



MEETING: CABINET  
DATE: Thursday 25th November, 2010  
TIME: 10.00 am  
VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

**Member**

Councillor

Robertson (Chair)  
Booth  
Brodie - Browne  
P. Dowd  
Fairclough  
Maher  
Moncur  
Parry  
Porter  
Tattersall

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The Cabinet is responsible for making what are known as Key Decisions, which will be notified on the Forward Plan. Items marked with an \* on the agenda involve Key Decisions  
A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution, is: -

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

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

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# A G E N D A

Items marked with an \* involve key decisions

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject/Author(s)</u>	<u>Wards Affected</u>
1.	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2.	<b>Declarations of Interest</b> 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.	<b>Minutes</b> Minutes of the meeting held on 28 October 2010	(Pages 5 - 12)
4.	<b>Sefton's Health 2010</b> Annual Report of the Director of Public Health - Cathy Warlow from NHS Sefton will give a brief presentation to the Cabinet	All Wards; (Pages 13 - 40)
* 5.	<b>Transformation Programme and Budget</b> Report of the Chief Executive to follow	All Wards;
6.	<b>Treasury Management 2010/11 Mid Year Review</b> Report of the Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Strategy	All Wards; (Pages 41 - 54)
7.	<b>Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention Fund</b> Report of the Strategic Director - Communities	All Wards; (Pages 55 - 62)
8.	<b>Prestfield Special School - Specialist School Status</b> Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families	Meols; (Pages 63 - 66)
9.	<b>Flood Risk Management</b> Report of the Environmental and Technical Services Director	All Wards; (Pages 67 - 70)

- |     |   |            |                  |
|-----|---|------------|------------------|
| 10. | <b>Proposed New Post 16 Special Educational Needs Facility, Thornton</b><br><br>Joint report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families and Environmental and Technical Services Director | Manor;     | (Pages 71 - 76)  |
| 11. | <b>Proposed Closure of Homelessness Unit - Windsor House, Southport</b><br><br>Report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director  | All Wards; | (Pages 77 - 82)  |
| 12. | <b>Local Transport Plan - Allocation of Capital Contributions for 2010/11 and 2011/12 Onwards</b><br><br>Report of the Planning and Economic Development Director   | All Wards; | (Pages 83 - 88)  |
| 13. | <b>Annual Monitoring Report 2010</b><br><br>Report of the Planning and Economic Development Director  | All Wards; | (Pages 89 - 94)  |
| 14. | <b>Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Letter and Report 2009/10</b><br><br>Report of the Head of Corporate Legal Services  | All Wards; | (Pages 95 - 110) |
| 15. | <b>Cabinet Member Reports</b>   | All Wards; |                  |
|     | a) <b>Cabinet Member - Children's Services</b> (Pages 111 - 112)  |            |                  |
|     | b) <b>Cabinet Member - Communities</b> (Pages 113 - 120)  |            |                  |
|     | c) <b>Cabinet Member - Corporate Services</b> (Pages 121 - 124)   |            |                  |
|     | d) <b>Cabinet Member - Environmental</b> (Pages 125 - 128)  |            |                  |
|     | e) <b>Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care</b> (Pages 129 - 130)   |            |                  |
|     | f) <b>Cabinet Member - Leisure and Tourism</b> (Pages 131 - 136)  |            |                  |
|     | g) <b>Cabinet Member - Performance and Governance</b> (Pages 137 - 138)   |            |                  |
|     | h) <b>Cabinet Member - Regeneration</b> (Pages 139 - 140)   |            |                  |
|     | i) <b>Cabinet Member - Technical Services</b> (Pages 141 - 142)   |            |                  |

**THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON TUESDAY, 9 NOVEMBER 2010. MINUTE NO.S 127(1) AND 135(2) ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN"**

## CABINET

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 28TH OCTOBER, 2010

PRESENT:                   Councillor Robertson (in the Chair)  
                                  Councillors Booth, Brodie - Browne, Fairclough,  
                                  Maher, Moncur, Parry, Porter and Tattersall

#### **123. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor P. Dowd.

#### **124. URGENT BUSINESS**

The Chair reported that he had agreed that the Cabinet would consider the item on the proposed development of a zoned waste and recycling collection service (Minute No. 139) as an urgent item, in view of the proposed timescales for the implementation of the service.

