savings £0.316m on employees costs, increased Housing Benefit receipts of £0.500m (due to lower error rates by arvato) and £0.500m on Capital Financing costs. This latter item is due to higher than projected receipts on investments and savings as a result of the policy to "internally borrow" for capital expenditure (i.e. the use of temporary internal cash to finance expenditure, rather than borrowing from the Public Works Loan Board);
- 2.1.4. The <u>Legal Department</u> are forecasting an overspend of £0.316m, arising principally from a reduction in commercial contract fees (£0.200m) due to the lower capital programme activity and hence less opportunity to recharge expenditure to capital;
- 2.1.5. <u>Leisure and Tourism</u> are projecting a net overspend of £0.152m. This includes additional costs on Electricity, Light and Water, £0.459m (this needs to be considered as part of the 2011/12 budget process). Further pressures include NNDR costs (£0.124m) and reduced rent income on the Market Hall (£0.125m) pending its refurbishment. However, as a means of trying to reduce / eliminate these additional costs, the Department are proactively managing their budget by lowering spending on employee expenditure and repairs and maintenance costs (-£0.623m);
- 2.1.6. The Operational Services Department are forecasting a net overspend of £0.854m. The major reason for this position is the additional service costs of the Specialist Transport Unit (£1.053m). Additional STU services have been commissioned this year, which due to specific medical and support requirements, are more expensive. However, savings which will be generated during this financial year, from the implementation of a new route optimisation programme, will ensure that the STU costs remain the same as the predicted outturn. A complete review of all transport requirements will be undertaken within this financial year so that the optimum

routing structure can be used for the new combined bus and taxi contract to be implemented from the 1st September 2011.

However, as a means of helping to reduce the overall overspend, budget savings, are expected to be accrued via additional income generation from Recycling Credits (-£0.100m), Building Cleaning (£0.100m), Public Convenience and Commercial Skip Income (£-0.050m net), thereby generating an additional -£0.250m during 2010/11.

- 2.1.7. The <u>Planning Department</u> are forecasting an overspend of £0.097m. There are a number of issues which make up this figure. They include reduced income from Building Control and Car Parking fees, totalling £0.451m. These items require further consideration as part of the 2011/12 budget process. However, expenditure on Pay costs and Consultancy fees are forecast to underspend by £0.326m, helping to minimise the overall overspend;
- 2.1.8. <u>Technical Services</u> are projecting an overspend of £0.741m. The principal reason for this is shortfalls on income budgets of £0.594m (including the reduced ability to recharge costs to capital). These items require consideration as part of the 2011/12 budget process);
- 2.1.9. <u>Corporate Issues</u> The Finance Department has been working for a number of months with PricewaterhouseCoopers (in conjunction with the Leisure and Tourism Department) to recover VAT that the Council has paid over a number of years on certain leisure and tourism activities. The HMRC lost a legal case (nationally) which allowed organisations to claim overpaid VAT providing it could be evidenced. The exercise undertaken for Sefton has identified that the reclaimed amount (including interest) is expected to be at least £0.750m. It was hoped that this money would be set aside to assist with the Transformation Programme, however, given the financial position of the Council, it appears that these resources will be required to help balance the budget during 2010/11.

Staff car parking charges were approved as part of the budget process for 2010/11. The delayed implementation of the scheme has meant that the full savings target of £0.125m will not be achieved. A shortfall (based upon current users) of approximately £0.045m is projected.

- 2.1.10. Outside of the Council's control The total estimated overspend on these items is estimated at £0.385m. As part of their strategy to manage the economy, the Government abolished Housing, Planning Delivery Grant; the Council's net budget for this item (£0.145m) is therefore unachievable. In addition, the change in legislation with regard to an authority's ability to charge fees on Land Charges, has resulted in a projected overspend of £0.240m.
- 2.2. Some of savings options for 2001/12, approved by Cabinet on 2 September, may be implemented during 2010/11 and therefore part-year savings may accrue. Further information will be provided in future budget monitoring updates.

2.3. The projected variations analysed by Department as at the end of August are shown below:

	August
	£m
Assistant Chief Executive	-0.170
Adult Social Care	+0.096
Children's Services	-0.214
Environmental	-0.100
Finance & IS	-1.317
Legal	+0.316
Leisure & Tourism	+0.152
Neighbourhood, Investment Programme	-0.183
Personnel	0.000
Operational Services	+0.854
Planning & Regeneration	+0.097
Safer Stronger Communities	0.000
Technical Services	+0.741
Council Wide	-0.707
Government changes – unavoidable overspend	+0.385
Month end variation	-0.050

2.4. Further work will be undertaken by Officers over the coming months to ensure that a balanced position is achieved at the year-end.

3. Cabinet is recommended to note:

- a) The projected year-end position; and
- b) That further work is being undertaken by officers to ensure that all areas of identified overspend are monitored in order to manage the budget toward an overall year-end underspend position.

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

Cabinet

DATE: 15th September, 2010

30th September, 2010

SUBJECT: The Green Belt Study

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis

Planning and Economic Development Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Ingrid Berry

Telephone 0151 934 3556

EXEMPT/ No

CONFIDENTIAL:

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform Members about the findings of the draft Green Belt Study, the outcomes of which will be incorporated into the Preferred Options stage of the emerging Core Strategy. The results of the draft Study will be consulted on later this year, at the same time as the Preferred Options stage of the Core Strategy.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To indicate Council support for the findings of the Green Belt Study.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- 1. That Planning Committee:
- (1) delegates to the Planning and Economic Development Director the authority to make necessary changes to the draft Study resulting from consultation with Counsel and as a result of the draft Study's validation by Envision, the consultants appointed to carry out this role
- (2) notes the contents of the report, including the implications relating to how Sefton's future housing and employment land requirements may be met to 2031; and
- (3) requests Cabinet to adopt the draft Green Belt Study and Detailed Boundary Review for consultation purposes.

That Cabinet:

- (1) notes the implications of the Study in relation to potential future development in Sefton. These will be set out in the Preferred Options paper which will be the subject of a further report in the October cycle: and
- (2) adopts the draft Study and Detailed Boundary Review for consultation purposes.

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Yes

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following expiry of call in period after Cabinet

meeting on 30th September 2010.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The only alternative option would not to have undertaken the study. This would run the risk of not being in a position to identify sufficient land to meet the Borough's development needs over the period of the plan and the Core Strategy therefore being found 'unsound'.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial:

In December 2009, Members were informed that the estimated costs of carrying out Sefton's share of this study would be in the region of £30,000 (£60,000 including Knowsley Council). The combined cost of carrying out the Study is now expected to be £39,840 of which Sefton's share is £19,920 with the balance being met by Knowsley Council. This does not include any costs which may be incurred should the consultants be required to attend any relevant sessions of the Examination in Public of the Core Strategy in 2012, which would be charged at the current day rates. Sefton's share of the above costs will be met out of the Local Plans Budget held by Planning (£27,400).

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2009/ 20010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
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: No comments

Risk Assessment: Without a Green Belt Study it would be difficult to identify

sufficient land to meet the development needs of the Borough for the 15-year period of the Core Strategy. The Core Strategy would be likely to be found unsound at examination. In addition, if Sefton fails to maintain a 5-year supply of housing land, the Borough leaves itself open to development in the Green Belt being allowed on appeal. This would result in unplanned development in locations

that the Council may not welcome.

Asset Management: N/a

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and has no comments on the previous reports relating to this Study. (Ref. No. FD 197, FD 262 & FD 358).

FD 493 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

The appointment of consultants to validate the Study was approved by the Vacancy Management Panel on 13th January 2010.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community		$\sqrt{}$	
2	Creating Safe Communities		$\sqrt{}$	
3	Jobs and Prosperity	V		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		$\sqrt{}$	
5	Environmental Sustainability			V
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		$\sqrt{}$	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy		V	
8	Children and Young People		$\sqrt{}$	

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

Reports to Planning Committee in October & December 2009 referred to the need to carry out the Green Belt Study & set out the draft methodology, whilst the report to Planning Committee in April 2010 related to the appointment of consultants to validate the Study.

1. Background

- 1.1 In October 2009, Planning Committee considered a report which set out what the Council needed to do in order to meet its future housing and employment needs for the whole of the period to be covered by the Core Strategy. At the time those needs were established by the Regional Strategy which has now been revoked. There is nonetheless a need to build more homes because although the population is forecast to remain roughly the same as now, and may indeed decline in some areas, the underlying trend is for household growth which generates a need for more new homes. Similarly, there is a need to provide additional employment land to allow existing employers to grow, and to cater for changing employment requirements in the future in order to enable the economy of the district to continue to flourish.
- 1.2 Based on the evidence behind our housing requirement set out in the (revoked) Regional Strategy, current projections indicate that we should build on average 500 new homes each year. Over the plan period (to 2027) this would equate to a need for about 9,500 new homes from a base date of 2008). The conclusions of the housing and employment land supply studies were that on this basis the district could only meet about half of our future housing requirements from land in the urban area. Even if the household projection figure is revised in the future, there will still be a requirement for land outside of the urban area, unless household and economic growth were to be constrained.
- 1.3 There was also an identified need for a successor site to the Southport Business Park to be provided after about 2018. Again, it is not anticipated that this site could be accommodated in the built up area due to a lack of suitable undeveloped land of the requisite size.
- 1.4 Members were informed that, having investigated all options in the urban area and those of our neighbouring authorities (by means of the 'Overview' Study which is nearing completion), it was probable that we would need to identify 'broad locations' that indicate where development might occur in the latter part of the period covered by our Core Strategy (to 2027). This is necessary if we are to produce a 'sound' Core Strategy. If the release of Green Belt is proposed, the plan should look even further into the future (to at least 2031).
- 1.5 However, the need to carry out a Study did not mean that land would be necessarily be released from the Green Belt, except if the Core Strategy determined that this was the most appropriate location to meet identified local needs. The Study would identify 'broad locations' where development could take place if required. The Core Strategy would also include a policy which sets out where and when land in the Green Belt could be released to meet locally generated needs.
- 1.6 The only exception to this would be a small number of minor adjustments around the edge of the built-up area, to correct anomalies arising from when

the Green Belt was first identified in 1983, or as a result of subsequent development. These are identified in a 'detailed boundary review'. It is intended that the Review's on detailed boundary changes recommendations would only be capable of being implemented through the LDF process – in this case when the Site Allocations DPD is prepared following the Core Strategy.

- 1.7 A further report in December 2009 outlined the timescale and proposed methodology for carrying out the Study, and the intention to consult on the draft results.
- 1.8 The Green Belt Study was undertaken in house by members of the Planning Department. However, in order to ensure that a robust study was produced that would withstand the inevitable and determined scrutiny by a wide range of interests, Envision (independent consultants) were appointed in March 2010 to validate the Study. Members were informed of this appointment in April.
- 1.9 The December report also noted that Knowsley & West Lancashire would also be carrying out an identical study in the same timescale, but that whilst Knowsley's Study would also be assessed by Envision, Lancashire County Council would be validating West Lancashire's Study. Whilst Knowsley has carried out its Study in parallel to Sefton, progress in West Lancashire has not dovetailed as well. As a result it is possible that there may be inconsistencies both in the way its Study was carried out, the weight given to different factors to reflect local priorities, and in the recommendations emerging from their external assessment. However, the crucial aspect is that it has been carried out using the same methodology.
- 1.10 The Study has now been completed, and has been validated by Envision.
- 1.11 A sample of the areas assessed were visited by Planning Committee on 16th August, as part of their regular schedule of visits, to help familiarise Members with some of the issues and the areas of land both where development could be accommodated, and where it should not take place because of constraints or other factors.
- 1.12 A workshop was also held for Planning Committee Members and substitutes on 25th August, to explain the methodology and draft results in some detail, as well as how this would link into the preparation of the Core Strategy's Preferred Options, which are due to be considered by Members in October.

2. The Study methodology

2.1 Whilst the Study largely followed the draft methodology reported to Planning Committee in December, a number of changes inevitably arose during the carrying out of the Study. This was because we could not identify any Study that had been carried out that exactly matched our needs, so the methodology was based on an amalgam of several studies, tailored to suit Sefton's,

Knowsley's & West Lancashire's specific needs. Some of the changes arose as a result of workshops facilitated by the consultants as part of the validation process, and some were as a result of Envision challenging our assumptions throughout the preparation of each stage of the Study.

- 2.2 However, the most significant changes resulted from the decision of the Coalition Government to revoke the Regional Strategy in July 2010. This has had a major impact on the final stage of the study. This was because the proposals outlined in the methodology for identifying non-strategic Green Belt, which could be released through the Core Strategy & Site Allocations DPD, no longer applied. As this concept did not replicate national planning policy guidance contained in PPG2, there was no longer a need to identify such land in the Study.
- 2.3 Progress on the preparation of the Core Strategy has also not proceeded as quickly as was anticipated. In part this has been determined by the need for more evidence to support the Plans' strategy (and in particular the 'Overview' Study which seeks to determine whether any of our neighbours can meet any of our anticipated unmet needs), but also as a result of having to address changes to the national planning policy approach. Specifically, it has been necessary to decide how the Council should respond to the revocation of the Regional Strategy in July.
- 2.4 Because we were unable to define what impact development in any area might have on future regeneration schemes and initiatives, this has meant that we have not attempted to include any triggers or mechanisms in the Green Belt Study about when and where land in the Green Belt may be required. However this will be included in the Core Strategy.
- 2.5 The delay in preparing the Core Strategy has also meant that the relationship with the Study has also changed. As no decisions have yet been taken about the appropriate amount of development that would be required to meet locally arising needs in both the main and smaller settlements, the location and indicative capacity of the areas not discarded at the end of the Study is unlikely to correlate exactly with where the Core Strategy prescribes that development should take place. For example, considerable capacity has been identified around some of the villages, but the Core Strategy may very well decide that these are not suitable places for growth, or that the scale of development that could be accommodated would be out of proportion to the current size of the village, and would adversely impact on its character.
- 2.6 This has also meant that the Study has had to rely on the results of the other background studies in deciding whether any area should be developed for housing (the over-riding need as identified in the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)), or employment (to meet post 2020 needs in the north of Sefton identified in the Employment Land & Premises Study (ELPS)). The need for other uses will be dependent on the scale and location of new development so cannot be assessed at this time.

- 2.7 Notwithstanding these changes, it is still considered that the methodology could be used by the other Merseyside authorities if they need to review their Green Belt boundaries in the future, and to inform any sub-regional Study to determine where strategic Green Belt release should take place in the future.
- 2.8 As set out in the draft methodology and the report to December's Planning Committee, the Study was carried out in 4 stages. The overall methodology and the individual stages have each been validated by Envision. The stages were:
 - Stage One –Identification of parcels (small areas) for analysis at the subsequent stages of the Study
 - Stage Two Testing against the 5 purposes of including land in the Green Belt as set out in PPG2 (the Government's guidance on Green Belts)
 - Stage Three Assessment against identified constraints and development opportunities
 - Stage Four Assessment of capacity & establishment of triggers for future release
- 2.8 As set out in the methodology, a number of parcels were discarded at the end of each Stage, and were not assessed at subsequent stages. However, where a parcel was not discarded, this did not necessarily mean that the whole of the parcel would be suitable for development. Decisions on the scope of development that could take place were based on the relationship of the parcel with the urban area, the extent of any constraints such as land subject to higher flood risk or international or national nature conservation designations, or whether there were any natural or strong physical boundaries that would contain the extent of any development within a parcel.
- 2.9 Decisions were not taken on whether the resultant capacity from any parcel, individually or collectively, was appropriate for any adjacent settlement. It is the role of the Core Strategy to determine each settlement's future place in the settlement hierarchy, and hence what would be an appropriate level of growth.

3. The draft results

3.1 The Study identified approximately 375 hectares of land in the Green Belt as having potential for meeting future housing and employment needs. This represents about 4.75% of the total Green Belt in Sefton. This could accommodate over 10,000 homes and over 25 hectares of potential employment land. This is more than is required to meet our needs for the plan period (see paragraphs 1.2 – 1.4 above). After all land in the urban areas

identified in the urban areas has been developed, there is an unidentified need for about 6,250 homes and 20 hectares of employment land to be accommodated outside the urban area.

- 3.2 This potential excess is important for three reasons.
- 3.3 Firstly, as no contact has taken place with any landowner, it is not known what the owners' intentions will be, or what impact the proposal will have on farm viability. We are aware that some landowners have already been contacted by developers, but we also know, through consultation on the SHLAA and other contact, that other landowners have no intention whatsoever of letting their land be developed.
- 3.4 Secondly, no decisions have been taken yet through the Core Strategy process about where development should take place, or indeed, whether the aspiration to meet locally generated needs in the local area is feasible. For example, the potential adjacent to Southport is severely restrained because the town already occupies most of the space between the coast and the boundary with West Lancashire, and most of the undeveloped land in the Green Belt is constrained to various degrees. In Bootle & South Sefton, there is similarly nowhere for future development to take place without compromising one of the 5 purposes of national Green Belt policy that of preventing settlements from merging, which could be the case if Netherton was allowed to expand across the Northern Perimeter Road towards Sefton village and Maghull.
- 3.5 Thirdly, some of the areas identified are in an existing use, or may be affected by physical and other constraints eg land which has a higher risk of flooding. There are also areas in the Green Belt which are in use as parks and other open space, including school playing fields, or as cemeteries or waste water treatment works. Although some of this land is 'developed', the uses they are in are nevertheless appropriate in the Green Belt, as they have little impact on it overall openness. If development were to take place on these areas, then alternative provision would need to be made in the local vicinity. This will not always be possible. If the use cannot be relocated, then it is likely that any development potential will not be able to be realised.
- 3.6 Other land may have been tipped, or could be in Flood Zones 3a or 2 and thus should not be developed unless no land with a lower flood risk is unavailable. Land has also been identified which is classified as being the best & most versatile agricultural land (grades 1 3a) or as a Local Wildlife Site (Site of Local Biodiversity (SLBI)). The Core Strategy will need to determine what importance should be given to these attributes, as they were not identified as prohibitive constraints during the assessment at Stage 3 of the methodology (see paragraph 2.6 above).
- 3.7 If all the areas such as these were excluded, then not only would insufficient land would be identified to meet our future needs, but also there would be no

flexibility about where development could take place. This may mean that development would be concentrated in the least constrained parts of the Borough, with less in the more constrained parts. However, such an approach would also mean that locally generated needs could not be met locally, because of the different factors affecting the west and the east of Sefton.

- 3.8 The following table sets out the maximum capacity for each settlement, assuming that many free-standing existing uses can be relocated. In some case, only part of a use is in the Green Belt with the remainder in the urban area (often designated as urban greenspace), it is assumed that re-location is not an option. These are usually playing fields and recreational uses, both publicly and privately owned.
- 3.9 Residential capacities have been calculated on the following basis:
 - Where the developable area is less than 0.4 hectares, the site could be fully developed;
 - Where the developable area is between 0.4 2 hectares, 10% of the site should not be developed to accommodate other uses including open space and any requirements for buffer planting;
 - Where the developable area is between 2 5 hectares, only 75% of the area should be developed;
 - Where the developable area is over 5 hectares in size, only 50% of the area should be developed.

This allows for other uses such as open space, schools, shops and other services that may be needed to be located within any very large sites.

3.10 For all sites, an average density of 30 homes per hectares has been used, although it is acknowledged that any area could be developed at higher or lower densities.

Settlement	Preferred use	Capacity from less constrained sites	Capacity from more constrained sites
Southport	Housing	1219	696
	Employment	26. 7 hectares	0
Formby	Housing	1439	133
Hightown	Housing	522	154
Ince Blundell	Housing	0	491
Crosby	Housing	1006	305
Maghull & Lydiate	Housing	229	2967
Aintree	Housing	381	0
Melling &	Housing	0	872

Waddicar			
Bootle & Netherton	Housing	0	0
TOTAL		4796	5618

- 3.10 The table shows that approximately 4,800 new homes could be built on the less constrained areas on the edge of settlements, with a maximum of an additional 5,600 homes built if some compromises are made in respect of the constraints affecting these areas. This may be different in the various parts of Sefton, depending on the extent of any unmet needs in each area.
- 3.11 The draft SHLAA (reported to Planning Committee last September) identified a yield of 4,399 homes in the urban area. The SHLAA figure is currently being updated and will be reported to Planning Committee in the near future, but even so there is still likely to be a gap between how much housing can be accommodated in the urban area, and what is required to meet Sefton's needs. This leaves an outstanding unidentified need for a further 6,371 homes if we are to build 500 additional homes a year to meet projected household growth.

4. Next Steps

- 4.1 Consultation on the draft results will take place later in the year, at the same time as consultation on the Core Strategy's Preferred Options. This will mean that people are able to see the results of the Green Belt Study in context, and see how its findings have informed the preparation of the Preferred Options. As well as the Study itself, individual sheets will be provided for each parcel of land showing how they were assessed at each stage of the Study, or at which stage they were discarded, with the reasons why. We will also be consulting on the Detailed Boundary Review (see paragraph 1.4) at the same time, although the recommendations from this Review will not be taken forward till we prepare the Site Allocations DPD, which is where changes to the UDP Proposals Map will be made.
- 4.2 The Green Belt Study, like the other studies that have been completed, will feed into the option development stage of the Core Strategy preparation. This will determine the role of each settlement over the next 15 20 years. It will also include how many homes and how much employment land is required in each part of Sefton to meet our needs. We will consult on the options this later this year.
- 4.3 The Core Strategy will contain a spatial strategy that sets out the settlement hierarchy. This will indicate what the role of each place should be in the future and what level of growth each settlement should accommodate. This will also establish what the appropriate level of growth for the smaller settlements is, if any. Whilst it is anticipated that as much investment as possible will continue to be directed to the urban areas of Southport and the south Sefton area, as

- indicated in paragraph 3.4 above there is very limited scope to develop in both of these areas once the supply in the urban area has been exhausted.
- 4.4 The Core Strategy will also have to re-consider the role of the smaller settlements and villages. At present only Hightown and Sefton are identified as 'inset' villages in the UDP, which means that the village is considered for limited development or limited expansion. All the other villages are 'washed over' by the Green Belt, which means that no new development should be permitted. We do not have any villages where infill is permitted. Such decisions, which will be subject to public consultation as part of the preparation of the Core Strategy, will determine whether any village should be identified as an area where growth should take place, notwithstanding whether this Green Belt Study has identified any potential for expansion.
- 4.5 The Study identified a number of prohibitive constraints where development should not take place, and a number of other constraints where decisions would need to be taken as part of the Core Strategy preparation process about the relative weight to be given to each. This may vary across the Borough, depending on the need for land to meet each settlement's requirements.
- 4.6 The Core Strategy will also need to include a 'trigger' mechanism that will ensure that land in the Green Belt is only released when it is needed, and to meet specific, identified needs. Land in the urban area should be developed first. The 'Overview Study', which is nearing completion, will help to inform what the cross-boundary implications of development will be, and what scope there is for one authority to meet any of a neighbouring authority's needs. This should also be fully explored before any land in the Green Belt is released. The policy will also need to ensure that development in the Green Belt does not have an adverse impact on any regeneration proposals and initiatives that are in place when land is proposed for release.

5. Conclusions

5.1 The Green Belt Study has identified areas where development might and should not take place. This will be used to inform the preparation of the Core Strategy Options about where and how our future needs could be met. It does not imply that any land identified in the Study as having potential will ever be developed.

REPORT TO: Planning

Cabinet Member - Regeneration

Cabinet

DATE: 15 September 2010

29 September 201030 September 2010

SUBJECT: Further Fordham Research Advice about Housing Matters in

Sefton

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis, Planning & Economic Development Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Alan Young – Strategic Planning and Information Manager

Tel: 0151 934 3551

Jim Ohren - Principal Manager (Housing Strategy)

Tel: 0151 934 3619

EXEMPT/

CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To report the findings of further studies undertaken by Fordham Research to:

- clarify and expand on the affordable housing statistics contained in previously completed Sefton Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008 and published in 2009; and
- (ii) provide an analysis of housing search and expectations in Sefton.

To recommend that the key findings of both of these studies are noted and agreed. In addition, arising from the first of these reports, seek agreement to a change in the current approved negotiating position with regard to affordable housing provided through the S106 process in Bootle.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To indicate Council support for the key findings of (i) the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note and (ii) the Housing Search and Expectations Study and changes to the Council's S106 affordable housing negotiating position with regard to Bootle.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That:

In terms of the two studies:

- (i) Planning Committee and Cabinet Member Regeneration note the key findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note and the Housing Search and Expectations Study and recommend that Cabinet endorses them to inform the emerging Core Strategy process;
- (ii) Subject to (iii) below, Planning Committee adopts the key findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note and the Housing Search and Expectations Study and uses them to inform the emerging Core Strategy Process; and

(iii) Cabinet approves the key findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note and the Housing Search and Expectations Study to inform the emerging Core Strategy Process.

In terms of amending the Council's current affordable housing negotiating position:

- (i) Planning Committee and Cabinet Member Regeneration, following the advice in Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note, recommend that Cabinet endorses the relaxation of any S106 affordable housing requirement for Bootle with immediate effect.
- (ii) Cabinet agrees the relaxation of any S106 affordable housing requirement for Bootle with immediate effect.

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Yes

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following expiry of call in period after Cabinet meeting on

30th September 2010.

Δ	ı	TERN	ΙΤΔΙ	VF	OPI	TIOI	VS ·
_	_	1 -171	171	v 🗀	vı ı	101	10.

None.

IMPLICATIONS: None

Budget/Policy Framework:

None

Financial:

The total cost of this Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note is £1,000 which has been met from a small balance of residual unused fees paid to Fordham Research in 2007/08 under a previous and now extinguished retainer relationship.

The total cost of the Housing Research and Expectations Study at £7,000 has been met from the 2010/11 Housing Capital Programme.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				

REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
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: No comments

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 502 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community		$\sqrt{}$	
2	Creating Safe Communities		V	
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		V	
8	Children and Young People		V	

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

Sefton Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008, July 2009

Housing Needs in Sefton - further details on the figures in the SHMA, a technical note, July 2010 Housing Search and Expectations Study, July 2010

Informed Economic Assessment of Affordable Homes, September 2010

Further Fordham Research Advice about Housing Matters in Sefton

1. Background

- 1.1 In order to inform the emerging Core Strategy process with regard to a number of key housing and affordable matters Fordham Research, as a follow on to the work that they have undertaken for the Council in relation to the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008 (SHMA 2008), have been commissioned to undertake two limited additional items of research, namely:
 - (i) a further analysis of affordable housing need in Sefton expanding and clarifying some of the results of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008; and
 - (ii) an analysis of housing search and expectations in Sefton
- 1.2 The purpose of this report is to summarise some of the key findings of the further research undertaken by Fordham Research in respect of these matters and to make some policy recommendations arising from them.

2. Further Analysis of Affordable Housing Need in Sefton – Technical Note

- 2.1 Members may recall receiving and agreeing a report on the results of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008 in the August/September 2009 cycle (i.e. Planning Committee on 18th August 2009, Cabinet Member on 2nd September 2009 and Cabinet on 3rd September 2009).
- 2.2 The SHMA 2008, inter alia, identified a net affordable housing need of 2,398 dwellings per year in Sefton, equivalent to a total of 11,990 dwellings (i.e. 2,398 multiplied by 5 years) over the five-year period. The net need for affordable housing varied across the Borough and was broken down by the six sub-areas of the Borough as follows (derived from Table 27.5 of the SHMA 2008) and reproduced in the Technical Note as Table 1.3 below:

Table 1.3 Net housing need and sub-area (Practice Guidance model)							
	Housing need						
Sub-area	Gross annual need	Gross annual supply	Net annual housing need	% of net shortfall	Supply as % of need	Net need per 1,000 household s	Total need over the 5- year period
Southport	1,610	374	1,236	51.6%	23.2%	32.1	6,180
Formby	169	16	153	6.4%	9.3%	16.9	765
Maghull / Aintree	267	96	171	7.1%	35.8%	11.4	855
Crosby	634	233	401	16.7%	36.8%	19.7	2,005
Bootle	798	521	277	11.6%	65.2%	15.7	1,385
Netherton	584	424	160	6.6%	72.7%	10.2	800
Total	4,062	1,664	2,398	100.0%	41.0%	20.6	11,990

Source: Sefton SHMA 2008 (combination of data sources)

2.3 Notwithstanding the above, at page 329, para 36.11 of the SHMA 2008 it is stated:

'that the actual amount of affordable housing required in Sefton is not the same as the amount of affordable housing need according to the Practice Guidance needs assessment model. The Practice Guidance needs assessment model is geared to an ideal state of affairs, not the current reality'

- 2.4 Specifically the SHMA 2008 figure does not imply that all households in need of affordable housing in Sefton necessarily require a new dwelling. In this regard, the total affordable housing need figure includes a need for two groups of households who currently have housing accommodation but, in respect of which, the CLG 'Practice Guidance' states that they are still in technical affordable housing need. This includes:
 - (i) households who live in the private rented sector on Housing Benefit because they are unable to afford entry level market accommodation; and
 - (ii) households who purchase market accommodation but pay more than the recommended proportion of 25% of their gross household income in housing costs
- 2.5 In respect of (i), Fordham Research acknowledged that whilst it may be very desirable to reduce the numbers of households dependent on Housing Benefit in the private rented sector, this is something which should only be attempted as long term goal and in a carefully phased manner, otherwise it would risk destabilising the wider private rented sector. In respect of (ii) Fordham Research acknowledged that to some extent this must be regarded as a 'life choice' that people make and, in any event, cannot be a high priority for local authorities to address. Notwithstanding these factors, Fordham Research concluded that it could be an aspiration of the Council to address both of them by increasing the stock of affordable housing over the longer term.
- 2.6 Consistent with this overall stance, Fordham Research's assessment indicates that a significant proportion of those defined in affordable housing need have no pressing need for a new dwelling. Accordingly, on the basis of their analysis (see para 36.10 of the SHMA 2008) Fordham Research have calculated that there is a pressing or critical need for 1,230 new affordable housing dwellings (i.e. 246 per annum over 5 years) in Sefton from the notional study base date in mid 2008.
- 2.7 Notwithstanding this it was acknowledged at officer level that the Fordham Research's analysis, as set out in the SHMA 2008, could benefit from further work with regard to: (i) providing greater clarity and explanation about what the 'true' or critical level of affordable housing need was in Sefton was and (ii) where in the Borough (i.e. which sub-areas) the 'true' or critical need arose. Accordingly, Fordham Research was commissioned earlier this year to prepare

a short Technical Note to assist with a clearer understanding of these matters. This note is available to view online at www.sefton.gov.uk/planningstudies.

(i) Key Findings of the Housing Needs in Sefton Technical Note

(a) Adjusted housing need in Sefton

- 2.8 In order to answer the questions raised at para 2.7 above, Fordham Research have adjusted some of the assumptions used within the Practice Guidance model to produce a more realistic estimate of the annual need for affordable housing in Sefton. Firstly, the number of lettings in the private rented sector to households on Housing Benefit are added to the supply of affordable housing. In Sefton this equates to 1,383 homes per year. Secondly, households moving to market housing, that are technically in need of affordable housing but have not indicated that this is a problem, have been excluded from the gross affordable housing need total. This group approximates to 769 households a year.
- 2.9 Table 1.2 below (as taken from the Technical Note) shows how these changing assumptions affect the figures in the Fordham model. The gross annual affordable housing need becomes 3,293 and the gross affordable housing supply becomes 3,047. Given this the need for Sefton is adjusted to 246 units per year (i.e. 3,293 minus 3,047), which equates to 1,230 affordable housing units (i.e. 246 multiplied by 5) over the next five years from the study base date.

Table 1.2 Adjusted housing need assessment in Sefton						
Element	Need according to the model	Change due to altered assumptions	Resultant adjusted figures			
Total gross annual need	4,062	-769	3,293			
Total gross annual supply	1,664	+1,383	3,047			
Total net annual need	2,398	-	246			

Source: Sefton SHMA 2008 (combination of data sources)

- 2.10 Importantly, Fordham Research emphasise that the lower figure of 246 dwellings per annum or 1,230 units over a five year period is not necessarily the total affordable housing need, because some (an unspecified number) households purchasing homes and on Housing Benefit in rented accommodation may be in genuine affordable housing need. In this regard, Fordham Research estimate that allowance for these factors could take the total affordable housing need to 'a figure of 350 dwellings per year' equivalent to a five year figure of 1,750 (i.e. 350 multiplied by 5) affordable housing units.
- 2.11 Critically, Fordham Research point out that the ability to regard market housing provision supported by Housing Benefit as affordable housing will diminish once the changes in the Housing Benefit system announced by the Coalition Government come into effect. This will have the effect of pushing up the total affordable housing need in Sefton by an unspecified amount and, in this regard,

the total affordable housing need figure of 350 per annum could prove to be an understatement of the real need for affordable housing in Sefton.

(b) Location of housing need by sub area

2.12 Using the approach adopted above, it is necessary to disaggregate the 'change due to altered assumptions' identified at column 2 of table 1.2 above. This is presented in Table 1.4 from the Technical Report which is reproduced as below.

Table 1.4 Location of components of adjusted assumptions				
Sub-area	Households in need where not a problem (annual)	Housing Benefit lettings (annual)		
Southport	476	628		
Formby	19	69		
Maghull / Aintree	34	123		
Crosby	98	286		
Bootle	76	236		
Netherton	66	41		
Total	769	1,383		

Source: Sefton SHMA 2008 (Combined data sources)

2.13 The figures for households in need where affordability is technically not a problem are then deducted from the gross annual need figures presented in column 1 of Table 1.4 above. The figures for Housing Benefit lettings in column 2 of Table 1.4 are added to the gross annual supply figures presented in column 2 of Table 1.3. These adjustments provide information on the location of gross need, gross supply and net need for sub areas as presented below in Table 1.5.

Table 1.5 Net housing need and sub-area (adjusted assumptions)							
	Housing need						
Sub-area	Gross annual need	Gross annual supply	Net annual housing need	% of net shortfall	Supply as % of need	Net need per 1,000 househol ds	Total need over the 5-year period
Southport	1,134	1,002	132	46.9%	88.4%	3	658
Formby	150	85	65	23.2%	56.6%	7	326
Maghull/Aintree	233	219	14	4.9%	94.1%	1	69
Crosby	536	519	17	6.0%	96.9%	1	84
Bootle	722	757	-35	0.0%	104.8%	-2	-174
Netherton	518	465	53	18.9%	89.7%	3	266
Total	3,293	3,047	246	100.0%	92.5%	2	1,230

Source: Sefton SHMA 2008 (combination of data sources)

- 2.14 The table above disaggregates the Borough's net affordable housing need of 1,230 dwellings over five years by the various sub areas (although if it were assumed that any notional overprovision of affordable housing in Bootle could not meet needs in other sub areas of Sefton, then the total net affordable need for the remainder of the Borough would increase from 1,230 to 1,404 dwellings over a five year period). Interestingly, on this revised basis, the largest quantitative affordable housing need is in Southport (658 units), followed by Formby (326 units) and Netherton (266 units), whilst the highest affordable housing need per 1,000 households is in Formby at 326 units, which is equivalent to 7% of all households in the local area, more than twice the rate of the next most pressing locations in Southport and Netherton at 3% each. Bootle, in contrast, has a negative affordable housing need over five years of 174 dwellings, reflecting the position that affordable housing supply exceeds need in this area.
- 2.15 Importantly, Fordham Research note that whilst the Technical Note reports on the affordable housing situation in Sefton in the summer of 2008, the economic downturn that has subsequently occurred has not altered the affordable situation in Sefton 'and the figures remain a valid assessment of affordable housing need in the Borough'.
- 3. Key Findings of the Housing Search and Expectations Study
 - (i) Study Context
- 3.1 In order to get a better understanding of how the Borough's resident population views the local housing market and how households move through it, the Council also recently commissioned Fordham Research, as an enhancement of the previous SHMA 2008, to undertake a limited focused study on how the local housing markets operate in Sefton and how they are perceived by local residents, including whether households would consider living outside Sefton. The Housing Search and Expectations Study is available to view online at www.sefton.gov.uk/planningstudies.
- 3.2 In particular, the study has comprised three key components:
 - (i) a review of the existing relevant literature including:
 - Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy Annual Monitoring Report 2010
 - Sefton Movers Survey Additional Analysis
 - New Heartlands HMRI: Aspirations of Emerging Households
 - (ii) a re-analysis of the existing Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008 dataset; and
 - (iii) a Search Patterns Survey: 'Housing Search and Expectations Study'

- (ii) Key Findings of this Work
- (a) review of the existing relevant literature
- 3.3 Some key findings of this literature review are as follows:

Liverpool City Region Housing Strategy Annual Monitoring Report

3.4 Drawing on the Movers' Survey analysis for various local authorities for the previous year, this report suggests that Sefton is the most self contained local authority within the Liverpool City Region with 81% of housing moves being internal, whilst at the opposite extreme only 49% of Liverpool's housing moves are internal. The report also suggests that Sefton has its strongest links with Liverpool and West Lancashire, with less strong links to Knowsley and St Helens. Interestingly, in terms of neighbouring authorities, the pattern of net movement is from Liverpool and Knowsley to Sefton and from Sefton to West Lancashire.

Sefton Movers Additional Analysis

3.5 This research, which was completed in February 2010, records some more detailed findings from the Movers' Survey for the various local authorities involved and specifically for Sefton over a two and a half year period. This report finds that most moves occur within the local authority and in Sefton it is estimated that 78.8% of moves are internal. Of those external moves which have taken place, 5% are to Liverpool and 4% to West Lancashire. In reverse, over 8% of Liverpool moves and over 10% of West Lancashire moves are to Sefton. Significantly, the analysis finds that when people move between authorities it is often to the local to postal districts that adjoin the local authority of origin.

New Heartlands HMRI: Aspirations of Emerging Households

3.6 This report, which was completed in May 2009, examined the housing aspirations of seven groups of 'emerging' households living in the New Heartlands area which covers part of three local authority areas including South Sefton (also Liverpool and Wirral). The report showed that:

"a significant number of individuals classified as emerging households currently live in private-rented sector accommodation. Though certain groups, particularly young professionals and students, are satisfied with this arrangement, for many it is an inevitable outcome of a limited supply of social housing and the inability to pursue home ownership. In addition, for some groups, private or social rented accommodation solutions are the preferred choice due to the perceived poor quality of private housing available within the area they wished to reside."

(b) re-analysis of the existing Strategic Housing Market Assessment 2008 dataset

- 3.7 This work took the dataset produced for the SHMA 2008 and re-analysed it to answer new questions relating to the housing preferences and expectations of Sefton residents and, in particular, the relationship of the housing markets in Sefton to the surrounding area. The SHMA 2008 survey gained responses from 2,288 households. The survey data was weighted to represent the estimated 116,328 households living in the Borough at that time.
- 3.8 The survey results suggested that 17,966 households in Sefton intended to move within the next two years at the time of the survey. The re-analysis of these household responses found, inter alia, that:
 - households in Sefton that intend to move in the following two years mostly prefer to remain in Sefton. A total of 82% of movers (about 14,744) would prefer to remain in the Borough. Only 3% (about 502 households) stated that they would prefer to move to Liverpool, with a larger proportion of households (4%, or about 782) seeking to move to West Lancashire.
 - those able to afford market housing without assistance tend to be less likely to want to live in Bootle or Liverpool than average, and more likely to prefer West Lancashire or other parts of the UK. Those unable to afford market housing show the reverse pattern.
 - those most able to afford housing in Sefton, and therefore with the widest range of choices open to them, tend to be more likely to want to move further from the central core of the wider Merseyside urban area. The implication is that those most likely to want to move from south Sefton to Liverpool are those in need of affordable housing and, in particular, social housing,
 - the survey compares the preferred destination of moving households with their expected destination. This ratio of preferences to expectations gives a crude measure of the popularity of an area which households in Sefton which are planning to move. If more people would like to move to an area than expect to be able to, an area will have a strongly positive ratio of preferences to expectations. If, on the other hand, people expect to move to an area despite few preferring it, this area will have a negative ratio of preferences to expectations. Given this, West Lancashire is by far the most popular area among respondents. Preferences also exceed expectations for Southport and for other parts of Sefton. However, for Liverpool and Bootle expectations exceed preferences, indicating that a significant proportion of the people expecting to move there would ideally prefer to live elsewhere.
 - regarding the housing preferences of households expected to move from (or within) Sefton in the next two years, for most parts of Sefton, a small

majority of those seeking to move are looking to buy a home and expecting to owner-occupy. The exception is in Bootle where 89% of those seeking to move to (or within) Bootle expect to secure social rented accommodation. In other areas, between 20-40% of movers are seeking social rented housing. Among those seeking to move out of Sefton to other areas of the North West, almost all expect to owner-occupy.

- those commuting to Liverpool were most likely to prefer to live in the 'Sefton other' area, which includes places such as Formby, Crosby and Maghull, and least likely to prefer Bootle.
- the 'Sefton other' area tends to appeal to households with relatively high incomes and savings, while Bootle appeals mostly to low income households.

(c) Search Patterns Survey

- 3.9 The information gained from the household survey carried out for the SHMA 2008 provides a broad overview of housing preferences and expectations of the household population. However, in order to gain more detailed information about how local people move within the area and why, a smaller additional household survey has been carried out by Fordham Research earlier this year.
- 3.10 This survey was targeted at households that had recently moved or are looking to move to try and establish further information on their search patterns. The sample for the survey was drawn from the SHMA 2008 dataset, among households (or same addresses if households have moved) with households that indicated that they would be willing to take part in further research and also stated that they had moved home within the last five years (at the time of the SHMA) or that they intended to move home in the next five years (at the time of the SHMA) selected. This provided a total sample of 565 households.
- 3.11 Each of these 565 households were contacted about the possibility of taking part in this research and were invited to complete an online questionnaire covering some basic details on their current home and household composition, information on their previous home, how they have looked for their current home and what their future moving. In total 92 valid responses were obtained, which although a little disappointing, nevertheless provides a sufficient sample to report on general trends and allows some disaggregation of the results. Due to the sampling method used and the lack of secondary data on the size of the total population currently (in 2010) it is not possible to weight the dataset. The analysis therefore records the findings of the respondent households rather than the household population they represent which the SHMA 2008 is able to do.

3.12 In summary of the key findings of the Search Patterns Survey were:

(i) General impressions of Sefton and surrounding local authorities

- households that indicated an intention to move in the next five-years were
 asked their general opinion of Sefton and other neighbouring local
 authorities. The responses suggest that West Lancashire is viewed as the
 'nicest' area in the local region, followed by Sefton itself. More households in
 Sefton view the areas of Knowsley and Liverpool as 'poor' than 'good'.
 Further analysis of this information shows that owner-occupiers with no
 mortgage had a better impression of Sefton than those with a mortgage, but
 a worse impression of all other areas, with the largest difference recorded for
 Liverpool.
- households were also asked to indicate whether there were particular reasons that they described an authority as being 'poor' or 'very poor'. Too much crime was cited as a reason for describing Knowsley as 'poor' by eight households, with three households citing this as the reason that Liverpool is 'poor' and three households using this reason to find Sefton 'poor'. Four households described Liverpool as 'poor' because of a poor choice of housing, with Knowsley (two households), Wirral (one household) and West Lancashire (one household) also being described as poor for this reason. Two households described Sefton as 'poor' because housing is too expensive with this also a reason Wirral is 'poor' for one household. Three households described Knowsley 'poor' because of poor quality of education/schools, with Liverpool (one household) also being described as poor for this reason.
- households were then asked to indicate to which areas they would consider moving to and why. Almost four-fifths of households would consider moving within Sefton and less than 10% definitely would not. The main reasons for moving out of the Borough are particular to the household, but include the cost of housing being too great and friends and family having moved away.
- the overall further survey results suggest that Sefton is a fairly distinct
 housing market with few households considering moving to a neighbouring
 authority. Even West Lancashire, which Sefton residents have a good
 impression of, would only be considered by just over a third of moving
 households. The number of moving households that will consider moving to
 Wirral and Liverpool is very small and Knowsley will not be considered
 outright by any moving households in the sample.

(ii) More detail on how sub-markets operate locally

 the survey examines the areas that respondents considered moving to before moving to a property in Sefton, by considering the locations of properties they visited before purchasing or renting their current home. This gives some impression of the level of mobility of households surveyed, and therefore the extent to which their housing requirements could potentially be met outside the Borough. Responses indicate a notable divide between the north and south of the Borough. Those living in Southport and Formby are particularly unlikely to have considered properties in other parts of the Borough, or indeed in areas outside the Borough to the south such as Liverpool. This also applies to Crosby located in the northern part of south Sefton. In contrast, those living in Bootle and Netherton are more likely to have considered properties in Liverpool. Maghull/Aintree appears to be an area of overlap where movers were more likely to have considered a wider range of areas.

- properties in Southport and Crosby were considered by all household types, with Bootle popular only among single non-pensioners. Pensioner households were the most likely to consider Formby when moving, with more than half of those surveyed viewing a property in this area. In contrast, Formby was not popular among single non-pensioners, who tended to prefer Crosby. Relatively few respondents of all household types had considered properties in other Boroughs to the south, although a significant number of families and multi-adult households had considered properties in West Lancashire.
- it is notable that all respondents who viewed properties in the south of the Borough (Netherton and Bootle) had a household income of less than £30,000. Formby and West Lancashire tended to be favoured by higher income respondents. In the north of the Borough, lower income respondents tended to be more likely to view properties in Southport than Formby or Crosby.

(iii) Reasons for moves

- comparing the results for different parts of the Borough, relatively little
 difference is visible in the reasons for moving. Almost all respondents
 considered property size, affordability and the reputation of the area to be
 either important or very important in their choice of home. Educational
 issues, such as school catchment areas, were a concern for only a minority
 of movers, as might be expected given that not all movers have children.
- the proportion for whom care needs were a factor in choice of home did show a geographical pattern, increasing from 12% in the north of the Borough to 40% in the south. Proximity to work also increased in importance toward the south. While only 35% were concerned with this issue in the north of Sefton, this increased to 60% in Bootle and Netherton.
- proximity to family and/or friends was highest in the central part of Sefton (Crosby, Maghull and Aintree).