#### **125. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The following declarations of interest were received:

Member/ Officer	Minute No.	Reason	Action
Councillor Porter	129 - Basic Need 2010/11 - Additional Scheme	Personal - she is a Governor at Shoreside Primary School	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Councillor Porter	130 - Schools Access Initiative Funding 2010/11	Personal - she is Chair of the Governors at Merefield Special School	Took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon
Mr. D. Roberts	143 - Partial Restructure of the Schools Advisory Service	Personal - he is affected by the proposals	Stayed in the room but took no part in the consideration of the item

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## **126. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting held on 30 September 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

## **127. TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME AND INITIAL BUDGET OPTIONS**

Further to Minute No. 109 of the meeting held on 30 September 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive which provided an update on the Transformation Programme and Prioritisation Process, and sought approval for some initial budget options to reduce the 2011/12 - 2013/14 budget gap. The report also provided details of the emerging risks association with externally funded activities.

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council be recommended to give approval to the specific budget proposals set out in Appendix A of the report;
- (2) Officers be authorised to prepare for the implementation of the proposals immediately pending final decisions of the Council; and
- (3) the progress on the Prioritisation Process related to external funding and in particular the level of risk associated with currently funded activities be noted.

## **128. YOUTH CAPITAL FUND - PROPOSED ADDITIONAL SCHEME 2010/11**

Further to Minute No. 50 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Children's Services, held on 26 October 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families seeking approval to the implementation of a scheme to be funded from the Youth Capital Fund Allocation for 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the scheme be included in the Children, Schools and Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

## **129. BASIC NEED 2010/11 - ADDITIONAL SCHEME**

Further to Minute No. 51 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Children's Services held on 26 October 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families seeking

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approval to the implementation of a scheme to be funded from the Basic Need (New Pupil Places) Allocation for 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the scheme be included in the Children, Schools and Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

### **130. SCHOOLS ACCESS INITIATIVE FUNDING 2010/11**

Further to Minute No. 52 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Children's Services held on 26 October 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families seeking approval to the implementation of a scheme to be funded from the Schools Access Initiative Allocation for 2010/11.

RESOLVED:

That the scheme be included in the Children, Schools and Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

### **131. TOWARDS A LOW CARBON AND RENEWABLE ENERGY NETWORK FOR THE LIVERPOOL CITY REGION**

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Strategic Director - Communities and the Planning and Economic Development Director on proposals for the development of a Low Carbon and Renewable Energy Network for the Liverpool City Region funded through the Department of Communities and Local Government Climate Change Local Area Support Programme.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals set out in the report be supported; and
- (2) approval be given to Sefton Council being the Accountable Body for the sub-regional project, to be hosted and managed by the Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service.

### **132. ASSET MANAGEMENT REPORT 2010**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Strategic Director - Communities which incorporated a copy of the Asset Management Report for 2010 which outlined the value and condition of the Council's property assets, the management arrangements and provided a summary of activity and outcome delivered in the preceding year.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Asset Management Report be approved;

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- (2) a further report on the review of the asset management arrangements in Sefton be submitted to a future meeting of the Cabinet; and
- (3) it be noted that a new Corporate Asset Management Plan will be produced in the current municipal year and be submitted to the Cabinet in due course.

## **133. SOUTHPORT PIER - PROPOSED STRUCTURAL ASSESSMENT AND MAINTENANCE OPTION APPRAISAL**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Environmental and Technical Services Director on proposals for the inclusion of a scheme to undertake a structural assessment and maintenance option appraisal of the Southport Pier in the Capital Programme.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the inclusion in the Leisure and Tourism Capital Programme 2010/11 of a sum of £20,000 for a new scheme to carry out structural assessment and maintenance option appraisal works at Southport Pier. The funding for this work to be provided entirely from the Southport Pier Maintenance Sinking Fund.

## **134. REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME FOR 2011-2015 PROCUREMENT STRATEGY**

Further to Minute No. 60 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Environmental held on 20 October 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Environmental and Technical Services Director on the proposed procurement strategy for the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme for 2011-2015.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the establishment of a framework for regional coastal monitoring activities, as set out in the report.