(d) Key Conclusions of the Housing Search and Expectations Study

- 3.13 Taking account of all the evidence gathered the key conclusions of the Housing Search and Expectations Study undertaken by Fordham Research may be summarised as below:
 - the study confirms what the SHMA 2008 previously concluded, namely that Sefton is a distinct housing market area in its own right with a high degree of containment in terms of past householder moves and preferred householder moves. Further, the study confirms that, whilst Sefton is a distinct housing market area, there are two separate housing markets within Sefton, the first in the north and centre of the Borough (including Southport, Formby and Crosby), with the second in the south of the Borough (including Bootle and Netherton).
 - although cross boundary moves are small scale relative to moves within the Borough, the north and central market is closely linked to West Lancashire whilst the south housing market show greater links with Liverpool, albeit net moves seem to be from Liverpool to south Sefton rather than in the other direction
 - Additionally the report notes that the direction of moves does seem to be
 affected by the financial capacity of households. Those most likely to be able
 to afford housing in Sefton tend to be more likely to move to the north and
 central market within Sefton and also West Lancashire, and those requiring
 affordable housing are more likely to move to south Sefton or Liverpool. The
 implication of this is that Liverpool may be a suitable to meet some of the
 affordable housing needs arising in south Sefton if suitable sites were
 available), although the majority would ideally prefer to remain within Sefton.
- 3.14 To conclude, drawing on all the evidence available, Fordham Research have recommended to Sefton that:

'Whilst some housing moves do take place beyond the [Sefton] Borough boundary to and from neighbouring local authorities, they are relatively minor in number. Accordingly, the presumption must be that the new housing required (both market and affordable) for the population of Sefton should be provided within the Borough unless housing markets are to change radically. Notwithstanding this, in a situation where Sefton were to consider some of the housing needs that would otherwise be unmet could be addressed in neighbouring local authorities, it would need to satisfy itself that suitable housing sites, of the right type and tenure mix and in the right location, were available to meet this need.'

4. Director's Comments

4.1 The further research undertaken by Fordham Research for the Council is timely and firmly supports the key findings of the SHMA 2008. It will assist with the

- development of key housing and affordable housing policies through the Core Strategy process.
- 4.2 In this regard, the Housing Needs in Sefton Technical Note provides a clear understanding of the scale and distribution of critical affordable housing needs in Sefton and its constituent sub-areas expanding on the findings of the SHMA 2008. It clearly shows that critical affordable housing needs amount to 246 units per annum equivalent to 1,230 units over a five-year period. Additional to this there are potentially an approximate further 100 units per annum unspecified less critical affordable housing needs which equate to a total affordable housing need of 350 per annum or 1,750 units over a five year period, albeit this figure cannot be disaggregated.
- 4.3 As pointed out in para 2.14 above, it is significant to note that that of the 1,230 units of critical affordable housing need identified over a five year period, the largest quantitative affordable housing need is in Southport (658 units) whilst the highest affordable housing need as a proportion of households is in Formby at 326 units, which is equivalent to 7% of all households, more than twice the rate of the next most pressing locations in Southport and Netherton at 3% each.
- 4.4 Equally importantly, the analysis shows that Bootle has a negative affordable housing need 174 units over a five-year period. Critically this does not mean that there is no need for new affordable housing in Bootle, which may be required through, for example, the HMRI process re-housing requirements or to replace outdated social rented stock, but rather that it is not currently possible to justify any new affordable housing being provided through the S106 process. This, points to the clear need to consider an immediate relaxation of affordable housing requirements through the S106 process in Bootle. For the avoidance of doubt, Bootle in this instance is defined as embracing the three wards of Derby, Linacre and Litherland.
- 4.5 Interestingly, and perhaps not totally coincidentally, the results of the Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing (the findings of which were reported to Members in the last cycle), suggested that only 10% affordable housing could be expected on viability grounds in Bootle, in any event.
- 4.6 With regard to the key findings of the Housing Search and Expectations Study this study draws together evidence from a number of sources and independently confirms much that which we already anecdotally know about Sefton's housing market and how it operates, both internally and with neighbouring local authorities. In this regard, it will be interesting to see what the ongoing separate Greater Merseyside Overview Study (the findings of which will be reported to Members when completed later in the year), will say about Sefton's housing market and how it links to neighbouring local authority areas. It follows that the key findings from both these studies will need to be taken careful account of as we take forward the housing elements of our Core Strategy.

4.7 To conclude, the findings of this further research adds to the portfolio of robust evidence that we have assembled on housing matters in Sefton (including the Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment, Strategic Housing Market Assessment and the Informed Assessment of the Economic Viability of Affordable Housing). All this evidence will be vital to taking forward key housing and affordable housing policies through the Core Strategy process.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That:

In terms of the two further studies:

- (i) Planning Committee and Cabinet Member Regeneration note the key findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note and the Housing Search and Expectations Study and recommend that Cabinet endorses them to inform the emerging Core Strategy process;
- (ii) Subject to (iii) below, Planning Committee adopts the key findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note and the Housing Search and Expectations Study and uses them to inform the emerging Core Strategy Process; and
- (iii) Cabinet approves the key findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note and the Housing Search and Expectations Study to inform the emerging Core Strategy Process.

In terms of amending the Council's current affordable housing negotiating position:

- (i) Planning Committee and Cabinet Member Regeneration, following the advice in Strategic Housing Market Assessment Technical Note, recommend that Cabinet endorses the relaxation of any S106 affordable housing requirement for Bootle with immediate effect.
- (ii) Cabinet agrees the relaxation of any S106 affordable housing requirement for Bootle with immediate effect.

REPORT TO: Planning Committee

Cabinet

DATE: 15 September 2010

30 September 2010

SUBJECT: Safeguarding Employment Land Supplementary Planning Document –

Draft for Public and Stakeholder Consultation

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis, Planning & Economic Regeneration Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Alan Young

Telephone 0151 934 3551

EXEMPT/ No

CONFIDENTIAL:

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To seek Member approval to take the draft 'Safeguarding Employment Land' Supplementary Planning Document out to public and stakeholder consultation. If adopted (following the public and stakeholder consultation), this Document would form the basis for determining relevant planning applications in the Borough.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To gain Council approval for the draft 'Safeguarding Employment Land' Supplementary Planning Document' prior to publication for consultation purposes.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that Planning Committee and Cabinet:

- (i) Approve the draft document for public and stakeholder consultation, subject to any further comments or amendments that Members may wish to suggest.
- (ii) Agree to receive a further report on the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation and a suggested way forward to secure its adoption as an SPD.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following expiry of call in period after Cabinet meeting on

30th September 2010.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The alternative option would be not to produce the SPD and determine applications using the existing planning policy guidance. This may result in the loss of employment land in areas where we have an identified shortage.

I٨	ΛP	LI	CA	١T١	റ	N	S:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial:

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
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:	N/a

Risk Assessment: N/a

Asset Management: N/a

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 514 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
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

^{&#}x27;Safeguarding Employment Land Supplementary Planning Document'

^{&#}x27;Planning Policy Statement 4: Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth', December 2009

^{&#}x27;Joint Employment Land & Premises Study', January 2010

^{&#}x27;Sefton Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment', February 2010

Safeguarding Employment Land Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) – Draft for Public and Stakeholder Consultation

1. Background & Introduction

- 1.1 The draft Safeguarding Employment Land SPD has been prepared in order to support the Council's planning policies on the retention of employment land. It is intended to clarify existing policy provided in the Council's Unitary Development Plan (UDP), and also build upon recommendations made in the recent Employment Land & Premises Study.
- 1.2 Planning policy in this area is currently set out in UDP Policy EDT 18. This Policy states:

POLICY EDT18 RETENTION OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- 1. Proposals for non-employment uses which involve the loss of land and/or buildings which are either currently used for or were last used for industrial, business, office or other employment uses, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal:
 - a) would not result in the loss of employment or buildings of a type for which there are insufficient alternatives available locally; or
 - b) would fully compensate for the permanent loss of the site for employment generating uses, or
 - c) would replace an employment use that is seriously detrimental to local amenity and the local environment
- 2. Planning conditions or legal agreements will be used to ensure the above is achieved.
- 1.3 If adopted, the SPD would provide a clear framework for assessing planning applications against this existing policy. The SPD would apply to all proposals for housing and other non-employment development on sites currently or last in employment use.
- 1.4 Importantly, the SPD not apply to the major industrial estates in the Borough, such as those along the Dunnings Bridge Road Corridor, adjacent to the Port, or at Crowland Street in Southport, which are restricted to employment uses by relevant UDP policies. Instead, the SPD would only apply to smaller employment sites outside of formal 'Primarily Industrial Areas' (as identified on the UDP Proposals Map), which are often in predominantly residential areas. The majority of these sites are located in Southport (including the numerous 'backland' sites) although the guidance would also affect sites in South Sefton such as the Sandy Road Industrial Estate in Seaforth, and Musker Street in Crosby.
- 1.5 The SPD would also look to reconcile conflicting messages emerging from recent studies the Council has commissioned relating to housing land and employment land supply. The findings from these studies are explored in paragraphs 3.2 3.5 and 3.10

- 3.11 below.

2. Key Provisions within the Draft SPD

- 2.1 This section of the report provides a summary of the key points contained within the draft SPD. A full version of the draft SPD is appended.
- 2.2 The draft SPD states that the Council's starting point will be to seek to retain all employment sites in continued employment use. There would be a presumption against the redevelopment of these sites to housing and other non-employment uses.
- 2.3 Additionally, 16 criteria are set out that can be used to justify an exception to the Council's position. Where one or more of these criteria can be satisfactorily demonstrated, then non-employment uses will be considered. The criteria are summarised as follows:
 - Lack of demand for employment uses; as demonstrated by a marketing exercise.
 - Long-term vacancy; continuous vacancy for a minimum of 5 years.
 - Overriding residential amenity considerations; substantiated by a history of complaints to the Council's Environmental Protection Team.
 - Overriding highways considerations; applicable to sites that cause unacceptable HGV movements, highways safety issues, localised congestion or parking problems.
 - Proposals for affordable housing; proposals for 100% affordable housing will be acceptable in principle. Proposals for a higher level of affordable housing than currently required by policy given additional weight.
 - **Sites below 0.1 hectares**; exempt from the provisions of the SPD. Alternative uses acceptable in principle.
 - Overriding regeneration considerations; sites supported through the HMRI process or other major regeneration schemes.
 - Relocation of businesses within Sefton; businesses looking to expand / modernise will be permitted to dispose of their previous premises for non employment uses.
 - **Proposals for mixed-use development**; schemes that provide a modern employment use alongside other uses potentially acceptable.
 - Frontages that form a functional part of a town or local centre; change of use to appropriate town centre uses (retail etc) permitted.
 - Proposals that involve the preservation / restoration of historic buildings; non-employment uses permitted where this would enable the preservation / restoration of historic buildings.

- Sites considered unsuitable for employment use in Sefton's Employment Land & Premises Study; this applies to a small number of sites contained at appendix 36 of the Employment Land & Premises Study.
- **Proposals for economic development uses**; proposals for a wider range of employment generating usually acceptable, excluding retail uses.
- Larger sites with very low employment outputs; sites above 0.4 hectares that provide fewer than 10 jobs.
- Re-conversion of former houses; will be allowed to revert to residential use.
- Employment uses that share a significant party wall with an existing dwelling; non-employment uses permitted to ensure residential amenity is preserved.
- 2.4 Additionally, the SPD applies a stronger protection to employment sites in North Sefton to reflect the greater shortage of employment land in Southport and Formby. A greater degree of flexibility will be permitted to proposals in South Sefton.
- 2.5 Overall, the draft SPD aims to be pragmatic and flexible whilst still affording protection to the most important employment sites. The 16 criteria listed above provide a range of exceptions that will allow for suitable redevelopment to take place. The SPD also looks to encourage 'win win' situations where affordable housing or mixed-use schemes can be secured.

3. Rationale Behind the SPD

3.1 In addition to the need to clarify established policy, this section of the report sets out the rationale for introducing the planning guidance.

(i) Findings of the Employment Land & Premises Study

- 3.2 Sefton has recently published an Employment Land & Premises Study, which was carried out jointly with Halton, Knowsley, and West Lancashire Councils. The Study was produced on the Councils' behalf by specialist consultancy BE Group who have a history of working on projects in Sefton, including the Southport Commerce Park Study (published in 2005).
- 3.3 This Study provides a comprehensive assessment of employment land supply in Sefton, including a review of each industrial estate and business park in the Borough. The Study found that Sefton has an overall shortfall of employment land to meet the Borough's long-term economic needs. In this respect, the Study recommended that Sefton should resist any loss of the Borough's Primarily Industrial Areas to other uses. Para 11.67 of the study states:

"As a consequence of the limited land availability within the borough, Sefton needs to take a robust stance to the protection of existing employment site and premises, even where individually these may represent small opportunities. Against this

background, the assessment of the SHLAA in terms of residential potential associated with employment sites and employment areas is very limited."

3.4 Additionally, the Study identified a more acute shortage of employment land / premises in North Sefton than in South Sefton. Para 12.70 of the Study states:

"The North Sefton area is characterised by a shortage of employment land and premises. One feature of existing provision is the 'backland' sites associated with residential areas in Southport, and particularly East Birkdale. Although individually small, collectively they provide a resource that Sefton Council should through its planning policy, presume be retained."

In light of this shortage, para 12.44 recommends that:

"Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council strongly protect the existing employment land and premises resource, particularly in North Sefton where the shortages are most acute."

3.5 Whilst the shortage of employment land in South Sefton is less severe, the Study recommended that employment land should still be protected in order to support the needs of the local economy.

(ii) Contribution to the Local Economy

North Sefton

- 3.6 In North Sefton, the 'backland' and other small-scale employment sites make an important contribution to the local economy. Southport clearly lacks the industrial estates and business parks that exist in other nearby towns of comparable size, and only 24% of the industrial areas in Sefton are in Southport and Formby (which account for 41.5% of the Borough's population). Additionally, of the 16.6 hectares (ha) of employment land available for development in Southport, 13.2 ha is located at Southport Business Park and is therefore reserved for high quality B1 uses (offices, research & development, etc) only. There are also no obvious new sites to allocate for employment development in the area. The 'backland' sites therefore perform an important role in the local economy, and are an important resource for local businesses.
- 3.7 According to the 2001 Census, 63.9% of Southport's working population are employed in Southport. Just over a third of Southport residents commute to other areas, with Liverpool, West Lancashire and the rest of Sefton the most prominent destinations. A full breakdown is provided below:

Commuting Patterns in Southport

Destination	Number of Residents	Percentage of total
Southport / Ainsdale	24,434	63.9%
Rest of Sefton	3,347	8.8%
Liverpool	3,234	8.5%
West Lancashire	2,301	6.0%
Preston	629	1.6%
Other	4,264	11.2%
Total working population	38,209	100%

Source: 2001 Census

3.8 Given the high proportion of people who live and work in Southport, a reduction in the number of employment sites could potentially increase the rate of out-commuting, leading to higher local congestion and emissions. The 'backland' and other small-scale employment sites therefore help to contribute to sustainable communities in North Sefton. They provide jobs and services to local residents, helping to reduce the need to travel, and also ensure a presence during the daytime when most people are at work, which helps to reduce opportunities for crime.

South Sefton

- 3.9 The pattern of employment provision in South Sefton is very different to North Sefton, and the majority of employment land is focused in dedicated industrial estates and business parks, such as those located along Dunnings Bridge Road. As stated above this SPD would not apply to these sites, which are within 'Primarily Industrial Areas' in Sefton's UDP. Additionally, the supply of employment land is considerably greater in South Sefton, which accommodates 76% off the Borough's employment areas.
- 3.10 Given the less constrained employment land supply this SPD applies a greater degree of flexibility to proposals in South Sefton. However, in a number of locations fairly substantial industrial estates fall outside of formal 'Primarily Industrial Areas' and would therefore be subject to the provisions of this SPD. These and other sites also provide local employment opportunities to often deprived communities, and in some instances accommodate fairly significant numbers of jobs.

(iii) Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

- 3.11 Sefton has also recently published a Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) that was undertaken on the Council's behalf by consultants WYG. The SHLAA was carried out to assess how much land is potentially available for housing development in the urban areas of Sefton. This Study provides the basis for our understanding of housing land supply in the Borough.
- 3.12 The SHLAA identified a number of employment sites as being potentially suitable for housing. These sites were located throughout Sefton. This SPD has, in part, been prompted by the need to resolve the apparent tensions between the findings of the Borough's employment land and housing land studies.

(iv) Potential Contribution to housing supply

- 3.13 The draft SPD aims to provide a level of protection to small-scale employment sites in order to support the needs of the local economy. However, if the Council were to take a different approach and encourage residential development, then these sites could make a contribution to housing provision in the Borough. Whilst it is emphasised to Members that this is not the recommended approach, the potential housing contribution from these sites is provided below for illustrative purposes.
- 3.14 137 backland and other small-scale employment sites were assessed through the SHLAA, accounting for a significant proportion of these sites (including nearly all of larger sites). The table below indicates how many houses could potentially be delivered, assuming a 'best case scenario' of 50% of identified SHLAA sites coming forward for housing. It should be noted that this high proportion is optimistic (many of the sites suffer from access problems, contamination, multiple ownerships, do not meet interface distances, or accommodate operational businesses etc), and is provided for indicative purposes only:

	No. of SHLAA sites	Total area of SHLAA sites	Potential dwellings (50% of sites at 30 dwellings per hectare)
North Sefton	83	17.00 ha	255
South Sefton	53	18.35 ha	275
Total	136	35.35	530

3.15 As can be seen, these sites would contribute only some 530 dwellings to our housing supply, despite assuming a 'best case scenario' level of development. This would account for just over 1 years supply of land when set against the annual housing target of 500 dwellings per annum. Our view is that this would represent a poor return for the loss of an important local economic resource. Additionally, it should be noted that given the flexible and pragmatic nature of the draft SPD, a proportion of these sites will come forward for development in any event.

4. Director's Comments

- 4.1 The draft 'Safeguarding Employment Land' SPD will provide a clear and transparent framework for assessing proposals to redevelop employment sites. If adopted, it would offer a level of protection to employment land that would help to support both local jobs and the local economy. Whilst the general thrust of the guidance is geared towards retaining employment sites, the SPD contains a number of exceptions that would allow a flexible approach to the release less important sites. In this respect, potential 'win win' situations involving affordable housing schemes or mixed-use development are encouraged. In addition, the guidance will not prevent local businesses from expanding or modernising.
- 4.2 Given the overall shortfall of employment land in the Borough, this guidance would help to ensure that local businesses and jobs are retained. This will be particularly important in North Sefton where there is a severe under supply of employment land, with very few formal industrial estates available.
- 4.3 Members are urged to support this policy so that we can proceed to public and stakeholder consultation. Any Member comments or suggested amends would be

gratefully received, and will help to inform a final consultation draft.

Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Planning Committee:

- (i) Approve the draft document for public and stakeholder consultation, subject to any further comments or amendments that Members may wish to suggest.
- (ii) Agree to receive a further report on the outcome of the public and stakeholder consultation and a suggested way forward to secure its adoption as an SPD.

Annex 1



Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council

Safeguarding Employment Land Supplementary Planning Document

Draft for Public and Stakeholder Consultation

September 2010

Safeguarding Employment Land Supplementary Planning Document

- 1 Background and introduction
- 2 Considerations that will apply to all Proposals
- 3 Additional Criteria Applicable to Proposals in North Sefton
- 4 Additional Criteria Applicable to Proposals in South Sefton
- 5 Marketing criteria
- 6 Background Documents
- 7 Relevant Contacts

Appendix 1 – Sustainability Appraisal

1 Background and Introduction

Introduction

- 1.1 This Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is intended to support the Council's planning policies on the retention of employment land. It provides further clarification on Unitary Development Plan 2006 (UDP) Policy EDT18 'Retention of Local Employment Opportunities', and also builds upon the recommendations from the Joint Employment Land & Premises Study (February 2010).
- 1.2 This SPD sets out the criteria that will be applied to planning applications for nonemployment development on sites currently or last in employment use. It applies only to sites that are not within Primarily Industrial Areas or other formal employment areas identified on Sefton's adopted Proposals Map¹.
- 1.3 For the purposes of this guidance, 'employment uses' are considered to be those within use classes B1 office development, B2 General Industrial, B8 Storage and distribution, and relevant Sui Generis uses². Whilst it is recognised that Planning Policy Statement 4 uses the slightly wider definition of 'economic development', Sefton's employment land evidence base relates solely to employment uses as defined in this way³. The SPD therefore uses a definition that is consistent with this evidence, whilst allowing flexibility with regards to wider 'economic development uses' (see paragraphs 2.29 2.30 below).

Existing Policy

1.4 This guidance provides clarification on the requirements of UDP Policy EDT 18 'Retention of Local Employment Opportunities'. The policy states that:

POLICY EDT18 RETENTION OF LOCAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

- 3. Proposals for non-employment uses which involve the loss of land and/or buildings which are either currently used for or were last used for industrial, business, office or other employment uses, will only be permitted where it can be demonstrated that the proposal:
 - d) would not result in the loss of employment or buildings of a type for which there are insufficient alternatives available locally; or
 - e) would fully compensate for the permanent loss of the site for employment generating uses, or
 - f) would replace an employment use that is seriously detrimental to local amenity and the local environment

-

¹ I.e. sites not within: Primarily Industrial Areas, Development Sites within Primarily Industrial Areas, the Port and Maritime Zone, The Bootle Office Quarter, Strategic Employment Sites, or the Southport Business Park

² As defined in the Use Classes Order 1987

³ This is consistent with the definition of 'employment land' contained in the glossary of the revoked Regional Spatial Strategy for the North West

- 4. Planning conditions or legal agreements will be used to ensure the above is achieved.
- 1.5 Sefton's UDP is in the process of being replaced by the Borough's emerging Local Development Framework, including the Core Strategy⁴. However, UDP Policy EDT18 is unlikely to be formally replaced until 2013-2014 when a Development Management Development Plan Document is expected to be adopted. This is considered an appropriate timeframe to revisit the SPD and incorporate any updates that may be required.
- 1.6 This guidance is consistent with relevant national and regional guidance. These and other relevant background documents are listed in section 6.

Joint Employment Land & Premises Study

- 1.7 Sefton's Employment Land & Premises Study was published in February 2010. The Study was commissioned jointly with Halton, Knowsley, and West Lancashire Councils, and was carried out by independent consultants BE Group. This SPD has taken into account a number of the recommendations made in the Study.
- 1.8 The Employment Land & Premises Study made a series of recommendations regarding Sefton. One of these recommendations was that Sefton should retain all of its allocated employment development sites, and designated employment areas, to meet future land requirements. Para 11.67 of the study states:

"As a consequence of the limited land availability within the borough, Sefton needs to take a robust stance to the protection of existing employment site and premises, even where individually these may represent small opportunities. Against this background, the assessment of the SHLAA in terms of residential potential associated with employment sites and employment areas is very limited."

Additionally, para 12.44 of the study recommends that:

"None of the borough's allocated or existing employment sites should be considered for alternative uses, despite proposals that may have emerged from the SHLAA"

1.9 There is already a robust policy framework in place to resist non-employment development on allocated or designated employment sites. Given these existing protections, allocated / designated employment sites are not subject to the requirements of this SPD. This SPD applies only to sites outside of formal employment designations / allocations, where under certain circumstances, there may be potential to consider other uses.

Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA)

1.10 Sefton's Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA) was published in February 2010. The Study was commissioned with Knowsley and West Lancashire Councils and was undertaken by consultants WYG. The SHLAA explored how much

-

⁴ Forecast at the time of writing to be adopted in late 2012

- land is potentially available for housing development in each of the 3 local authority areas, and where and when this could be developed.
- 1.11 The SHLAA identified a number of sites in employment use as being potentially suitable for housing. These sites were located throughout Sefton. This SPD has, in part, been prompted by the need to resolve the apparent tensions between the findings of the Borough's employment land and housing land studies.

Differences between North and South Sefton

1.12 For the purposes of this SPD, North Sefton comprises the settlements of Southport, Birkdale, Ainsdale and Formby. South Sefton comprises the settlements of Bootle, Litherland, Netherton, Aintree, Seaforth, Waterloo, Crosby, Blundellsands, Thornton, Little Crosby, Hightown, Ince Blundell, Sefton Village, Maghull, Lydiate and Melling. This is illustrated on the map below:

(Insert map showing North and South Sefton)

- 1.13 This SPD applies a number of different criteria to proposals in North and South Sefton. This is reflective of the economic realities in Sefton, in that North and South Sefton are distinct local economies with limited movement of businesses between the two. This distinction has been endorsed by the Employment Land & Premises Study, as well as by previous studies, and has been accepted by Planning Inspectors at public inquiry. Additionally, it is the Council's experience that companies who want to locate in Sefton almost invariably want to locate in either South Sefton or North Sefton but not to both.
- 1.14 The Employment Land & Premises Study identified a more acute shortage of employment land / premises in North Sefton than in South Sefton. Para 12.70 of the Study states:

"The North Sefton area is characterised by a shortage of employment land and premises. One feature of existing provision is the 'backland' sites associated with residential areas in Southport, and particularly East Birkdale. Although individually small, collectively they provide a resource that Sefton Council should through its planning policy, presume be retained."

In light of this shortage, para 12.44 recommends that:

"Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council strongly protect the existing employment land and premises resource, particularly in North Sefton where the shortages are most acute."

- 1.15 The Study also recommends that the shortfall of employment land in North Sefton will necessitate the allocation of major new employment areas in the medium to long term.
- 1.16 Whilst the shortage of employment land in South Sefton is less severe, there is still a need to protect employment land in order to support the local economy.
- 1.17 The distinction between North and South Sefton is given further weight by other planning considerations. In North Sefton for example, there is a greater need for

- affordable housing. Additionally, South Sefton contains more widespread and higher concentrations of deprivation than North Sefton⁵, and has been subject to large-scale and on-going regeneration initiatives and other interventions.
- 1.18 The physical characteristics of employment sites in North and South Sefton are also different in a number of important respects. In the North, and in Southport in particular, a large proportion of the employment sites are small-scale, and in 'backland' locations behind residential properties. In certain Victorian areas of Southport such as East Birkdale, small-scale employment uses are located behind the building line in almost every block. Importantly, there are relatively few industrial estates in North Sefton, and a shortage of available development sites for businesses to relocate to.
- 1.19 In South Sefton, the majority of employment land is focussed in industrial estates and office precincts. Backland sites are much less common and the vast majority of land / premises have a direct frontage onto the highway.

Public Consultation

1.20 This draft SPD will be subject to a 6-week public consultation during Autumn 2010. Any comments received through the consultation will be taken into account in producing a final version of the SPD. The SPD is likely to be adopted in late 2010.

⁵ It should be noted that parts of central and eastern Southport also contain pockets of deprivation

2 Considerations Applicable to all Proposals

- 2.1 Subject to proposals meeting other policy requirements, the following section sets out the Council's approach towards proposals involving the loss of employment land / premises to other uses⁶. Whilst all applications will be assessed on their merits, the Council's starting point will be to seek to retain all suitable employment sites in continued employment usage.
- 2.2 This section sets out the criteria that can be used to justify an exception to the Council's position. Where one or more of these criteria can be satisfactorily demonstrated, then non-employment uses may be considered.
- 2.3 The criteria set out in this section are applicable to all proposals in Sefton. Additional criteria relating to proposals in North Sefton can be found at section 3, and additional criteria relating to proposals in South Sefton can be found at section 4.
- 2.4 The criteria contained in this section are set out in detail below, and are listed under the following headings:
 - Lack of demand for employment uses
 - Long-term vacancy
 - Overriding residential amenity considerations
 - Overriding highways considerations
 - Proposals for affordable housing
 - Sites below 0.1 hectares
 - Overriding regeneration considerations
 - Relocation of businesses within Sefton
 - Proposals for mixed-use development
 - Frontages that form a functional part of a town, district or local centre
 - Proposals that involve the preservation / restoration of historic buildings.
 - Sites considered unsuitable for employment use in Sefton's Employment Land & Premises Study
 - Proposals for economic development uses
 - Larger sites with very low employment outputs

⁶ As discussed in Section 1, this SPD does not apply to land or premises that are currently allocated / designated for employment purposes.

- Re-conversion of former houses
- Employment uses that share a significant party wall with an existing dwelling

Lack of demand for employment uses

- 2.5 Non-employment uses will be considered where a developer / prospective applicant can clearly demonstrate that there is a lack of demand for continuing employment uses on the site. In order to satisfactorily demonstrate a lack of demand, developers and prospective applicants will need to demonstrate that a period of active and continuous marketing has taken place. The Council's marketing requirements are set out at section 5 of this SPD.
- 2.6 In assessing a lack of demand for a site, factors such as irregular site shape (which is exceptional in the local context) and abnormal practical constraints will be given due consideration. In certain instances, a marketing exercise will not be required where sites are exceptionally constrained.

Long-term vacancy

- 2.7 Where it is demonstrated that an employment use has ceased for more than 5 years, alternative uses will normally be positively considered. In these circumstances, applicants will not be required to demonstrate a lack of demand for employment uses on the site through active marketing.
- 2.8 In order to demonstrate a long-term vacancy, developers and prospective applicants must provide clear evidence that the employment use has been extinguished for more than 5 years. This could take the form of business rates or other suitable information which should be submitted alongside any planning application.

Overriding residential amenity considerations

- 2.9 Non-employment uses will be considered on sites that are deemed to have an unacceptable impact on the residential amenity of neighbouring properties. Where sites have been vacant for less than 5 years this provision would apply to the use that was previously in place.
- 2.10 For an overriding amenity consideration to apply it would need to be clearly demonstrated that residential amenity is being negatively affected by the current use. This will need to be substantiated by evidence, usually in the form of complaints made over a number of years to the Council's Environment Protection Department. Less weight will be attached to complaints where they have been made by only one neighbour, or where no follow up action has been considered necessary by the Council's Environmental Protection Team.
- 2.11 It will not be acceptable to argue that overriding residential amenity considerations apply solely on the basis that a site is in proximity to housing. The vast majority of employment sites in the Borough have been in-place for many years and have not harmed the amenity of neighbouring properties.

Overriding highways considerations

- 2.12 Where it can be satisfactorily demonstrated that an existing employment use generates:
 - significant highways safety issues, or;
 - significant localised congestion, or;
 - significant local parking problems, or;
 - unacceptable HGV⁷ movements through a residential area;

other uses will be considered favourably where the new use would significantly improve these problems. This would need to be demonstrated to the satisfaction of the Council's Highways Development Control section.

Proposals For Affordable Housing

- 2.13 Proposals that include a level of affordable housing above the normal policy requirement will be given additional weight as part of this SPD. Any additional weight will be proportionate to the level of provision secured over and above the current policy requirement, but will need to be carefully balanced against the loss of jobs/employment land. Proposals for 100% affordable housing will usually be considered acceptable in principle.
- 2.14 Affordable housing proposals will be given greater weight in settlements that are identified as having significant local affordable housing needs.
- 2.15 Proposals that include affordable housing should comply with Sefton's affordable housing policies and definitions, which can be viewed on the Council's web-pages at http://www.sefton.gov.uk/shma.

Sites below 0.1 hectares

2.16 Employment sites below 0.1 hectares in size will be exempt from the provisions of this SPD. Proposals for non-employment uses on these sites will be considered acceptable in principle.

Overriding regeneration considerations

2.17 There are a number of major regeneration initiatives that operate within Sefton, including the New Heartlands Housing Market Renewal (HMR) Programme.

7	H00\0	, Goods	Vahiolo
	neavy	/ Goods	venicie

- Proposals that form part of a major regeneration programme or initiative but result in the loss of employment land will usually be considered favourably.
- 2.18 In order to meet this criterion the proposed development would have to be guided by a wider, Council approved, framework or strategy which has the explicit aim of delivering regeneration across a broader area.
- 2.19 It will not be acceptable for a developer or prospective applicant to argue that the replacement of an employment use with housing constitutes regeneration.

Relocation of businesses within Sefton

- 2.20 Proposals that involve the relocation of a business within Sefton will be considered favourably where it can be clearly demonstrated that:
 - The relocation is necessary to expand or modernise the business, and;
 - There are no job losses associated with the relocation, and;
 - The relocation is wholly to land / premises within Sefton, or exceptionally, to neighbouring authorities.
- 2.21 In such circumstances, the Council may need to condition the planning approval to ensure that the relocation is achieved.

Proposals for mixed-use development

- 2.22 Proposals for mixed use development on employment sites may be acceptable where:
 - A higher quality employment development is secured on a significant proportion of the site (usually at least 50%), or
 - The employment element will accommodate at least an equivalent number of jobs as the current use.
- 2.23 Where mixed use schemes are proposed, these should ensure that the new employment element would not cause amenity issues to neighbouring properties.

Frontages that form a functional part of a town or local centre

2.24 Where an employment use is located within a town centre, and contains frontages that functionally perform as part of that centre, appropriate town centre uses will be considered at ground floor level. This provision applies to all identified Town Centres, District Centres, and Local Centres in Sefton⁸.

⁸ As identified under UDP Policy R1

- 2.25 Within shopping parades that are outside of an identified centre, conversions at ground floor level from class B1 to other appropriate town centre uses will be considered.
- 2.26 This provision is intended to support the vitality and viability of existing retail centres and shopping parades through facilitating appropriate town centre development.

Proposals that involve the preservation / restoration of historic buildings

2.27 Alternative uses may be considered for proposals that secure the preservation or restoration of buildings that contribute to the Borough's heritage. Buildings of heritage value include listed buildings and buildings which positively contribute to the character of a Conservation Area.

Sites considered unsuitable for employment uses in Sefton's Employment Land & Premises Study

2.28 The joint Employment Land & Premises Study made an assessment of all sites submitted through Sefton's 'Call for Sites' exercise that were currently or last in employment use. Where the Study has indicated that the site should not be retained for employment purposes, other uses may be considered. The analysis of sites that were submitted as part of the Call for Sites can be found at appendix 35 of the Study, which can be viewed at http://www.sefton.gov.uk/elps.

Proposals for economic development uses

- 2.29 Proposals for wider 'economic development' uses on employment land will usually be considered acceptable in principle (with the exception of town centre uses). PPS4 defines 'economic development' as development that:
 - provides employment opportunities
 - generates wealth or
 - produces or generates an economic output or product
- 2.30 This definition specifically excludes housing development.

Larger sites with very low employment outputs

- 2.31 Where an operational site above 0.4 ha accommodates fewer than 10 jobs, and where a subsequent intensification would give rise to potential residential amenity and/or access issues, the Council may consider that greater planning benefit is secured by allowing the site to be redeveloped for other uses.
- 2.32 Alternatively, where sites are proposed that are partially used for employment purposes, other uses may be permitted where:

- The employment use occupies a small part of the wider site, typically less than 25%, and;
- Any loss of jobs would be minimal.

Re-conversion of former houses

2.33 Where employment uses take place in converted buildings that were originally used as houses, proposals to re-convert such properties back into housing will usually be considered acceptable in principle.

Employment uses that share a significant party wall with an existing dwelling

2.34 Where a building in employment use shares a party wall with an existing dwelling, and its reuse for employment purposes could harm residential amenity, conversion to residential use will usually be considered acceptable in principle.

Additional Considerations / Potential Constraints

Sites with planning permission for non-employment uses

2.35 Where a site has previously been granted planning permission for a non-employment use, but this permission has subsequently expired, little weight will be attached to the expired permission in determining a new proposal.

Contaminated land

2.36 Given the historic uses of many of the employment sites in Sefton, contamination could potentially be an issue. The Council's Contaminated Land Team should be consulted on proposals where appropriate.

Flood Risk

2.37 Development proposals for some sites could be affected by flood risk. Applicants should refer to Sefton's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA) web-pages (see http://www.sefton.gov.uk/sfra), where flood risk maps are available to download. It is also recommended that developers speak to Council Officers, and where appropriate Officers at the Environment Agency, at an early stage prior to submitting a planning application. In some cases site Flood Risk Assessments will be required. Relevant contact details can be found at chapter 7.

3 Additional Criteria Applicable to Proposals in North Sefton

3.1 In addition to the considerations outlined in section 2, the following criteria will be taken into account in considering proposals in North Sefton. These additional criteria reflect the competing land needs that are experienced in the North of the Borough.

(insert map of North Sefton)

Shortage of Employment land in North Sefton

- 3.2 There is a greater shortage of employment land in North Sefton than in the rest of the Borough. Only 24% of the industrial areas in Sefton are in Southport and Formby, which account for 41.5% of the Borough's population. There are also no obvious new sites to allocate for employment development in the area. The number 'backland' and other employment sites therefore perform an important role in the local economy, as is recognised by the Employment Land & Premises Study.
- 3.3 Accordingly, a more cautious approach will be taken to loss of sites currently or last in employment uses in North Sefton. Clear justification against one of the 16 criteria set out above will be required, with limited scope for flexibility beyond this.

4 Additional Criteria Applicable to Proposals in South Sefton

4.1 In addition to the considerations outlined in section 2, the following criteria will also be applied to proposals in South Sefton.

(insert map of South Sefton)

4.2 Whilst the joint Employment Land & Premises Study identified a shortfall of employment opportunities across the Borough, the shortage in South Sefton is less severe than in the North. Accordingly, this section sets out the following additional considerations that may justify development for non-employment uses in South Sefton.

Proposals that secure a regeneration benefit

- 4.3 Significant areas of South Sefton experience high levels of deprivation. The highest concentrations (according to the 2007 Indices of Multiple Deprivation [IMD]) occur in the settlements of Bootle, Litherland, Netherton and Seaforth.
- 4.4 Given the high concentrations of deprivation in these areas, proposals for nonemployment uses that demonstrate significant regeneration benefits may be considered acceptable. In order to meet this criterion, proposals will be located in Super Output Areas (SOAs)⁹ identified in the most recent IMD as amongst the 20% most deprived nationally.
- 4.5 The regeneration benefits of a scheme may be wide-ranging, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to set out these benefits to support their proposal.

Page 107

⁹ SOAs are small geographical areas used for the gathering of neighbourhood level information.

5 Marketing Requirements

- 5.1 This section sets out the marketing requirements that need to be met in order to demonstrate lack of demand for continuing employment uses on a particular site.
- 5.2 Developers / prospective applicants will need to provide evidence that an appropriate marketing exercise has been undertaken. This should take the form of a formal marketing submission, to be undertaken by a qualified professional valuer. As part of this, the site should be marketed at a realistic price / rent for a period of not less than 2 years. For larger sites (over 0.4 ha) marketing should include an exploration of the possibility of sub-division into smaller plots / units. Where a property is marketed for rent, the Council will need to be clear that an apparent lack of demand is not a result of unreasonable terms and / or conditions, etc.
- 5.3 The marketing exercise should include continuous advertisement on the agent's website and the agents own papers and lists of commercial/business premises (if applicable). Additionally, there should be continuous advertisement on site by way of an agent's advertisement board on each frontage to the highway. Where appropriate, marketing should also include advertisements in the relevant professional/technical and local press.
- 5.4 Evidence relating to site marketing should be incorporated as part of any planning application. This should include:
 - Evidence of 2 years of active and continuous marketing. This should include the asking price / rent quoted, as well as the extent of the advertising / marketing that took place. Copies of any adverts placed should also be included in the application.
 - A record of all expressions of interest and offers received. This should include
 the reasons for the rejection of any offers, and the reasons given where an
 initial interest was not followed up. Where appropriate, applicants will be
 permitted to submit commercially sensitive information on a confidential basis.
 - Evidence of engagement with the Council's InvestSefton Team throughout the marketing period. Our InvestSefton Team have extensive links with local businesses and will be happy to assist in finding alternative purchasers / tenants for sites.
- 5.5 Marketing submissions will be referred to the Council's InvestSefton Team for assessment. In assessing the marketing exercise, it will be expected that the extent/appropriateness of any advertising undertaken is proportionate to the size, prominence, and importance of the site.
- 5.6 In all instances, the Council will need to be satisfied that the apparent lack of demand for, or vacancy of, a site has not been wilfully engineered by the applicant. This could be by virtue of the factors mention in para 5.2 (above), or other factors that may artificially inhibit demand.

6 Background Documents

National Level

- Planning Policy Statement Note 4 'Planning for Sustainable Economic Growth' (December 2009)
- Planning Policy Statement 3 'Housing' (June 2010)
- Planning Policy Guidance Note 13 'Transport' (March 2001)

Local Level

- Sefton Unitary Development Plan (June 2006)
- Joint Employment Land & Premises Study (January 2010)
- Sefton Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (February 2010)
- Sefton Strategic Housing Market Assessment (June 2009)

7 Relevant Contacts

Development Management Team: 0151 934 2207 For planning applications and pre-application advice

Strategic Planning & Information Team: 0151 934 3555

For information relating to this policy document

InvestSefton: 0151 934 3444

For information relating to marketing exercises

Local Planning Team: 0151 934 3560 For information on Flood Risk issues

Contaminated Land Team: 0151 934 4030

For information relating to land contamination and remediation

Appendix 1 – Sustainability Appraisal

	Sustainability Appraisal Framework								
Document/Action Appraised: draft 'Safeguarding Employment Land' SPD									
Department: Planning & Economic Development									
Completed by: Tom Hatfield									
Dat	e: 25-08-2010								
	Sustainability objective		Sc	ore		Comment			
	More and successful					The draft SPD will help to			
	businesses	\odot				ensure that there are a varied			
1	Will it improve the competitiveness	s and	l pro	ductiv	itv of	supply of premises available			
1	business, help increase the number					for local businesses, and will			
	businesses and help to safeguard					not prevent future expansion			
	providing opportunities for future expansion	nsion	or rela	ocation	n? .	or relocation.			
	Keeping local jobs and less	\odot				The draft SPD will help to			
	unemployment	\odot				ensure the retention of local			
2	Will it help maintain high and stable	levels	of e	mploy	ment,	businesses and employment.			
	increase employment opportunities								
	unemployment?								
	Thriving town and local	\odot				The draft SPD contains a			
	centres					provision to allow the			
3	Will it enhance the vitality and viab	local	redevelopment of employment						
	centres?					sites within town centres for			
						appropriate town centre uses			
	Sefton as a great place to live,			\odot		Some less visually attractive			
	relax, work, and do business					premises would be retained			
4	Will it help develop and market the ima					by virtue of this SPD			
	to live, work, visit, enjoy and inversereation and tourism?	st in,	and	tor 16	eisure,				
	Better access to services	\odot				Retention of local jobs and			
-						services encouraged by the			
5	Will it improve local accessibility of					SPD			
	services and amenities, including puspace?	ibliciy	acce	ssible	open				
	Good, affordable housing	\odot				The draft SPD allows for			
-		<u> </u>			· · · · ·	schemes that provide 100%			
	Will it provide good quality, affordable					affordable housing to come			
	housing, and help meet an identifie			_		forward. Proposals for a level			
6	(including renewal of the existing hou failing and unbalanced housing in					of affordable housing above			
	housing choice)?	the current policy requirement							
	riousing choice):					would also be given additional			
						weight.			
	Quality new development		(1)			No major impact			
7									
-	Will it help promote good design in d			, resp	ecting				
	local character and adding local distinct	tivene	ss?						
8	Reducing use of natural		<u>:</u>			No major impact			
•	resources								

	Will it ensure energy, water and mine					
	prudently and efficiently and increase					
	renewable sources? Less rubbish and more	Not applicable				
	recycling				N/A	Not applicable
9	Will it minimise the production of was	te and	l d incr	ease r		
	recycling and recovery rates?	ice unit	a iller	cusc i	c use,	
	Good water quality				N/A	Not applicable
10	Will it help protect, improve and where	e nece	ssarv	, resto	re the	
	quality of groundwater, inland, estuari					
	Good air quality		<u></u>			No major impact
11	Will it protect, and where necessary	, imp	rove	local a	air	
	quality?					
	Restoring and keeping land				N/A	Not applicable
	quality		<u> </u>	L		
12	Will it protect, manage and restore					
12	including best and most versatile agri- reclaim derelict land, and develop					
	buildings and so minimise developm					
	and urban greenspaces?					
	More walking, cycling and use	\odot				Retention of local jobs and
13	of public transport	_				services will help to reduce
	Will it help reduce the need to travel		nprove	e choic	ce and	the need to travel
	use of more sustainable transport mod Improving your environment	es?	\odot			Neutral impact. Where
				<u> </u>		employment premises
14	Will it help protect, manage and, wh local environmental quality including			• •	•	generate amenity issues then
	issues, and to improve tree cover in Se		mu,	iillei,	HOISE	alternative uses will be
	•		Г	T	1	positively considered.
	Dealing with climate change				N/A	Not applicable
15	Will it help to mitigate and adapt to cl	imata	chanc	inc	ludina	
	flood risk?	iiiacc	Criario	<i>j</i> c, iiic	lidding	
	Conserving nature - rare and					Not applicable
	special plants, animals and				N/A	
16	the places where they live					
	Will it protect, enhance and manage					
	potential, the viability of endangered species, habitats and					
	sites of geological importance? Caring for Sefton's buildings	\odot				The draft SPD contains a
	and heritage	provision to allow the				
17	Will it protect, enhance, manage	redevelopment of employment				
' '	adaptation and re-use of Sefton's ric	ch div	ersity	_	e the ultural,	sites where this would involve
	built environment and archaeological a	ssets?	•			the preservation / restoration
	Caring for the landers	I			N/A	of a historic building
18	Caring for the landscape	Not applicable				

	Will it protect, enhance and manag quality and accessibility, including geological and landscape features?					
19	Reducing inequalities and increasing opportunities for everyone Will it help reduce poverty and social depri economic inclusion, and improve equity an in relation to housing, employment, comm services?	The draft SPD will ensure that local employment opportunities are retained.				
20	A safer Sefton, with less crime Will it help improve safety and redu fear of crime?	Neutral impact				
21	Better health for everyone Will it help improve health and reduce	health	inegi	Jalities	s?	Neutral impact
22	Better education and training					Neutral impact
23	Community involvement & a fair and robust society Does it help support voluntary and assist social inclusion and ensure cordecision making?	Not applicable				

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member Regeneration

Cabinet

DATE: 29th September 2010

30th September 2010

SUBJECT: Proposed amendment to the Overarching Development

Agreements with Bellway Homes Limited and Keepmoat

Limited.

WARDS Linacre, Derby, Litherland.

AFFECTED:

REPORT OF: Alan Lunt - Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes

Director

CONTACT Tom Clay, HMR Programme Manager

OFFICER: 0151-934 4849

EXEMPT/

CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To request approval to make a minor amendment to the Overarching Development Agreements with Bellway Homes Limited and Keepmoat Limited.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director does not have delegated authority to make decisions relating to such matters.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the proposed amendment to Paragraph 6.3 of Schedule 2 to the Overarching Development Agreements between the Council and Bellway Homes Limited and between the Council Keepmoat Limited as set out in paragraph 4 of this report be approved.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: N/A

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon the expiry of the call in period for the

minutes of the meeting

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: If left as they are, the agreements would be out with legal advice and the Council would risk further High Court challenges at a later date.

ı	٨	Λ	P	ı	C	Δ.	ΤI	റ	N	S	•
	ш	,,		_	$\mathbf{\mathcal{I}}$	_		J	11	v	

Budget/Policy Framework: None

Financial:

There are no financial implications.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2009 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry da	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: These changes are necessary as a consequence

of legal advice.

Risk Assessment: This change will reduce the risks associated with

legal challenges to vesting property pursuant to Compulsory purchase Orders to which the above

overarching development agreements are

material.

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Head of Legal Services has been consulted in the preparation of this report. FD 499 – The Interim Head of The Finance & IS has been consulted and has no comments on this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

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

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

May 12th 2005: Adoption of Overarching Development Agreement with Bellway Homes.

October 6th 2005: Confirmation of Adoption of Overarching Development Agreement with Bellway Homes.

October 6th 2005: Adoption of Overarching Development Agreement with Keepmoat PLC in respect of the Bedford / Queens and Worcester Housing Market Renewal Neighbourhood

Background

- 1. Members will recall that, following the confirmation of the making of the Compulsory Purchase Order for part of the Klondyke and Hawthorne Road area (the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Klondyke and Hawthorne Road, Bootle) Compulsory Purchase Order 2005), there was a series of lengthy and costly legal challenges to the Secretary of State's decision, and at a later date, an estoppel case and subsequently a judicial review case brought against the Council in relation to the Vesting of certain property within the Order Lands.
- 2. At these latter proceedings, the claimants alleged that the wording of the Overarching Development Agreement (ODA) at paragraph 6.3 of schedule 2 might fetter the ability of the Council to use its discretion in making a General Vesting Declaration. Although not mentioned in the written judgement, it was suggested by the judge in his verbal summing up that the wording was, in effect, inappropriate and might be reconsidered.
- 3. It was therefore considered prudent to review this wording to ensure that the agreements are explicit in not fettering the Council's ability to exercise its discretion in relation to the making of General Vesting Declarations pursuant to a confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order. This review has been undertaken by the lawyers dealing with the agreements with Bellway and Keepmoat for the Council, FDR Law, and their recommended revised wording given below.
- 4. The relevant clause, which is identical in both the agreements with Bellway Homes Limited and Keepmoat Limited, is set out below, with the recommended amendment shown in bold italics. Approval is sought to the amended Paragraph 6.3 below:
 - "Following the confirmation of the CPO and the same becoming operative the Council shall (subject to paragraph 6.4 and having regard to the overall timetable for the Development) where it would be reasonable for the Council to do so in the exercise of its statutory powers use all reasonable endeavours to secure the vesting of all Outstanding Interests in the Council by means of the GVD procedure or (in respect of any Outstanding Interest not capable of being vested) the notice to treat/notice of entry procedure."
- 5. The amendment will limit any opportunity for a challenge similar to that faced at the High Court in respect of the first phase CPO and therefore approval is recommended.

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member Regeneration

Cabinet

DATE: 29th September 2010

30th September 2010

SUBJECT: Reduction in Housing Market Renewal Funding by the

Homes and Communities Agency in the Current Financial

year (2010-11)

WARDS Linacre, Derby, Litherland, Church, Netherton & Orrell

AFFECTED:

REPORT OF: Alan Lunt - Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes

Director

CONTACT Tom Clay, HMR Programme Manager

OFFICER: 0151-934 4849

EXEMPT/ No

CONFIDENTIAL:

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To set out the reductions and other changes made in Housing Market Renewal funding from the Home and Communities Agency (HCA) for Sefton in the current financial year, and to propose changes to the South Sefton HMR programme and budget to account for these reductions.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director does not have delegated authority to make decisions relating to such matters.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Cabinet Member recommends to Cabinet that;

1. Approval is given to the proposed reductions in expenditure and revised budget and programme for the South Sefton Housing Market Renewal Programme as described in the report and set out in Table 1.

KEY DECISION: N/A

FORWARD PLAN: N/A

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Upon the expiry of the call in period for the

minutes of the meeting

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Alternative options have been considered and rejected. The alternatives might place the Council in breach of contractual obligations or involve cutting current 'mission critical' expenditure such as that in relation to current Compulsory Purchase Orders.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: The effect of these measures is to alter both the

external funding income and the expenditure items in the current budget and to defer this

expenditure into future years.

Financial: The effect of these measures is to alter both the external funding income and the expenditure items in the current budget and to defer this expenditure into future years.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross REDUCTION in	-1,626,665			
Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources	-1,626,665			
(HMRI –HCA)				
REVENUE				
<u>IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in				
Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External				
Resources				

Does the external funding have an expiry	31/3/2011
date?	
How will the service be funded post	Funding source to be identified
expiry?	following comprehensive spending
	review 2010

Legal: There are no legal impediments to the

implementation of the recommendations.

Risk Assessment: The relative risks of different expenditure

reductions have been considered in arriving at

the recommendations

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD512 - The Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

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

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

Cabinet Report 15th April 2010: South Sefton Housing Market Renewal – Programme Outturn 2009-2010 and Forward Programme 2010-2011

Background

- 1. The Coalition Government's emergency budget of June 2010 set out a range of cuts in Government expenditure it intended in 2010/2011. This included a proposal to reduce the budget across all Housing Market Renewal Pathfinders by £50m for 2010-11.
- 2. Following a consultation process Ministers have decided to implement these reductions pro-rata to the originally proposed expenditure. This means each Pathfinder will each receive a cut of 17.482%.
- 3. In turn, the Board of NewHeartlands, the Merseyside Pathfinder, has decided to allocate these cuts across the three affected Local Authorities on a pro-rata basis.
- 4. Nationally, the fund is also being 'top sliced' to pay for work being done by the Audit Commission on the Pathfinder programme. The HCA is negotiating a revised fee for 2010/11 and it is anticipated that this reduction will be well in excess of the percentage reduction to Pathfinders budgets (17.482%). Any reduction in the 'top slice' will be returned to Pathfinders.
- 5. For Sefton, the revised allocation of HMR grant is £7,668,335, a reduction of £1,626,665.
- 6. The proposed expenditure on HMR work approved by Cabinet on the 15th April 2010 has been reviewed, and a list of proposed savings prepared. This review took into account:
- Any changes in circumstances and costs since the expenditure was approved eg slippage etc.
- Projects which were legally and / or contractually committed, and where the Council might find itself in breach of its legal or contractual obligations.
- Works and projects which were 'mission critical' ie any delay or cancellation would lead to a serious risk to the HMR programme in the immediate term and to such matters as achieving a successful outcome at CPO Public Inquiries, two of which are due to be held in November.
- Protection of residents in particular continuing to acquire properties and arrange rehousing of residents in locations where there were already extensive vacant and purchased properties.
- Identifying work and projects that could be deferred or delayed where the impact would not be so serious as to jeopardise the overall HMR objectives.
- 7. The list of potential cuts to be made was identified as soon as the national cuts in Government expenditure were announced on the assumption that the national cuts would be made pro-rata, and those items placed 'on hold' pending the details that have now emerged. There has also been consultation over these

- items, so that, in particular, external recipients of support had time to consider the implications and to make representations if they wished.
- 8. It is intended that the majority of reductions will be reinstated in later years. (The exception to this is some of the 'Living Through Change' projects, which tend to be of an annual nature.). The extent to which they can be reinstated cannot be determined until after the outcome of the Government's Comprehensive Spending Review in the autumn.
- 9. Table 1 below sets out the proposed adjustments.
- 10. In addition, the Government has announced the following key changes:
 - HMR Funding is to be 'unringfenced'.
 - There are 2 requirements arising from this change:
 - All expenditure has to comply with Section 11 of the Local Government Act 2003. i.e. that capital funding is spent on capital projects.
 - A declaration is to be made by the Chief Executive & Chief Internal Auditor in due course that the expenditure has complied with (1) above.
 - Although the expenditure is to be 'unringfenced', there is an expectation that funds will be spent on "housing market renewal activities".
 - The Council will not be required to sign a further Deed of Variation for 2010/11.
 - Unspent HMR money can now be carried forward across years.
 - HMR funding can be used to pay for redundancy costs should this be necessary (An additional expenditure amount of £90,000 has been included in the revised expenditure to take account of Sefton HMRIs estimated contribution to these costs, if they are necessary, and is also shown in Table 1.)
 - The Audit Commission's approach will now change from pure inspection to collaborative working.
- 11. In addition, the chairs of all the Pathfinders have recently received a letter about funding post April 2011 from the new head of Housing Market Renewal and Planning at the Department of Communities and Local Government, David Waterhouse. It requires some clarification. Fortunately, he is visiting

NewHeartlands on the 16th of September, so a verbal update will be given at the meeting.

TABLE 1: SOUTH SEFTON HMRI BUDGET VARIATIONS TO MEET EXPENDITURE REDUCTIONS

ITEM	CURRENT AMOUNT IN YEAR £000	PROPOSED AMOUNT IN YEAR £000	SAVING £000	Observations
Reduction in staff costs, office costs, and marketing costs.	750	714	36	Non-filling of vacant post. In part compensated by additional 1 day per week admin staff. Saving likely to increase by a further vacant post.
Defer expenditure on land remediation, community facilities, and infrastructure - St. John & St. James Church.	400	0	400	
Bedford Road Community Centre	644	100	544	Proposal is to delay start on site to end of Financial Year
Kings Centre	170	0	170	Gap' funding. First half deferred into 2011/12. Listed Building - deferral will incur additional security costs and risk that refurbishment may become much more expensive due to vandalism etc if left.
Klondyke 1A remediation	150	0	150	Unable to proceed currently because of delays in being able to complete demolitions.

ITEM	CURRENT AMOUNT IN YEAR £000	PROPOSED AMOUNT IN YEAR £000	SAVING £000	Observations
Bedford Queens Phase 1b/2 (1st Phase -69 units)	761	657	104	Gap funding. Part of Phase 1 CPO. Figure adjusted to account of delay in approval of Kickstart funding, now confirmed.
Demolitions	1,308	1170	138	There have been delays in demolitions due to delays in the removal of services prior to demolition by statutory undertakers.
Tannery - capping layer	300	225	75	Refined cost estimate result in saving on budget for this element.
Living Through Change Projects	340	240	100	These have been reduced to the minimum possible in the two key priority areas, Bedford Queens and Klondyke.
SUB-TOTAL Addition of topsliced contribution to redundancy costs (if required)	0	90	1717 -90	Pro-rata contribution to redundancy costs of central support team (if required)
TOTAL SAVING			1,627	

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Technical Services

Cabinet Member – Environmental Cabinet Member – Regeneration

Cabinet

DATE: 22nd September 2010

22nd September 2010 29th September 2010 30th September 2010

SUBJECT: Plugged-in-Places Programme – Update

WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis— Planning and Economic Development Director

Peter Moore - Environmental and Technical Services Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Mo Kundi - 3447

Gary Mahoney - 4300

EXEMPT/ No

CONFIDENTIAL:

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To provide Members with an update on the Plugged in Places Programme, and to seek Members consent for Sefton Council to be the Accountable Body for the sub-regional bid.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To comply with reporting procedures

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that:-

Cabinet:-

- Agree in principle to Sefton Council being the accountable body for the subregional project to facilitate the submission of the bid in October 2010, and note that
- 2. A further report be presented detailing all financial, legal, and operational implications prior to accepting the Offer letter should the bid be successful.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Environment, and Technical Services:-

3. Note the content of this report

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately after the call in period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: Sefton Council has agreed to progress the Low Carbon Economy and CO2 emissions reduction agenda, and has taken a number pro-active and positive steps towards this goal, including the development of projects such as CLASP, and REECH, for which the Council has agreed to be the accountable body, and is currently exploring the opportunities available from the Feed In Tariff concept. The Plugged in Places Project will add to the critical mass being created and would help to explore future funding opportunities. Not to agree to being an accountable body risks the bid not progressing beyond the current stage.

INADI	IC AT	IONIC.
IIVIPL	JICA I	IONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial:

It should be noted that Sefton Council has the option not to accept the Offer letter should the bid be successful. Members at their previous meeting have already agreed to cap Sefton's cash contribution towards this project to £15,000 spread over three years, and which it is proposed could be met out of future Local Transport Plan Capital Programme allocations. There may also be some small revenue implications relating to a possible loss of car parking income as a result of the placing of electric charging points in some car parks. However, all cost implications would be brought back to Members once the bid has been fully developed.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2014/ 2015 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
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:	No

Risk Assessment: No

Asset Management: No

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FINANCE FD 494 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report LEGAL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

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

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT Plugged-in-Places Programme – A sub-regional bid to introduce Electric Car Charging Points report to CMs for Environment and Technical Services (30th June 2010), and CM Regeneration (7th July 2010).

1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 Members at their meetings on 30th June 2010, and 7th July 2010 consider the report on 'Plugged-in-Places Project A sub-regional bid to introduce Electric Car Charging Points', which provided background information on the Plugged-in-Places national Programme to support the installation of an electric vehicle charging infrastructure (EVCI). The report made reference to the fact that the Programme pulls together £30 million from the Department for Transport (DfT), Department for Business Innovation & Skills (BIS) and the Department for Environment & Climate Change (DECC), and that interests were invited from sub-regions for projects that would deliver the aims and objectives of the Programme.
- 1.2 Members considered the information provided in the report on the proposals being developed for the Merseyside sub-regional bid, and endorsed the:-
 - 1. Submission of Expression of Interest by The Merseyside Transport Partnership for the sub-regional Plugged in Places project, and
 - 2. Requested that further consideration to be given to the capital and revenue implications should a full bid be progressed.

2.0 Current Position

- 2.1 The sub-region's Expression of Interest was formally submitted in July 2010, and officers were invited to attend an informal meeting with senior officials from the Office for Low Emission Vehicles (OLEV) in the Department for Transport to receive feed-back on the submission.
- 2.2 In total there were 15 applications for funding in the second round of Plugged in Places Programme requesting some £20 million from an allocation of only £10 million. OLEV officials indicated that they are looking to take forward between 3 to 6 projects in this round, and that Merseyside's bid is likely to be one of them, subjecting to addressing the following key issues:-
 - Whilst the bid had a lot of strategic fit, it lacked clear principle driver.
 The bid needs to be clear as to whether the key driver is economic development, the link with Vauxhall, low carbon economy, transport etc. OLEV is looking for a key driver for the bid from sub-region's point of view.
 - 2. A clear evidence of a market for electric vehicles. A letter from say public sector fleet operators, community services and/or private business fleet operators would be acceptable.
 - 3. A clear understanding of why the suggested charging point sites were selected, and how the development of charging infrastructure will be taken forward post Plugged in Places Programme funding.

- 4. Need to reconcile the aims of the Plugged in Places Programme, which is concerned with stimulating the market for electric vehicles, where as the sub-regions agenda includes addressing air quality, climate change, low carbon economy, equity, economic development etc.
- 5. To strengthen the region's bid further, OLEV officials suggested the two separate bids submitted from Mersyside sub-region, and Halton, Chester West and Cheshire should be amalgamated.
- 2.3 Sefton officers are of the view that the issues raised by OLEV officials can be satisfactorily addressed, and that a full bid submitted by the 29th October 2010 deadline.

3.0 Accountable Body Status

- 3.1 Members may recall that all work associated with the development and submission of the Plugged In Places bid is being undertaken by the Merseyside Transport Partnership, which is a partnership between Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens, and Wirral Councils, and Merseytravel.
- 3.1 Initially the Mersey Transport Partnership was of the view that Merseytravel should be the Accountable Body for this project, should the funding be approved. Merseytravel have now indicated that as this project covers a wide range of non public transport related activities it would not be possible for them to assume the Accountable Body status. Without a public body taking up the Accountable Body status it would not be possible to submit the final bid.
- 3.2 Given that Sefton Council has agreed to become the accountable body for the sub-regional REECH Project, and the fact that associated activities are all related to addressing CO2 emissions reduction, helping local SMEs, creating local employment opportunities, and the development of the low carbon economy, Members are requested to agree to Sefton Council becoming the Accountable Body for the Plugged In Places project, subject to the bid being successful.
- 3.3 This would fit well and would also complement with the work being done by Sefton on the Low Carbon Emissions Strategy Regional Group Initiative (LES RGI) whereby polices are being developed to support the take up electric vehicles and the provision of charging points infrastructure. In addition Low Emissions Partnership has provided £2,900 to commission consultants Mott McDonalds to undertake research on the most effective location to provide charging infrastructure. The study is expected to be completed in late September 2010, and would be used to support the Plugged in Places bid.

4.0 Project Costs

- 4.1 Members at their previous meeting have already agreed to cap Sefton's cash contribution towards this project to £15,000 spread over three years, and which it is proposed could be met out of future Local Transport Plan Capital Programme allocations. There may also be some small revenue implications relating to a possible loss of car parking income as a result of the placing of electric charging points in some car parks.
- 4.2 Similar contributions are also being sought from the five sub-regional local authorities, with Mersytravel agreeing in principle to contributing £50,000. With the amalgamation of the bids contributions from Halton, and Cheshire West & Chester have also been agreed in principle.
- 4.3 In addition non cash contributions are also being promised from:-
 - 1. Mersey Transport Partnership behaviour change programmes including promotion of electric vehicles, supporting web pages, promotional events etc.
 - 2. Scottish Power cost of research on impacts on grid
 - 3. General Motors support to households wishing to purchase electric vehicles
 - 4. Energy Saving Trust fleet advice, driver training and vehicle choice information
- 4.4 It is anticipated that the total cost of the bid is likely to be in the region of £1 million spread over two years. The balance of the money will come from the private sector, planning process and OLEV grant.
- 4.5 Whilst a significant amount of work will be undertaken by the Mersey Transport Partnership in delivering the successful bid, however there will be a need to engage a Project Manager by Sefton Council as the Accountable Body to ensure that the project is being delivered successfully and that all legal and financial obligations are being met. The full cost of this will be met from the bid. In addition it may be possible to recover costs associated with work that would need to be undertaken by Council's Finance and Legal Departments. A full breakdown of costs will be presented once the bid is fully developed.

5.0 Project Risks

5.1 There are a number of risks associated with this project, ranging from lack of funding support from other organisation, particularly the private sector, the scale and size of the final bid, to the delivery of the bid, if successful and the implication to Sefton Council as the accountable body. At this stage it is too early to assess these risks in any detail as the project is currently being developed and discussions are taking place with a number of interested private sector

- organisation, which would influence the outcome of the final bid. Clearly if there is not sufficient private sector support the bid will not be submitted.
- 5.2 In relation to risks to Sefton Council as the accountable body, these will be identified, assessed and quantified in more detail once the bid is fully developed, and will form part of the report to Members before any offer letter is accepted.

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 30th September 2010

SUBJECT: Protocol for Lifting the Moratorium on the Siting of Mobile Phone Masts

on Council Land

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Peter Moore

Environment and Technical Services Director

Tel: 0151 934 4018

CONTACT OFFICER: David Street – Asset & Property Manager, Technical Services

Tel: 0151 934 2751

EXEMPT/ No

CONFIDENTIAL:

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To provide Cabinet with the comments made by the Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services) Committee and all Area Committees on the draft protocol to govern the lifting of the current moratorium on the siting of telephone transmission masts on Council owned land.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Full Council has requested that a protocol be developed to allow the consideration of mobile phone masts to be sited on council owned land on a case by case basis. Before endorsing the protocol, Cabinet wished to consider the views of the aforementioned Committees.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Cabinet: - Consider the reported comments and either endorse the protocol document appended to this report, or amend the protocol to reflect some or all of the changes requested.

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Yes

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: After the call-in period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: There are options to apply different parameters to the protocol, for example, a different exclusion zone and to expand the consultation process. However, it is suggested that to vary these parameters and the process significantly will deter applications because the requirements could become too onerous, operationally unacceptable sites might be put forward or the process becomes too time consuming. This would defeat the original intention which is to provide sites that are more suitable and acceptable than those which are available by right, i.e. on the highway.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: There are no direct financial implications arising out of this

report. There will be some costs associated with evaluating proposals to site masts on Council owned land, but it is anticipated that these will be covered by any licence fees which will be charged to the mobile phone operators. The

fees received will be used to cover the costs of

implementing the protocol and evaluating specific requests

therefore there should be no net cost to the Council.

Legal: The protocol as outlined in the report complies with legal

requirements and recommended best practice.

Risk Assessment: The protocol incorporates risk assessments based on

industry best practice

Asset Management: The proposals have been developed in accordance with

good asset management practice.

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

THE VIEWS OF PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AND THE HEAD OF CORPORATE LEGAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT IN DRAFTING THIS REPORT.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
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 REPORTProtocol for the Evaluation of Requests to lift the Moratorium on the Siting of Mobile Phone Masts on Council Land

1.0 Background

1. Full Council on 22 October 2009 in considering the moratorium on the siting of telephone masts on Council land:

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the moratorium be revised so that it can be lifted by the Cabinet on a case by case basis; and
- (2) Officers develop a protocol for evaluating requests to lift the moratorium and site mobile phone masts on Council land and report this back to the Cabinet for approval.
- 2. Cabinet on 4th March 2010, in consideration of a draft protocol

RESOLVED:

That the protocol be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) and each Area Committee for consideration prior to approval at a future meeting of the Cabinet.

2.0 Comments provided on the Masts Protocol

- 2.1 The protocol document has been put before the Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services) Committee and All Area Committees.
- 2.2 The minuted comment from each committee is set out in the table below;

Committee	Date	Extract Committee Resolution (Comment)
Overview & Scrutiny	30/06/2010	Resolved: that (1) the report be received; and (2) the Cabinet and the Council's Area Committees be informed that this Committee supports the proposed protocol for dealing with applications on a case by case basis.
St Oswald, Netherton & Orrell Area Committee	01/07/2010	Resolved: that (1) the proposed protocol for Lifting the Moratorium on the Siting of Mobile Phone Masts on Council Land be noted; and (2) the Cabinet be informed that this Area Committee believes that all Area Committees should be given the power to make decisions at a local level regarding the siting of masts.
Crosby Area Committee	07/07/2010	Resolved: that (1) the proposed Protocol for Lifting the Moratorium on the Siting of Mobile Phone Masts on Council Land be noted; and (2) the Cabinet be informed that this Area Committee believes that all applications for the siting of masts should be submitted to the appropriate Area Committee before being considered by the Planning Committee
Litherland & Ford Area Committee	07/07/2010	Resolved: that (1) the Protocol for lifting the Moratorium on the Siting of Mobile Phone Masts on Council Land report be noted; and (2) the Committee's comments regarding its grave reservations regarding the Protocol's feasibility be noted.
Linacre & Derby Area Committee	12/07/2010	Resolved: that the Cabinet be informed that this Area Committee reiterates its previous decision that it is wholly opposed to the lifting of the current moratorium on the siting of mobile phone masts on Sefton Council land.
Formby Area Committee	15/07/2010	That the Cabinet be informed that this Area Committee has considered the protocol document and wishes to comment that any costs incurred should be charged not to the Council, but to the respective mobile phone companies
Sefton East Parishes Area Committee	15/07/2010	Resolved: that (1) the Protocol for Lifting the Moratorium on the Siting of Mobile Phone Masts on Council Land report be noted; and (2) the Cabinet be requested to note the Committee's comments regarding consultation with Area Committees as follows. "Councillors discussed the matter in detail and raised a number of queries with a representative of the Environmental and Technical Services Department. The Committee suggested that in addition to consultation with Individual Ward Councillors, Area Committees should also be formally consulted; as Area Committees represented an important layer of discussion and consultation".
Southport Area Committee	28/07/2010	Resolved: That (1) the protocol for lifting the moratorium on the siting of mobile phone masts on Council land be approved; and (2) Cabinet be recommended to include formal consultation with Ward Councillors and Area Committees at an early stage in the procedure for evaluation requests to site masts on Council land.

- NB IF CABINET IS MINDED TO GIVE THE AREA COMMITTEES LOCAL POWERS REGARDING THE SITING OF MASTS IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO REVERT TO COUNCIL TO SECURE AN AMENDMENT TO THE COUNCIL CONSTITUTION
- 2.3 The proposed protocol has not been amended pending further consideration by Cabinet.

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Members are requested to consider the specific comments on the protocol and then to decide whether they wish to endorse the protocol as currently drafted or inform the Environmental & Technical Services Department of any changes they wish to see implemented.
- 3.2 Members should be aware that any changes to the protocol that significantly lengthen the time taken to process an interest in a Council owned site or that add further uncertainty to the outcome are likely to deter interest in using the protocol to secure a more favourable site on Council-owned land.

This page is intentionally left blank

Protocol for the evaluation of requests to lift the Moratorium on the siting of Mobile Phone Masts on Council Land

Overview

There are now nearly 74 million mobile connections in the UK. In the past decade, mobile phones have transformed the way that people communicate - both in their business and in their personal lives.

However, mobile phones cannot work without a network of base stations in places where people want to use them. The majority of people in the UK live and work in towns and cities, and this is why the operators need to ensure that there is an efficient network service in those areas to allow people to use their phones when and where they want. To get a good signal you need to be near a base station. Base stations can only carry a maximum of around 120 calls at the same time.

Mobile phone users in the UK area are increasingly demanding better coverage, more capacity in the networks to stop calls from being lost, and more services to be available on their phones. Mobile operators are responding to that customer demand.

The Government has given telecommunications operators' legal rights to use public highway land for telecommunications development. On other Council land, the Council can decide, as landowner, whether or not to allow telecommunications development. The Council has decided to consider whether to allow telecommunications development on its land, where it may be better for local people and the environment than alternative locations not owned by the Council, This is especially important if the alternatives include undesirable permitted development, over which the Council would have no control. *Decisions to allow development on Council land will be considered on a site-by-site basis, and will involve consultation locally by the mobile phone operators and be approved by Cabinet.*

Health risks

Health risks, and even the fear of health risks, are proper considerations for the Council. But the Government's advice on Telecommunications, Revised Planning Policy Guidance Note 8 (PPG8, 22 August 2001), states:

"However, it is the Government's firm view that the planning system is not the place for determining health safeguards. It remains central Government's responsibility to decide what measures are necessary to protect public health. In the Government's view, if a proposed development meets the ICNIRP (International Commission on Non-Ionising Radiation Protection) guidelines for public exposure it should not be necessary for a local planning authority, in processing an application for planning permission or prior approval, to consider further the health aspects and concerns about them."

Therefore, where mobile phone mast developments meet the ICNIRP guidelines, the Council has no sustainable health reason to refuse planning permission. Unreasonable refusal decisions can be overturned on appeal.

The Stewart Report, published in 2000, remains the key piece of research in relation to health issues. This study had concluded that on the basis of current evidence, there was no risk to health from mobile phone technology but that in the absence of more detailed research that a precautionary principle should be adopted to the siting of mobile phone masts.

It is understood that an update of the Stewart Report was published in 2005 with the same conclusions and that some 25 other studies have also been published since 2000 which support the conclusions of the original Stewart Report.

The precautionary principle will be adopted for the siting of mobile phone masts on Council land and all equipment must have a 'Declaration of Conformity with ICNIRP Public Exposure Guidelines ("ICNIRP Declaration")' [copy attached] and not be allowed within 100m of homes, schools, leisure centres, offices or other sensitive locations.

Planning Considerations

The relaxation or lifting of the Council's moratorium on the use of Council-owned land for the siting of telecommunications masts would not, in any way, fetter or otherwise influence the Council's powers as Local Planning Authority to determine planning applications or applications for prior approval.

National planning policy issued by the former Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (now Communities and Local Government) sets the context for the consideration of all telecommunications proposals in England and is presently contained in Planning Policy Guidance note 8 (PPG 8) which was issued in its current form in August 2001

PPG8 gives guidance on planning for telecommunications development - including radio masts and towers, antennas of all kinds, radio equipment housing, public call boxes, cabinets, poles and overhead wires

The mobile phone operator's annual rollout programme is available on the Council's website via the following link:

http://seftonmaps.sefton.gov.uk/SeftonMaps/html/SeftonMaps.html?theme=Telecoms Rollout

Mast or site sharing and co-location can help reduce the impact on the environment and often provides the most cost effective solution for the operators. Under all of the UK Governments' planning guidance operators are encouraged to explore the possibility of using an existing mast or structure before seeking to put up a new one, wherever it represents the best environmental option. They have all developed prescriptive planning policy in this area.

Siting and appearance are key considerations for Planning and even when planning approval is not required Planning Officers will be consulted on all proposals to locate masts on Council land.

Requirements of the Mobile Phone Operators

The mobile phone operators - 3, O2, Orange, T Mobile and Vodafone - are implementing the 'Ten Commitments' to improve transparency of the process of building mobile phone networks, provide more information to the public and local authorities, and increase the role of the public in the siting of radio base stations. The Ten Commitments to best siting practice were launched by the operators in 2001 to supplement Government planning regulations, in an effort to strengthen links with the community through open dialogue. They were developed in consultation with other stakeholders and have received support from the Local Government Association and activist groups such as Mast Action UK. The Ten Commitments now form part of the English and Welsh Governments' Codes of Best Practice for mobile telecoms developments.

The operators are implementing ten best siting practice commitments to:

- 1 develop, with other stakeholders, clear standards and procedures to deliver significantly improved consultation with local communities
- 2 participate in obligatory pre-rollout and pre-application consultation with local planning authorities
- 3 publish clear, transparent and accountable criteria and cross-industry agreement on site sharing, against which progress will be published regularly
- 4 establish professional development workshops on technological developments within telecommunications for local authority officers and elected members
- 5 deliver, with the Government, a database of information available to the public on radio base stations
- 6 assess all radio base stations for international (ICNIRP) compliance for public exposure, and produce a programme for ICNIRP compliance for all radio base stations as recommended by the Independent Expert Group on Mobile Phones
- 7 provide, as part of planning applications for radio base stations, a certification of compliance with ICNIRP public exposure guidelines
- 8 provide specific staff resources to respond to complaints and enquiries about radio base stations, within ten working days
- 9 begin financially supporting the Government's independent scientific research programme on mobile communications health issues
- 10 develop standard supporting documentation for all planning submissions whether full planning or prior approval

<u>Procedure for Evaluating Requests to site Mobile Phone Masts on Council</u> Land

- A *Mobile Phone Operators to Identify Annual Requirements* annual review letter to Planning Director
- B Operators to Identify Sites on Council Land which comply with the 100m exclusion zone requirement.
- C **Meeting with Council Officers** to identify annual schedule of sites which will include sites on and off Council land. Operators will be encouraged to share sites, and to select locations and equipment which minimise the number of masts required.
- D Report to Cabinet for approval of Sites on Council Land subject to consultation showing general public support, and planning approval if required.
- E Operators to Develop Consultation Strategy to be agreed by the Planning Director together with technical details of requirements and rationale for site selection. Again officers will encourage shared sites and minimising the number of sites required. See Site Selection and Planning Model Flow Chart attached.
- F Operators to undertake Community Consultation which as a minimum will comprise letters to Ward Councillors, Area Committees and Parish Councils (if appropriate); consultation letter to residents and site notices.
- G Operators to evaluate consultation responses using the 'traffic light' model attached.
- H Refer back to Cabinet all sites scoring red on the traffic light model and amber sites where there is significant public concern arising out of the consultation. Also provide for referring back to Cabinet alternative sites which may be proposed as part of the consultation process.
- I **Operator to submit Planning Application** planning applications to be considered in the usual manner.
- J Council to enter into agreement with Operator for the location of mobile phone mast on standard terms subject to Cabinet approval as above, planning approval as required and ICNIRP Declaration for the equipment.

ICNIRP DECLARATION

ENGLAND

(Operator logo)

Declaration of Conformity with ICNIRP Public Exposure Guidelines ("ICNIRP Declaration")
(Operator name) (Operator address)
Declares that the proposed equipment and installation as detailed in the attached planning / GPDO application at:
(Address)
is designed to be in full compliance with the requirements of the radio frequency (RF) public exposure guidelines of the International Commission on Non-Ionizing Radiation Protection (ICNIRP), as expressed in EU Council Recommendation of 12 July 1999 * "on the limitation of exposure of the general public to electromagnetic fields (0 Hz to 300 GHz)".
* Reference: 1999/519/EC
Date:
Signed:
Name:
Position:
(Footer - operator name and registered number / office)
October 2002 Version 3.0

⁷age 146

SITE SELECTION & PLANNING MODEL

Area Wide LPA Consultation (Annual and Pre-Roll out)

STAGE 1

Essential

- 1.A.1 Annual Review Letter
- Sent in Sept/Oct
- Enclose Map of Sites and spreadsheet
- 1.A.2 Pre roll-out Letter
- Only sent before major phase
- Enclose Map of Sites and spreadsheet

1.A.3 Map of Sites

- Map of LPA Area with boundary and sites marked
- Proposed sites i.e. pre-application
- Live sites
- 1.A.4 Schedule of Sites
- Cell No
- Site Name
- Address
- Town
 Post code
- Easting/Northings
- Status
- 1.A.5 Meeting
- Offered annually with LPA to discuss issues
- 1.A.6 Update database

Optional

1.B.1 Presentation

- Only before a major phase
- To LPA Officers and possibly elected members

STAGE 2

Site Selection & Identity Consultation Strategy

Essential

- 2.A.1 Information Gathering and Site Identification
 - Check LPA Mast Register
 - Obtain information and examine existing databases (eg. MSA)
 - · Identify sites in search area
 - Identify options in Report
 - Allocate initial Traffic Light Rating

2.A.2 LPA Consultation & Opinion

- Indentify the LPA case officer that will be dealing with the application.
- Request their opinion on the sites identified
- Offer a pre-application meeting (see 2.A.5)
- Record their views in Consultation Plan
- Identify areas of concern, discuss and agree where possible community consultation strategy.
- Re-appraise Traffic Light Rating

2.A.3 Site Selection

- Select preferred option based on;
 - Technical needs of operator
 - LPA opinion
 - Community information

Re-appraise Traffic Light Rating

- 2.A.4 Identify Consultation Strategy
 - Using the Consultation Strategy identify:
 - Who to consult
 - How to consult
- Record strategy in a Consultation Plan

2.A.5 Pre-application Meeting Offer

- Discuss merits of preferred site and other options
- Discuss design options

Optional

- 2.B.1 Tour of Options
- Discuss merits of preferred site and other options on site

STAGE3

Community Consultation

Essential (Amber and Red sites)

Should be agreed with LPA - See 2.A.2

- 3.A.1 Letter to Ward Councillor
- Identify the Ward Councillor for the area
 Standard letter 'Ward Councillor Consultation'
- 3.A.2 Letter to Parish Council Clerk
- Identify the Parish Council for the area
- Standard letter 'Parish Council Consultation'

Optional

Should be agreed with LPA - See 2.A.2

- 3.B.1 Consultation letter Mail Shot

 Standard Letter 'Public Consultation'
- Standard Letter 'Public Consultation'
- Send to public living within determined area, local stakeholders and interest groups
- 3.B.2 Erect Voluntary Site Notice
 - Erect standard 'Voluntary Site Notice'
 Operator/agent contact details
- 3.B.3 Informal 'Drop In' Session
- Wallboard presentations
- Other literature
- 3.B.4 Key Stakeholder Briefing Session
- Description of proposal
- Identification of issues
- Explanation of proposal
- Answering questions
- Stakeholder discussion
- 3.B.5 Leaflets
- To be deposited in community venues such as Doctors, Churches, libraries etc.
- 3.B.6 Public Notice Placed in Local Press
- Description of proposal
- Operator/agent contact details

STAGE 4

Planning Submission

Essential

4.A.1 Prepare Planning Submission

- In accordance with Operators guidelines
 - Checklist of documents
 - complete standard planning application template
 - Provide standard Supporting Information including ICNIRP Certificate

4.A.2 Application Support

 If appropriate provide additional information to support the application

Optional

4.B.1 Site Meeting with Planning Officer

- Discuss merits of proposal site in relation to other options
- Discuss merits of proposed design in relation to alternative design solutions

4.B.2 On site Visual Demonstration

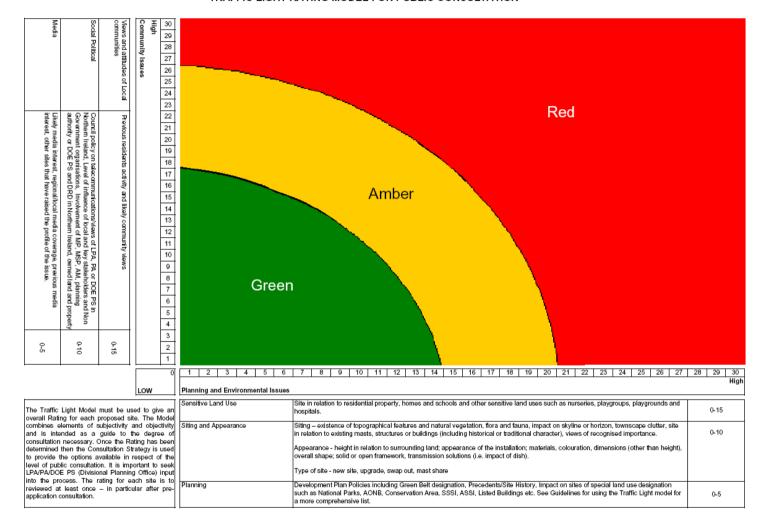
- Demo, for LPA, Members, Parish Council etc.
 - Pump-up mast
 - · Elevated platform or Cherry-picker
 - Balloon

4.B.3 Attend Planning Committee Meeting

Present and respond as appropriate

Page 147

TRAFFIC LIGHT RATING MODEL FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION



REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 30 September 2010

SUBJECT: Capital Investment for Children subject to Special Guardianship

Arrangements

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Colin Pettigrew, Service Director - Children Schools and Families

CONTACT OFFICER: Marilyn Josefsen, Interim Service Manager - Children Schools

and Families (Telephone No. 0151 934 5021)

EXEMPT/ N

CONFIDENTIAL:

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the scheme detailed to be included within the capital programme.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Cabinet approval is necessary to enable a scheme to be included in the capital programme.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That the Capital Investment is added to the Capital Programme. (Please note that this represents "one-off" capital expenditure that is funded from the Fostering budget).

Cabinet is asked to agree to the inclusion of the scheme (£26,750) within the capital programme, with funding provided entirely from the Children's Services Fostering Revenue budget.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the Call-In period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

There is an alternative to this capital investment which would involve the placement of the two children with an Independent Foster Agency. This option would not be in the best interests of the children and would commit the Council to considerable additional costs over a number of years.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None

Financial: There are no financial implications for the Council's general resources as all

funding is from specific resources – namely the Children's Services Fostering

Revenue Budget.

CAPITAL EXPENDITURE	2009/ 20010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital		26,750		
Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources		No		
Specific Capital Resources		No		
REVENUE IMPLICATIONS				
Gross Increase in Revenue				
Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources		26,750		
Funded from External Resources		No		
Does the External Funding have an expiry date?		When?		-
Y/N				
How will the service be funded post exp				

L	90	ıal	ŀ
_	Cu	a	١.

Risk Assessment: The risk of not providing the funding for the extension

is that the Council would need to seek an alternative solution, involving the removal of the children from the family environment and a considerable additional burden on the Children's Services Revenue Budget.

Asset Management:

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

- 1 LEGAL SERVICES.
- 2 FD516. THE INTERIM HEAD OF CORPORATE FINANCE AND INFORMATION SERVICES HAS BEEN CONSULTED AND HIS COMMENTS HAVE BEEN INCORPORATED INTO THIS REPORT.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negative Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community			
2	Creating Safe Communities			
3	Jobs and Prosperity			
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	V		
5	Environmental Sustainability			
6	Creating Inclusive Communities			
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	V		
8	Children and Young People	$\sqrt{}$		

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

Cabinet Member Report for Children Schools and Families dated 14-9-2010, Agenda Item 6.

1 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 On the 14-9-2010 the Cabinet Member for Children Schools and Families, Councillor Ian Moncur, considered the report of Peter Morgan Strategic Director, at Agenda Item 6 regarding this matter.
- 1.2 The Cabinet Member was recommended to consider agreeing to an investment to extend a domestic property in order to allow two children under 5 years old currently in the Interim Care of the Local Authority to be placed in the permanent care of extended family members under Special Guardianship Regulations. This would in effect allow the children to be safely and securely discharged from our care to that of their extended family on a permanent basis, achieving long term stability for them and the positive outcomes associated with that.
- 1.3 In coming to his decision to agree to the investment of £26,750 capital the Cabinet Member gave consideration to the following:
 - The children's ages (both are under 5 years old)
 - That since being removed from their parent(s)' care via a Police Protection Order in June 2009 they had already experience four moves with the proposed move to extended family to be their fifth.
 - That wherever appropriate and safe to do so that children should remain in their own family, including extended family.
 - That a one-off capital investment of £26,750 (funded from Fostering Revenue Budget) would be as an alternative to revenue expenditure of £70,223 per annum for their current care arrangements with an Independent Fostering Agency. The projected cost of this care if the children were to remain with their current carer throughout their childhood would be in excess of £2.1 million.
 - That Sefton MBC protect their investment by way of a contractual obligation with the Special Guardian for a legal charge to be made against the value of the extension in the event of the home being sold.
 - That the plan for the children to be placed with their extended family members is agreed by the Sefton Adoption and Permanency Panel and the Judge hearing proceedings at Liverpool Child and Family Court.

REPORT TO: Cabinet

DATE: 30 September 2010

SUBJECT: Representation on the North Western Shadow

Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Assistant Chief Executive

CONTACT OFFICER: Steve Pearce, Head of Committee and Member

Services - 0151 934 2046

EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To consider the appointment of the Council's representatives to serve on the new North Western Shadow Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority with effect from 1 October, 2010.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

The new Regional body will be established from 1 October 2010 and the Cabinet has delegated powers to appoint the Council's representatives to serve on Outside Bodies.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet is requested to:

- 1. appoint Councillor Glover as the Council's Member representative on the new North Western Shadow Inshore and Fisheries and Conservation Authority.
- 2. appoint the Environmental and Technical Services Director as the Council's officer contact for the Authority and to be an observer and substitute representative, if necessary at meetings of the Authority.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: Not appropriate

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the

Minutes of this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

There are no alternative options other than not to appoint representatives.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: Not appropriate

Financial: None arising from this report.

Legal: None arising from this report.

Risk Assessment: Not appropriate.

Asset Management: Not appropriate

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Environmental and Technical Services Director has been consulted.

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

Corporate Objective		Positive Impact	Neutral Impact	Negativ e Impact
1	Creating a Learning Community		V	
2	Creating Safe Communities		V	
3	Jobs and Prosperity		$\sqrt{}$	
4	Improving Health and Well-Being		V	
5	Environmental Sustainability	√		
6	Creating Inclusive Communities		$\sqrt{}$	
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	√		
8	Children and Young People		V	

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

Letter from Chief Executive of the North West Sea Fisheries Committee.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Cabinet has delegated authority in the Council Constitution to appoint Council representatives to serve on Outside Bodies. The Cabinet at its meeting held on 20 May 2010 reaffirmed the appointment of Councillor Glover and one Labour Member, to be nominated, to be the Council's representatives on the North West Sea Fisheries Committee (SFC).
- 1.2 The North West Sea Fisheries Committee is a statutory body which reports to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. It is responsible for the management and regulation of all inshore sea fisheries out to six nautical miles from the Wirral Peninsular to the Duddon Estuary.

2. North Western Shadow Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority

- 2.1 The new Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authorities (IFCAs) are to be established by the Department for Environment, Fisheries and Rural Affairs in England on 1 April 2011 to replace the current Sea Fisheries Committees and Sefton Council will have 1 seat on the new North Western IFCA.
- 2.2 A shadow IFCA will be set up for the period 1 October 2010 to 31 March 2011 to operate in parallel with the SFC, and meetings of the shadow IFCA will need to be held prior to 1 April 2011 in order to consider and agree the budget and business plan for the new IFCA. The first meeting of the shadow IFCA will be held on Tuesday 2 November 2010 and the Council's representation at that meeting needs to be determined.
- 2.3 The Chief Executive of the SFC has recommended that where possible, Councillors who have served on the SFC should transfer to the IFCA in order to preserve knowledge and continuity. He has also indicated that it would be helpful if the Council could nominate an officer contact who would be able to assist and advise the member representative with the delivery of IFCA business and who could attend IFCA meetings as an observer or deputy representative if necessary.
- 2.4 Councillor Glover has indicated that he would be willing to continue as the Council's representative on the new body and it is recommended that the Environmental and Technical Services Director be appointed as the Council's officer contact and to be an observer and substitute representative if necessary at meetings of the IFCA.

This page is intentionally left blank

Agenda Item 16a

^ A					RT
	Ж		R-	P()	ואו
	ш				, , , , ,

COUNCILLOR	COMMITTEE	DATE
lan Moncur	Cabinet Member for Children, Schools & Families	September 2010

St Wilfrid's

At the end of July the school received its Ofsted report following its recent inspection. The school was judged as 'requiring special measures' which is the poorest category of judgement that can be made by Ofsted and it is the first secondary school in Sefton ever to receive this adverse judgement.

The Local Authority has submitted an Action Plan to Ofsted detailing its measures and support to address the substandard areas of weakness identified in the inspection.

GCSE & A Level Results

The initial analysis of the results from schools and colleges indicate that performance across the Borough has again improved. However the validation process by the Department for Education will not be complete until the end of this November when the performance of individual schools and the Local Authority will be published. In the meantime, I would like to extend, on behalf of all members of the Council, our congratulations on the examination success of students in Sefton and wish them continued success in their educational journeys.

Healthy Schools Standard

At a ceremony in Bootle Town Hall earlier this month, I was delighted to recognise the achievement of 5 further schools in Sefton to be awarded the national Healthy Schools Standard. This demanding national recognition involves at least 2 years of work in which the school is required to demonstrate significant whole school curriculum development and achievement in each of the 4 strands of the Standard. The successful schools are:

St William of York Primary St Benedict's Primary St Gregory's Primary St Mary's Primary Savio Salesian Secondary Agenda templeaning entres in Sefton have now ceased operating following the cessation of Area Based Grant for this activity. The South Sefton CLC building, which was leased from Savio Salesian Secondary School, has now been passed back for school use whilst the North Sefton CLC building, based at the former Ainsdale Hope High School, is subject to discussion as to future use.

Child Poverty

Following a workshop on child poverty held by the Children's Trust earlier this year, a further workshop was held recently involving 50 colleagues from partner organisations within Sefton Borough Partnership. The workshop focussed on the statutory requirement for each Local Authority area to produce a child poverty needs assessment and was facilitated and supported through a City Region Framework for developing the assessment across the Local Authorities in Merseyside. The work will now be taken forward through the Sefton Borough Partnership Operations Board.

Graham Taylor

Graham retires from the Local Authority on 30th September after a teaching and local government career spanning 39 years, of which 32 years have been served in Sefton. Graham has been a wonderful asset to Sefton and I wish to record our deep appreciation of this excellent service as well as to offer our sincere wishes for a well deserved long, happy and healthy retirement.

Cabinet Member - Communities Report

Cabinet – 30 September 2010

SAFER AND STRONGER COMMUNITIES

Please see below a synopsis relating to some of the actions that contribute directly to the delivery of the department's Annual Service Plan and the Council's contribution to the Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership Plan.

General perceptions of crime and anti-social behaviour

In the last 3 months, working with the Police, we have sent out **47 packs** of information and advice to the parents/guardians **of children** who have been stopped by the Police in respect of anti-social behaviour. Of those sent information and advice **28 included information on alcohol** as this was one of the factors associated with their behaviour at the time.

With reference to adults, in the same period we have sent out 45 similar letters, of which 40 related to alcohol

During June to August 2010 we installed **22 sanctuary schemes** in relation to high/very high risk victims of domestic and sexual violence in Sefton.

In addition **Operation Beach-Safe** has now run to a conclusion and we await a report to the SSCP on 30 September 2010.

Obtained one **anti-social behaviour order** in Sefton (2 years) in relation to a youth who was committing acts of verbal abuse and harassment. The ASBO has non-association and also geographic prohibitions to attempt to break the cycle of anti-social behaviour.

From April to August 2010

- All crime reports are down 10.2% on same period 2009.
- The Partnership's British Crime Survey (BCS) iQuanta ranking for most recent 3 month period available up from 4th in 2009 to 3rd in 2010.
- **Most Serious Violent Crime** April-July 2010 reduced by 36.8% compared to the same period in 2009 and currently 20% below target (youth related violence for the period down 36.5%).
- Hate crime April-July 2010 down 10.9% on same period in 2009.
- Anti Social Behaviour for school summer holiday period (July/August) down 4% compared to 2009. Much thanks needs to be given to the work of Leisure Services (Free and Active programme) as well as work from/by Sefton Youth Services and the voluntary and community sector.
- **Perceptions of Youth Disorder** being a problem have fallen by 3.5% in July 2010 compared to July 2009.
- Community perceptions that they can influence decisions that affect their local area have increased by 3.8% in July 2010 compared to July 2009.

Agenda Item 16b

 Community perceptions for July 2010 show over 80% of Sefton residents are satisfied/very satisfied with their local area as a place to live.

Additional Work

The <u>Emergency Planning Team</u> took control of <u>the flooding which</u> <u>affected parts of Bootle</u> in early August. Work undertaken included setting up community facilities at St. Leonard's Centre, Peel Road which was attended by agencies from the Third Sector, Housing, EPD, Adult Social Care, Police and Health to support flood victims. At the subsidence of the waters, Adult Social Care and Sefton CVS have now taken the lead in managing residents back into their homes, with the Emergency Planning Team continuing to oversee and assist the process. The Community Fund is managing charitable donations to residents affected by the floods.

A joint Police and Environmental Protection Division operation (**Operation Maynard**) to tackle owners of "status dogs" has been successfully completed throughout Sefton and reported in the local press. The aim is to reassure the public that anti-social behaviour using dogs will not be tolerated and to discourage owners from using their dogs in inappropriate ways.

Investigations continue to gather evidence against two key offenders in South Sefton with a view to apply for <u>ASBO's</u>. Two other youths who are causing anti-social behaviour are to be assessed and reviewed through the Common Assessment Framework process to establish appropriate support and diversionary options to prevent further offending or progress within the Criminal Justice System. A high-need family in South Sefton are now engaged and working in a Family Intervention Programme designed to reduce the risk of their offending behaviour.

Sefton Park Rangers and SING delivered a **Multicultural Festival** partly funded by Safer Stronger Communities, in **Potters Barn Park**, **Waterloo** in early August. The event was attended by more than **800 local residents** who enjoyed a wide range of activities reflecting cultures from around the world. The festival was designed to encourage people to value differences in cultures and to increase the positive use of parks.

In the past month Community Payback have delivered over 400 hours of unpaid work; collecting over 200 bags of litter and refuse and undertaken "specialist" requests including re-painting the five-a-side pitch surrounds in Derby Park, graffiti removal at Marian Square, painting of Abbeyfield Park railings and throughout the Summer assisted the National Trust at Formby pine-woods every Monday as part of Operation Beach-Safe.

We have run one trial 'operation stay-safe' in partnership with the Police, Brunswick Youth Club, Leisure Services and Youth Services. The operation designed to reduce the risks and harm associated with anti-social behaviour. It is planned to run operation stay-safe during the 'mischief period' in areas associated with local intelligence on high-risk ASB areas in Sefton. The principle aim is to prevent any serious harm to young people.

Planned Activity

In the next few months we will be introducing:

- New Anti-Social Behaviour standards with colleagues in the Police.
- A new **CD-rom** co-produced by the Sefton Community Safety Partnership and the Local Criminal Justice Board that will be available to witnesses appearing in court in both civil and criminal trials.
- A new hate crime CD-rom that can be used to show victims the support and the way cases can be handled in court (both these CD-rom's were commissioned/produced by our colleagues in Sefton's Corporate Communications Department, to whom we are grateful).
- **Tomorrow's Women programme** (launch 15th October) will be part of Safer Communities Partnership's work on addressing some of the factors and drivers of women's offending behaviour.
- Scoping and research on the Family Justice Centre will be nearing completion. This work will examine the business case relating to the services that work in Sefton to support high-risk victims of domestic and sexual violence. We would wish to extend our thanks to all those that have been involved and have contributed to this exercise.

SEFTON EQUALITIES PARTNERSHIP

Equality Act 2010

Work is underway through the corporate equalities group to ensure that the Council, and Council departments, are prepared for the above Act which was passed in April of this year. Briefing sessions for managers and staff are being delivered across the Council. A new approach is being embedded corporately to effectively manage impact assessing and meet the requirements of the equality duties.

<u>Community Development Project for Black and Minority Ethnic</u> Communities

The bi-lingual Skills Course is now up and running. Forty additional staff have now been trained in the 'Mental Health First Aid' from the public and third sectors. Inter-cultural Competency Training has been delivered to over 20 staff from the public and third sectors. Ten staff have now completed the 'Train the Trainers' Course to deliver cultural competency skills within their own organisations.

Mystery Shopping

Members of the Ability Network have commenced the mystery shopping for One Vision Housing as part of improving access for people with disabilities or limiting long term illness. The outcomes of this work will form the basis of an action plan to remove barriers to access.

Agenda Item 16b

Values Statement

The Waterloo Values Statement was launched in June at Waterloo Community Centre and the Queens Road/Bedford Road Values Statement was launched at Bootle Cricket Club in July with key provides of services and local residents coming to together to tackle hate crime within their local communities.

Work Ability Project

The above project was formally launched at Sing Plus in June and the project is now formally supporting over 40 individuals with disabilities or limiting long term illness to access employment or training.

CABINET - 30th SEPTEMBER 2010

<u>CORPORATE SERVICES – CABINET MEMBERS' REPORT</u>

LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT - CORPORATE SERVICES

Legal Services were recently instructed to try and remove a video from two websites which contained defamatory comments about a Sefton MBC employee. The videos were successfully removed.

A staff working group has been established to make preparations for any office move as part of the Corporate Services integration work stream.

Children & Social Care Team

The team are grateful for the increase in support afforded by the appointment of a locum legal assistant to cover maternity leave for one of the legal assistants. This will ease the pressure on the team with regard to administrative and legal support tasks. The team continue to be very busy with several new cases being issued and ongoing proceedings filling the Court diary.

Planning, Environmental & Property Team

The Planning Environment & Property Team's current work includes the following projects:-

Warranties for the Tannery Site in Bootle
Review of Contract Procedure Rules
New Netherton Activity Centre
Southport Cultural Centre
Southport Market Redevelopment
Development Agreement for Penpoll Site in Bootle
Drafting Standard Allotment Agreement
Agreement for site investigation works at Kew, Southport
Voluntary Registration of Council's land ownership
Scanning conveyancing paperwork for future reference

PERSONNEL DEPARTMENT

A. Pay & Grading Review/Equal Pay

1. The process of implementing the Pay & Grading Review is currently due to take place on 1st October 2010. As agreed by the Pay & Grading Committee, implementation will now be effective 1st October 2010. A number of issues are being resolved with discussions between trade unions and officers. There are also a number of queries which are being raised by the workforce.

Agenda tem 16 Cgard to allowances and enhancements has taken place with the trade unions. These changes are considered necessary to simplify pay and prevent costs rising further after job evaluation is implemented.

- 3. The trade unions did initially indicate that they intended to ballot their members on whether to accept the changes in pay structure and the allowances, however, the trade unions have now indicated that they do not wish to ballot. The reason for not balloting appears to be connected with the trade unions wanting a greater level of back pay and also that signing up to a collective agreement could in the trade unions' view leave themselves open to litigation.
- 4. In terms of the equal pay claims, 5 days of equal pay tribunal hearings took place in mid-June. Jurisdictional issues were resolved and a further hearing of 1 day is due on 1st October 2010.
- 5. The Department is currently working on a number of projects connected to defending the equal pay cases in a number of jurisdictions.
- 6. Discussions are taking place with regard to the appeal process within the Authority, schools and also VA schools. Officers are having to manage a number of queries from schools as to implementation.

B. Establishment Control, Pensions, Payroll & HR Transactional Services

- 7. The Client meetings continue (now fortnightly) and we are progressing in several areas including the introduction of new process and improving data quality. Protocols continue to be developed as and when required.
- 8. The Establishment Control Panel has now become embedded and is working well. The Panel deal with everything which concerns the engagement of people to work within the Council. New processes/forms have been developed to streamline the process.
- 9. Establishment Control will be sending Workforce Data to all Service Directors on a regular basis. Staffing Data is currently sent to all schools on a termly basis.
- 10. The Pensions Officer is currently working closely with the Transformation team in providing redundancy/pension costs.
- 11. A requirements document has been produced and shared with arvato to implement the changes required to employee's pay for Pay & Grading on 1st October 2010. Files are currently being produced to change posts and employees for 1st October 2010.
- 12. In ResourceLink, My View Self Service has been piloted in Finance to give employees access to their own payslips on line. This will be rolled out across the Council, where employees have access to a Council PC.

C. Health Unit

13. The Corporate Manager post is still vacant and is likely to remain so until the current requirement for savings are met and any revised structures are implemented.

- 14. The Unit is currently reviewing its policy and guidance documents in the with the 16c revised organisational structure of the Council. This may prove difficult to finalise as further changes are likely.
- 15. The Unit has provided a guide to the support services it can offer to those employees who have been issued with notice of redundancy. It will also be made available to any employee who is subject to this in future.
- 16. The Unit continues to play a pivotal role in the new EVOLVE (school trip database) system trial. This is due to end at the end of September when the system will be rolled out across the remainder of the Council and to those schools which choose to use it.
- 17. The Unit is due to trial its new Incident Reporting System in Operational Services until December 2010. Provided there are no serious problems the system will then be rolled out across the remainder of the Council and to schools.
- 18. Great progress has been made with co-ordinating the Premises Condition Mangers Training. (This will enable identified Officers sufficient awareness and understanding to ensure compliance with the Council's Legionella and Asbestos Management Plans as well as other statutory obligations). The courses are ready, the Unit just need the authority to commence.
- 19. The Unit will work closely with Client Team (Env P&Tech) and Capita Symonds to address the requirements of statutory testing obligations as set out in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). Given current budgetary constraints there will need to be a level of priority attached to these.

D. Corporate Learning & Development Unit

20. Mainstream CLDU activity remains focused primarily on the identified and agreed priorities of rolling out the Coaching Skills for Managers training programmed and ongoing maintenance of the Management Development and Foundation to Management programmers. Of the 54 Coaching Skills for Managers events planned between April 2010 and the end of 2011, 9 are now complete and 12 others underway. Feedback to date from delegates has been very positive. The programmes are being run jointly by trainers from CLDU and the Social Care and Wellbeing workforce development team, producing spin-off benefits in terms of relationship building between the team.

FINANCE & INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT

Finance/Budget

The audit of the Accounts for 2009/10 has largely been completed by PriceWaterhouseCooper's. It is anticipated that they will be issuing an unqualified opinion on the Accounts to the Audit and Governance Committee on 30 September.

Routine work in monitoring the 2010/11 budget is progressing (report included elsewhere on the agenda) together with the completion of the transfer of certain functions between Directorates as a result of the Strategic Budget Review and the Transformation Agenda. The section is continuing to provide support in the search for the savings and efficiencies

Agendary tem 16 Calanced budget in the 2011/12 to 2013/14 Medium Term Financial Plan.

The consultation process to ensure the first stage integration of financial support staff from Children's Services, Social Care and Wellbeing and the Chief Executive's and Communities Business Support Unit with Corporate Financial Management is now complete. The initial phase of the integration will start on 1 October, when finance staff from the departments referred to above will transfer to the management of the Corporate Finance & Information Services Department. The second stage of the process to deliver improved and consistent support to departments and more timely monitoring and reporting to budget holders and Members is already underway; the process will gain pace over the next couple of months, in order to meet the implementation date of 1 April 2011.

Client Unit

ICT

The audit of compliance against the Government Connect Code of Connection has been passed. There are still some tasks to be undertaken but based on the existing plans the audit was successfully completed.

The conversion of the Council's mail system is underway and almost all staff based in Bootle are using the Microsoft Outlook email system.

Blackberrys have now been introduced for those staff who need access to email whilst mobile.

Customer Services – The Corporate Strategy for Customer Access is currently being developed as part of the Council's Transformation Programme... arvato are playing a major part in the development of this strategy.

HR and Payroll – The requirements for the implementation of job evaluation continue to be developed and will be in place for 01st October 2010.

Revenues & Benefits -

The new Revenues & Benefits core processing system project remains on target for November go live. A separate report will be submitted to Cabinet Member for Corporate Services Meeting on 13th October with a detailed update. 1300 newsletters have been distributed to private landlords to update them on the Benefits service. Also the benefit Take Up Officer has attended multi agency information & advice events for victims of the recent Bootle flooding.

Accounts Payable – the service continue to process payment requests within an average of one day when received. The service has put measures in place to ensure fraudulent requests to change bank account details of supplier are not actioned. This is a scam that has been identified by the National Anti-fraud network.

Procurement

Following the re-launch of the I-Procurement software facility through Q1 of the current financial year, the extent of spend being processed through the facility has subsequently

increased from around 7% to over 35% of addressable spend as a gendalitem 16c

Work continues in terms of delivering staff training and managing the ongoing transition.

The Corporate Procurement Unit has recently implemented a new contract for Office Stationery, which will result in savings of circa £140,000 per annum. This exercise was undertaken in collaboration with all other Mersevside authorities.

One of the key projects under the Transformation Programme is the 'Procurement and Commissioning' review, which is designed to deliver efficiencies through enabling a more corporate approach to all procurement and commissioning activity. CPU is currently heavily involved on this project.

Insurance & Administration

Following a successful tender exercise, the contract for the Insurance Broker's contract with Aon Limited was renewed in April 2010, and the renewal of the insurance policies will be completed by 29th September 2010. A report on the savings achieved will be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services in October. The staffing on the section has been reduced without detriment to the services provided.

In addition, the "Members' Allowances - Notes for Guidance" document will be distributed to all Members before the end of September.

DEMOCRATIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT – ACE

COMMITTEE AND MEMBER SERVICES

In addition to the administrative support provided for various Cabinet / Committee meetings, the Section has supported the following:

School Admission Appeals

During the period from 24 July to 16 September 2010, 4 School Admission appeal hearings were organised and held, involving 34 applications in respect of 6 High Schools and 11 Primary Schools. The hearings were clerked by the Section with assistance from the Legal Team.

Members' ICT Issues

David Cook, the Members ICT Support Officer transferred to Arvato Government Services with effect from 1 September 2010 and he is now based in St Peter's House, Balliol House, Bootle.

Members may contact David via the ICT Help Desk on 0151-934-4999. He will continue to be available to meet Members at either Bootle or Southport Town Halls or at their homes if so required. In the absence of David, the Help Desk will direct any enquiries from Members to another Desk Top Engineer for the matter to be dealt with.

Agenda Item 16c

CIVIC & MAYORAL SERVICES

Twinning and Cultural Links

As part of the Head of Civic & Mayoral Services twinning responsibilities, visits were arranged and facilitated as part of the Twinning Business Plans currently in place. In July the Council welcomed a Children's Delegation to Sefton from Pafos. The Children took part in a music concert at St Faith's Church in Crosby with Sefton School's Music Service and Lydiate Primary School. The concert was very well attended and received by the audience.

On Saturday the Pafos Delegation performed an outdoor concert at the Bandstand in Southport as part of Lord Street Celebrates.

In July a Mayoral delegation attended Pafos for the Twinning Ceremony which Pafos were taking part in and a Music Concert.

In September, a delegation of Stilt Walkers from Gdansk attended Sefton and were greeted by the Mayor at the International Day Festival, held in Southport on the 12th September.

Mayoral

The following receptions have been held and facilitated by the Mayor's Office:

Charity Committee Reception Multi Faith Reception.

The Head of Civic & Mayoral Services and the Mayoral Officer attended a workshop in Manchester at the Imperial War Museum, which was run by the Holocaust Memorial Trust. The workshop was held to discuss best practice and the launch the 2011 theme which is titled "Untold Stories". It is the intention that we will be working with schools and community groups to widen the awareness of the Holocaust on the lead up to the 27th January 2011.

Sefton Council were praised at the regional workshop event as being proactive in new approaches to the national event and the booklet that was produced for last year's memorial service "legacy of Hope"

Civic & Mayoral Services

The majority of our front line staff have recently completed the customer service course "Welcome to Excellence" which is part of our commitment to improving the customer experience at all our Civic & Mayoral Services venues.

ELECTORAL SERVICES

The Electoral Services team have now started the annual canvass for the 2011 Register of Electors, registration forms have now been sent to all residential properties and reminder forms will be sent out at the beginning of October.

The team are also starting to plan for the Borough and Parish Elections on the 5 May 2011 along with the proposal to hold a Referendum on the future of voting at Parliamentary Elections.

CABINET MEMBER – ENVIRONMENT GENDAR 16d PORTFOLIO ISSUES – September 2010

Waste Strategy Review Consultation	Elected Members will recall approving the revision of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy in 2009. Following a member Issues and Options review for the revision of the mandatory strategy in the spring, mandatory public consultation is to begin on 5 October 2010. Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority is leading on the strategy review on behalf of the Merseyside district councils who share both individual and collective responsibility to produce a joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy with a 20 yr forward looking perspective. All 360 elected members from Merseyside Councils will be contacted as part of the consultation that will run until February 2011 where the issues will be discussed at Overview and Scrutiny committees of the respective Merseyside Councils. Public consultation will involve a Sefton road show, door knocking, focus groups as well as e consultation methods. Merseyside collectively spends approximately £100 million per year collecting and disposing of the 800,000 tonnes of municipal waste our residents produce. The Coalition Government has embarked on a fundamental review of Waste Policies. The Joint Strategy review will take the result of the National review into account prior to its completion towards the end of 2011. Cllr Kevin Cluskey has been reappointed as the Chair of Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority, a position he has held since June 2006
State of the Environment Report	Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service has produced a Merseyside State of the Environment Report that indicates the collective impact Merseyside has on the environment and highlights key areas of environmental challenge. The report should be a key source reference document for those in our community working on strategic issues that may impact on the environment. The report can be viewed at http://immediacy6/SMBCintranet60/PDF/epd_LCRStateofEnvironmentjune2010.pdf
Eco Management and Audit scheme	The former sections of the Environmental Protection Department now in the Environmental and Technical Services and Operational Services Departments have been awarded Eco Management and Audit Scheme accreditation following external assessment. The scheme ensures compliance with environmental legislative requirements and embeds a monitoring and audit approach that reduces the negative environmental impacts of our activities, both helping the environment and bringing resource use cost efficiencies. The scheme will now be extended across all previously uncovered functions of the two new Departments.
Local Air Quality Management Areas	Statutory air quality assessment work has confirmed that the Council declared Air Quality Management Areas at Millers Bridge, Crosby Road North and Princes Way must remain in place. Action to reduce the primarily traffic related pollution issues at these sites is ongoing. A report has been submitted to DEFRA under the statutory reporting requirements.
School Crossing Service	So far this year the School Crossing service has attained a 98% coverage rate at all locations across the Borough. This is seen as a very significant achievement, especially as over 50% of all staff are aged 65 and over and are therefore statistically more susceptible to illness. The ongoing recruitment freeze has also caused operational problem Page 168 ervice, but dispensation has now been

Agenda Item 16d granted to appoint to four vacant posts. Internal redeployment opportunities are being considered in the first instance. Medical evidence has shown that sensory abilities can start to deteriorate in elderly people, and as previously stated, the School Crossing Services recruits a large part of its workforce from more mature sections of the local communities. Therefore, in order to ensure the safety of both staff and residents alike, all Patrol staff within the service aged 65 and over undergo an annual medical screening check. So far this year 64 staff have been screened with all being passed fit to undertake crossing duties. A new server room, which fully meets the requirements of the latest BS5979 standards, has been constructed within the confines of the main Control Room at Sefton Security Headquarters. All computer capabilities within the service are now 'mirrored' in case of system failure, which effectively means that the whole service is as resilient as possible to any external problems which may arise in the future. Additional capacity has also been added to the IT systems which will allow for any service expansion in the future. The Control Room is also being expanded through internal remodeling to increase the size by an additional 45 square metres. Sefton Preliminary discussions have been held with a neighbouring authority about the possibility of monitoring their entire Public Space CCTV System. Such expansion **Security** would provide a perfect springboard to further increase the scope of services offered by Sefton Security across Mersevside and the North of England. Sefton Security now has the capacity and expertise to take advantage of additional service requests, which ultimately will reduce costs to Sefton Council. During the recent school holiday period Sefton Security provided additional mobile patrols across the Borough at the request of the Childrens Services 'Vandalism Group'. It would appear that this service has significantly reduced the level of damage and vandalism encountered on school premises during traditionally difficult times. Sefton Security has also recently been awarded two new contracts for security services to private sector organizations in Netherton and Knowsley. Phase 1 of the previously agreed Cleansing Review is now almost complete. Major pieces of work have been undertaken focusing on new rounds for emptying litter bins, arrangements for sweeping trunk roads and main roads, and reviewing Cleansing implications and procedures for dealing with accidents and/or road traffic incidents. These plans have also been developed with the full co-operation of Trade Unions and staff. Further reports to Cabinet Member and Area Committees are being compiled in order to share the detailed plans and seek feedback accordingly. The School Catering Service has recently reported on Sefton's performance against National Performance Indicators. In the three areas 'take up of lunch provision', namely primary school, special school and secondary school, Sefton now operates at a level above the national average. The Service continues to seek to expand School provision wherever possible, and to this end has now been awarded the catering contract at Greenbank High School from September 2010. Catering NI 52 – Take Up of School Lunches – is one of 198 local government indicators in the National Indicator Set (NIS), developed as part of the Comprehensive Spending

Review in 2007. It assesses the change in healthy eating among children and young people by measuring school lunch take up. It also contributes to measuring progress against Public Page 170 nent (PSA) 12, namely 'Improve the Health

Agenda Item 16¢

and Well-Being of Children and Young People'.

NI 52a - Take Up of Primary and Special School Lunches.

	Sefton	Nationally	Variance
2009/10	42.5%	41.4%	+1.1%

NI 52b - take up of secondary school lunches

	Sefton	Nationally	Variance
2009/10	44.8%	35.8%	+9%

The Specialist Transport Unit has invested in a new management and operational software programme called 'Cleric'. This bespoke software package is used extensively across the transport industry and allows for accurate service predictions, route optimisation, account handling and specific database management. It is currently utilised by organisations such as DHL and the North West Ambulance Service. The programme is currently being populated with a view to going live with the new system after the October half term holiday. It is envisaged that the data provided by the new system, coupled with the ability to be far more responsive in both servicing the needs of potential clients and reporting back to service initiators, will lead to substantial financial savings. Further reports will be brought to members as the implementation progresses.

Specialist Transport Unit

In light of the implementation of the new operational system, Cleric, a restructure has taken place within the Specialist Transport Unit in order to generate the maximum advantages from the system. The Service will now have two distinct functions, namely operations and policy & planning, allowing management and staff to concentrate on specific business requirements as and when required. To further facilitate this process, and also to benefit from economies of scale, the Specialist Transport Unit policy & planning function is to be moved to Hawthorne Road Depot. This section will now deal with all borough-wide planning matters. The southern operational service is being moved from Cambridge Road Depot again to Hawthorne Road. The northern operational service will continue to be based at Forest Road Depot.

Councillor D Tattersall
Cabinet Member Environmental

This page is intentionally left blank

Health and Social Care Cabinet Member Report

Cabinet - 30th September 2010

Knowsley Road Health & Well Being Centre

As part of a National Treatment Agency - National Drug System Change Pilot Programme, Sefton Drug Action Team is in the process of re-configuring it's drug treatment system. By undertaking a full scale programme of change and modernization it will ensure people with a substance misuse problem have a greater choice of services available to them, a greater chance of recovering and leading lives free of illicit drugs and a greater opportunity of re-integration back into mainstream society.

At the heart of the new treatment system is the new Health and Well Being Centre on Knowsley Road. This is the Single Point of Assessment (SPOA) acting as the gateway to a range of treatment services within the borough. The project is staffed by a social work team from the Social Care and Wellbeing Directorate and they will carry out a comprehensive assessment of needs, drawing up an individualised care plan and referring to the most appropriate services. These services will include:

- counselling and brief interventions
- · harm reduction services, primary health care
- substitute prescribing
- community and residential detoxification and rehabilitation services
- abstinence based programmes
- aftercare services and a full spectrum of mainstream health and social care services

A housing and welfare rights team are on site to support service users with accommodation and welfare issues and through JCP initiatives and learning mentors support is offered with employment and training opportunities. A team of volunteer treatment mentors are based in the building to help support client's make the right treatment choices and support them moving through the treatment system.

The service operates on a drop in or appointment basis. Contact details below:

Knowsley Road Health and Well Being Centre 221-223 Knowsley Rd, Bootle, L20 4NN Tel: 0151 9343100

Fax:0151 9343199

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET BRIEFING
CABINET MEMBER LEISURE AND TOURISM
September 2010

SPORT AND RECREATION

Free Holiday Activities

Free & Active providing Places To Go, Things To Do has been running throughout summer at a range of leisure centres, youth centres and community venues across the borough. Continuing to partner with the Sefton Youth Service, the programme offered a range of free activities for children and young people aged 2-19.

Due to budgetary constraints marketing for this summer had to be significantly reduced with a range of alternative low cost marketing mediums chosen as customers were directed to social networking websites, partner websites as well as the official Active Sefton and MOVE IT websites to download the holiday brochure, resulting in 81% increase in first time visitors to the sites.

Throughout the summer programme, more than 33,000 visits were recorded with an estimated 2,660 hours of sport and positive physical activities undertaken by children and young people.

Sefton's voluntary sector sports clubs once again helped support the programme, providing specialist coaching sessions in a number of sporting disciplines.

Positive Futures

Throughout the summer holidays, the Sefton Positive Futures team continued to provide a range of activities for disabled children and young people as part of the Aiming High For Disabled Children project.

Activities on offer throughout the summer included family based activities, day trips and activity days with transport provided for the first time from some areas of the borough.

Throughout the school holiday 156 children and young people attended, of which 37 were new attendees, which represents a 60% increase in attendance numbers over previous holidays.

Active Workforce

Notification has been received that the Active Workforce bid for a second year of Sportsmatch funding has been successful enabling the programme to continue to provide free "back to..." sports and leagues.

The "back to..." sports activities have proven popular with more than 100 women participating in the "back to Netball" league, the 24th "back to Badminton" course now set to run in September and the football league now containing 11 teams. In addition, the Active Workforce programme continues to offer additional non sport specific activities with the latest step challenge now running (closing date for entrants 23/9/10).

Agenda Item 16f

Active Sefton Leisure Centres

Dunes Splash World have partnered with the Liverpool 08 Culture Company to provide a free online booking service via the Dunes Splash World website for customers, which has generated additional sales revenue as well as positioning the centre to be able to now generate additional income via the Splash World website.

The use of the social networking website Facebook has increased the number of friends on both the Dunes Splash World and Active Sefton profiles to more than 1,100 and continues to grow in addition to a growing number of Twitter followers.

Celebrating the end of the summer holiday activities, the Netherton Activity Centre held its annual "NAC's Got Talent" competition with eight acts making it through to the final from the earlier stages.

Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre has implemented a range of disability specific water sports activities for adults from local day centres. Activities on offer at the weekly water camp included a range of paddle sports, from dragon boating to canoeing and bell boating with the competitive element being displayed in the team raft building activities. Inspiring the next generation of sporting heroes, the centre was also visited by Chris Holmes, former Paralympic Gold Medalist and Director of Paralympic Integration for the games who toured the site and spoke to disabled children and young people.

Homeless Games

The department's Positive Futures team organised the Sefton arm of the national Homeless Games to provide sporting opportunities for professionals, volunteers and individuals from a homeless background. Offering a range of sports including swimming, netball, basketball, pool and darts to name a few, more than 200 people turned up to take part in the activities and seek out exit routes from the programme.

LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES

The Summer Reading Challenge 2010 - Space Hop

This year's Summer Reading Challenge – Space Hop has proved more popular than ever. With two weeks of the challenge left, almost 5,000 children have joined Space Hop and over 3,500 have completed their Challenge.

The Summer Reading Challenge has always proved popular in the Maghull area, but this year Meadows has set new records. Almost 800 children in and around Maghull have joined Space Hop, a 23% increase on last year's figures, with almost 600 children completing their challenge which is a 19% increase on the previous year.

A special mention must also go to the libraries in and around the Southport area. Southport has done very well to only have a drop of 14% in their new location. Ainsdale, Birkdale and Churchtown libraries have more than made up for that dip. Children joining the Challenge at all three libraries are up on last year, with Churchtown increasing joiners by a magnificent 25%.

Self service technology reaches Birkdale Library

Following the success of the self service operation at Meadows, two machines have just been installed at Birkdale. As a stand alone library, it will provide a useful comparison to Meadows, and will inform how this could be rolled out to other libraries. The funding for this came from the Merseyside Improvement and Efficiency Programme.

TOURISM

Marketing

PR: a familiarisation trip held for five travel journalists over the weekend of the 17 – 19 September. The Southport Air Show has already received substantial coverage with more to collate from the weekend. Davies Tanner (business Tourism PR) continue to secure exposure in a range of trade publications and associated websites (equivalent advertising value of over £100,000).

Design & Print: The Southport Comedy Week programme is being designed, delivery end September. The Sefton Trail leaflet (borough-wide tourism/leisure offer) has been delivered and is in distribution. Southport Short Breaks & Holiday Guide (2011) design has been agreed, advertising sales are under way. Southport Pocket Guide design under way

Website/new media: The move to the new 'enterprise' web platform for visitsouthport.com has taken place, the online shop will also go live in September. The tourism Facebook and Twitter sites are now both active with daily (or more frequent) updates. E-Newsletter sent to database monthly, now over 6,000 contacts.

Travel Trade: Work done with the industry (exhibitions attended, travel trade newsletter, new travel trade guide etc.) continues to produce results. Coach figures 11% up on the same period last year.

STBN: Businesses in paying membership stands at 104. Next Alliance meeting 17 November. Southport Restaurateurs Association (SRA) recruiting for 2011, new guide to be produced during the autumn.

Events

Southport Summer Classics took place on Friday 30th July with the Magic of Soul and Motown and on Saturday 31st July with a traditional proms style concert with the Northern Chamber Orchestra Sinfonia. Despite the weather Friday night was busy, Saturday night was guiet, particularly compared to previous years.

The "Lord St Celebrates" took place over four weekends in July and August. This was a joint initiative between Tourism and Sefton Arts and uses Partners for Growth funding. Events were well received.

Southport Air show 18th and 19th September – set up has started, ticket sales are going well. The trade village is fully booked and the Premier tickets are sold out for the Saturday. Plenty of ground based attractions including replica aircraft, Battle of Britain Memorial Flight Exhibition and also a Tri Plane exhibition.

Agenda Item 16f

British Musical Fireworks Championships -1^{st} , 2^{nd} and 3^{rd} October - all plans in place competitors happy and looking forward to a high standard of displays. Fantastic Fireworks have dropped out and been replaced with MLE Pyrotechnics.

Southport Comedy Week – headline acts programmed to date include Dara O Briain, Sean Lock and Rich Hall. Work on-going on the fringe events.

RLPO Lunchtime concerts at Bootle Town Hall, full programme in place, first concert takes place on Thursday 23rd September with a Piano Recital.

Christmas Lights Switch on and Parade – Sunday 21st November – work ongoing. Christmas Retail Campaign, Chapel Street will host a Christmas Market on the 11th and 18th & 19th December, this will include local retailers plus some new traders along with Reindeer and possibly a Wii Winter Games console.

Southport Food & Drink Festival, we will be working with Edge Street events again, planning for 2011 has started already including search for sponsorship. The event will take place on the 12th – 15th May 2011.

Business Tourism

The second quarter of the 2010/11 financial year is almost complete and has seen seven conferences confirm, worth an estimated £5.6m in economic impact.

Planning for a number of autumn projects is well under way including exhibiting alongside The Mersey Partnership at Event UK in Birmingham, Conference Times Autumn/Winter issue, Newsletter e-blast to agents and corporate contacts as well as a group familiarisation visit for Agents in November.

LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT

New Play Area for Crosby Coastal Park

Sefton Council received a grant in 2009 for children's play from the Big Lottery Fund, part of which has been used to build a major new play area at Crosby Coastal Park. The project aims to encourage more natural and adventurous play in this popular location next to Crosby Marine Lake. It comprises a large enclosed area with varied landform and stimulating equipment to encourage imaginative play. The play area was officially opened in early August, and has been extremely well used and appreciated, despite the wet weather.

National Awards for Parks and Open Spaces

In addition to the two new Green Flags reported previously, Sefton's Landscape Service has been recognized by three other independent organisations:

- Green Apple Award: presented by the Green Organisation for Environmental Best Practice
- Finalists in the category 'Best Service Team: Parks, Grounds and Horticulture', in the annual service awards organised by the Association for Public Service Excellence (APSE).
- Winners of five trophies, including 'Best in Show' at the Southport Flower Show; Sefton's garden received coverage in the National Press.

Agenda Item 16f

As well as this, the Landscape Section is hoping for positive outcomes in this year's North West in Bloom competition, along with the Crosby / Waterloo and Southport Steering Groups. Results are due in late October

This page is intentionally left blank

REPORT TO CABINET - 30th September 2010

<u>COUNCILLOR IAIN BRODIE-BROWN</u> Cabinet Member for Performance and Governance

PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT & INTELLIGENCE Intelligence

Sefton's "State of the Borough Core Evidence Report" was produced in October 2009. The report contained primary & secondary data about Sefton including population, deprivation, crime and disorder, economy employment & worklessness, housing, health & wellbeing, children's & young people, environment, transportation.

The report was used to produce a pictorial representation (Schema) of the boroughs future priorities which were divided into "Our People" and "Our Places". (Our People, Our Older People having the best quality of life & Our Children, families and adults reaching their full potential) & (Our Places, Our most deprived neighbourhoods are regenerated, All our neighbourhoods are attractive, safe and connected).

"Sefton Understood" the partnership intelligence group was formed to improve Sefton Borough Partnership's knowledge of its communities and improve service delivery; on the 24th October 2010 the group will hold its 7th meeting.

Sefton Understood has been building foundations to support its work plan including the approval of a data quality policy, the establishment of an online resource for operational / strategic documents and the strategic information sharing protocol which has been presented to the SBP Operations Board and is currently being signed off by partner organisations.

The group is currently collating and rationalising datasets across the partnership, which will achieve efficiencies and a better understanding of communities as well as assisting with the Core Evidence Base refresh. Individual partners will be asked at the meeting on the 24th October to contribute towards the refresh of the Core Evidence Base for their thematic areas.

Draft Area Profiles are in the process of being prepared at a ward level. The profiles will be used to assist with the creation of the refreshed Core Evidence Base, whilst supporting neighbourhood management and the coalition governments localism agenda. Additionally work is ongoing to identify data sets for inclusion in the refreshed Core Evidence Base. The ward profiles and evidence base will be updated biannually to ensure they are current. The core evidence base will be used in the future to produce an on-line data observatory with partners.

Quarter Two 2010/11 Performance Reporting

Quarter Two monitoring has commenced, and updates against Priorities, Departmental Service Plans and National Indicators will be completed by departments. Using Sefton's latest performance, officers are in the process of comparing our performance with that published regionally and nationally to determine Sefton's direction of travel.

Agenda Item 16g

Service Planning

A lighter touch approach to Service Planning is underway for 2010/11, which involves the identification of no more than 6 priorities per department. The new service plans have begun the process of seeking Cabinet Member approval.

2010-11 Approved Plans

- Chief Executive's Departmental Service Plan
- Adult Social Care Department Service Plan
- Children, Schools and Families Departmental Plan Strategic Priorities
- Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Department Service Plan
- Safer Stronger Communities Departmental Service Plan

2010-11 Plans due to be approved in October

- Leisure & Tourism
- Environment & Technical Services
- Operational Services
- Planning & Economic Development
- Legal & Admin
- Personnel
- Finance and IS

A fuller approach to service planning is under development for 2011/12.

CIPFA VFM Benchmarking

Sefton Council is currently completing the 2009/10 CIPFA Benchmarking club questionnaire for Corporate Services. These help public bodies to benchmark the efficiency and effectiveness of some of their major corporate functions including Human Resources, Legal, Communications, Finance, ICT, Procurement and Estates Management

The indicators are designed to ensure that public bodies are able to assess the performance and efficiency of their back office services, and compare their results against other UK public sector organisations. While use of the indicators is voluntary, they are recommended to audited and inspected bodies (AIBs) as a powerful tool to improve value for money.

PWC Benchmarking 2009/10

Sefton recently joined the Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC) Local Authority Performance Benchmarking Club. The North West Regional Improvement and Efficiency Partnership (RIEP) agreed to pay the membership fees for all authorities in the North West.

PWC has published the 2009/10 Year End tools. The Tools contain data for 2008/09 Outturn, 2009/10 Outturn and 2010/11 Targets. The tools allow a more hands on approach to decide which comparison's to use when viewing Sefton's results.

The results have been analysed and a briefing paper has been prepared detailing how Sefton compares with the Metropolitan Boroughs. Other comparisons can be made including Single/Upper Tier, Counties, Unitaries, London Boroughs, Districts, Regional Groups and Customised Family Groups.

CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS

It continues to be a busy time for Corporate Communications as both media issues and Public Relations opportunities are dealt with.

In the last six weeks around £600,000 of press coverage has been generated with mentionable successes around the promotion of the Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre being used as an Olympic Training Venue (regional TV and radio) and the 150th anniversary of Southport Pier (also regional TV and radio). The TV coverage for those two events added an extra £380,000 in Estimated Advertising Value making a total of almost £1 million.

Work was undertaken to promote the Southport Airshow with regional and national coverage and further potential TV opportunities being created. A protocol was put in place to deal with traffic information alongside the Merseyside Police press office with information being fed to local and regional radio stations throughout the event.

There have also been a number of issues and enquiries including the Sainsburys planning application in Crosby, the Kingsway nightclub fire in Southport, media briefings on the current budget position and Capital Programme, a regional TV story regarding a complaint about provision for a disabled service user, a 'Father's for Justice' protest in Bootle and the publication of a Serious Case Review.

Regular updates have been made to the news section of the Sefton Council Website and also the Team has maintained and updated the 'Informing Sefton' section of the staff intranet to continue to deliver corporate messages about the Transformation Programme and other internal matters.

COMMUNICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE PROJECTS

The creation of the Member Overseeing Groups referred to in the Transformation report elsewhere on the agenda, will ensure that the integration of the Performance Improvement and Communications Functions progress to the agreed timescales which is implementation within 2011/12. The in-year savings associated with these integrations of £250,000 relating to communications is on target to be achieved in year.

These integrations will enable, once in place, greater clarity of responsibility through the Performance and Governance Cabinet portfolio, of Communications activity in particular.

The Integration and Shared Services Overseeing Group will oversee and provide challenge to these and other integration workstreams and this will be reported through the regular Transformation reports. The Cabinet Member portfolio reporting will ensure that the future strategies around Communications and Performance Improvement/Intelligence, are developed through the portfolio, and will be updated through Cabinet Member reporting to Cabinet.

This page is intentionally left blank

CABINET MEMBER REGENERATION REPORT TO CABINET 30 September 2010

Planning & Economic Development update

Promoting Parents

The Liverpool City Region Child & Family Poverty Framework was presented at a workshop in Crosby on 8th September. Sefton is developing a Child Poverty Needs Assessment in line with government guidance, to which the LCR report is a valued input. The Sefton Borough Partnership has requested a new "Think Family" group led by Peter Morgan advises it on family-related matters including the reduction of child poverty. Sefton's national pilot project Promoting Parents is led by Planning & Economic Regeneration, and is acquiring invaluable experience of co-ordinating service providers around the needs of parents and children. Sefton@work is also directly assisting troubled families included within the Sefton Family Intervention Pilot. Tackling child poverty through parental employment initiatives will continue to play an important part in Sefton's employment programmes, and shows how early and preventative interventions (such as access to work, or to better paying work) can significantly reduce the costs to the Council of family breakdown.

Funding opportunities

Officers are pursuing major funding opportunities for Merseyside, particularly important at this time of spending restraint:

- □ £9.3 million ESF available to tackle worklessness, apprenticeships, "green jobs" and adult jobs advice & guidance
- □ £6 million ERDF available for employment support to businesses
- □ ERDF available and ringfenced for Merseyside to develop local incubators and small workspaces creating jobs
- □ £7 million for the REECH programme retrofitting insulation to homes
- □ £5 million available under the approved Merseyside Rural Economy Action Plan
- □ Bids pending to Interreg IVb, Plugged in Places, CLASP and for a Low Carbon Hub.

Results will be notified in due course.

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND INVESTMENT PROGRAMMES DEPARTMENT

1. Queens / Bedford and Klondyke CPO Public Inquiries

The Public inquiries will commence on November 8th 2010 and are scheduled to complete on Friday November12th. It is hoped that a decision on the outcome of the inquiries will be notified early during the new year.

Agenda Item 16h

2. Housing Market Renewal Fund

The Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) has appointed David Waterhouse as head of Housing Market Renewal. Newheartlands Pathfinder hosted a visit by mr Waterhouse on September 16th with a view to making as robust a case as possible for continued funding to complete the task under way in both Queens/Bedford and Klondyke and other priority intervention areas across Merseyside. This will assist in influencing the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review due during late October.

3. Pine Grove

Keepmoat Plc have submitted a planning Application to develop the former Depot site, adjacent to the Leeds and Liverpool Canal. No public subsidy will be required and the developer is hoping to commence on site prior to Christmas 2010.

CABINET MEMBER TECHNICAL SERVICES Agenda Item 16i REPORT TO CABINET 30 September 2010

1. Third Local Transport Plan for Merseyside

Over the past decade, the Merseyside Transport Partnership has worked to provide a modern and extensive transport network for Merseyside. There has been major investment to facilitate the effective movement of people and goods.

The time has come to prepare the region's next Local Transport Plan, that despite the current economic climate, must plan for growth in all sectors. Developing the transport system to meet these challenges is important, but also in a means that healthier more environmentally friendly lifestyles.

Consequently the vision for the Third Local Transport Plan will be to aim for Merseyside to become a thriving international city region by 2030, with transport fully supporting economic growth and cutting carbon emissions. Consultation on the draft preferred strategy to deliver this was launched by the Partnership on the 8th September 2010 and runs to the end of November 2010. Full details are available on www.transportmerseyside.org

The draft preferred strategy focuses on:

- Maintaining our transport assets to a high standard
- Promote the integration of transport and planning objectives.
- Making better use of technology including introducing smart cards
- Promoting cycling walking and public transport
- Targeted improvements to the highway network
- Reducing road traffic accidents

A full report will be presented to a future Cabinet Member Technical Services meeting and a wider consultation event for Members is being organised.

2. Hawthorne Road/Linacre Road Junction, Bootle

Work has commenced on the major improvement scheme although delays have occurred to permit the diversion of statutory undertakers equipment.

3. Lambshear Lane, Lydiate - Traffic Calming Scheme

A scheme of traffic calming measures on Lambshear Lane/Kenyons Lane, Lydiate is now substantially complete and has been well accepted by local residents.

4. SMBC/Capita Symonds Technical Services Partnership

The Highway Maintenance Programme for the financial year 2010/11 is progressing well and the supplementary programme has been merged in some instances to ensure efficiency and less disruption to members of the public.

These programmes of supplementary schemes utilising thin asphalt treatments, which are of weather sensitive nature, are now well underway.

The pre-patching prior to application is now 100% complete as is the surface dressing programme, however the micro asphalt application is behind schedule as the Contractor has had to adjust programming in Sefton and elsewhere due cope with recent heavy rainfall.

Colas the contractor is now due to be back in Sefton on the 4th October 2010 to complete the remaining 60% of that programme which is estimated to take a further 6 weeks. It may now be necessary to consider weekend working as the autumn period also brings with it shorter working daylight hours.

The revised Grounds Maintenance contract, which now includes for large areas of grass previously left unattended, has improved the overall situation a great deal and complaints have reduced substantially, however there are still issues raised regarding cutting frequencies which sometimes vary due to rainy conditions and mechanical breakdowns and the need to reschedule and meet dates.

The Capita Symonds Architects Group provides a comprehensive service for the delivery of all major capital projects.

Works on behalf of Children's Services for the Primary Capital and 14-19 World of Work Diploma programmes are now substantially complete. The Litherland High School replacement project remains on programme to complete in the spring of 2011.

The Southport Cultural Centre project is well underway and, following conclusion of the uncommitted capital expenditure review, the Netherton Activity Centre replacement, the Southport Market refurbishment and the Balliol House demolition projects will all commence on site in early October.

The Capita Symonds Building Maintenance maintenance service. The emphasis remains Page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. The emphasis remains page 18 for provide a day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service.

Agenda Item 16i