## **135. PROTOCOL FOR LIFTING THE MORATORIUM ON THE SITING OF MOBILE PHONE MASTS ON COUNCIL LAND**

Further to Minute No. 118 of the meeting held on 2 September 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Environmental and Technical Services Director on the implications of amending the draft protocol to govern the lifting of the current moratorium on the siting of telephone transmission masts on Council owned land by including the Area Committees in the site selection and consultation process and by delegating to the relevant Area Committee the decision to authorise the use of Council land for the siting of telephone transmission masts.



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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) approval be given to the revised protocol set out in the report and to the delegation of decision making on the use of Council land for the siting of telephone transmission masts to the relevant Area Committee; and
- (2) the Council be recommended to amend Part 3 of the Council Constitution (Responsibility for Functions) by the inclusion of the following text:

"AREA COMMITTEES - Specific Delegations

Environmental and Technical Services

1. Determination of applications for permission to site mobile phone masts on Council owned land within the Wards covered by the Area Committee, in accordance with the Council's protocol."

## **136. GAS AND ELECTRICITY SUPPLY CONTRACTS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Environmental and Technical Services Director on proposals to implement an extension to the current energy supply contracts for gas and electricity to take advantage of market prices and enable sufficient transition time to implement the review of the Council's energy procurement which is currently underway and to realign delegated authority for this function.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) approval be given to the waiving of the Council Contract Procedure Rules in relation to seeking price offers from incumbent suppliers to extend the contract under renewed tariffs;
- (2) the Environmental and Technical Services Director be granted delegated powers to accept the price offer which is economically the most advantageous for the Council and to award the contract extension accordingly for six or twelve months; and
- (3) the Environmental and Technical Services Director report the results of the contract price renewal exercise and his actions to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

## **137. PROPOSALS FOR VICTORIA PARK, CROSBY**

Further to Minute No. 34 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Leisure and Tourism held on 6 October 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of

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the Leisure and Tourism Director on proposals to undertake improvement works at Victoria Park, Crosby.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the inclusion of the scheme for improvements to Victoria Park in the Leisure and Tourism Capital Programme 2010/11 up to the value of £116,218 only.

## **138. CONTRACT FOR THE SUPPLY OF FROZEN PREPARED MEALS FOR THE COMMUNITY MEALS SERVICE**

Further to Minute No. 59 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Environmental held on 20 October 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Operational Services Director on the tenders received for the supply of frozen prepared meals for the Community Meals Service via a service level agreement with Sefton New Directions.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the award of the contract to the School Meals and Catering Section for the period from 1 November 2010 to 31 October 2013 with two further options of one year.

## **139. DEVELOPMENT OF A ZONED WASTE AND RECYCLING COLLECTION SYSTEM**

Further to Minute No. 49 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Environmental held on 29 September 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Operational Services Director on proposals to change the existing collection arrangements for residual and recyclable waste by the introduction of a zoned waste collection service from January 2011.

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the implementation of a new zoned system of waste and recycling collection from January 2011.

## **140. LICENCE TO DEMOLISH PROPERTIES IN THE KLONDYKE AREA BETWEEN SEFTON COUNCIL AND ADACTUS HOUSING ASSOCIATION**

Further to Minute No. 54 of the meeting of the Cabinet Member - Regeneration held on 27 October 2010, the Cabinet considered the report of the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director on proposals for the Council to enter into a licence to allow the Council to demolish vacant properties in the Klondyke area of South Sefton in the ownership of Adactus Housing Association.

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RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the Council entering into a licence to allow the Council to demolish vacant properties owned by Adactus Housing Association in the Klondyke area of South Sefton, subject to the financial resources being available to do so.

## **141. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: That

- (1) under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that it would involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The Public Interest Test has been applied and favours exclusion of the information from the press and public; and
- (2) the representatives of the Trade Unions be permitted to remain in the meeting during consideration of Minute No.s 142 and 143.

## **142. COMMUNITIES DIRECTORATE - DEPARTMENTAL AND SENIOR MANAGEMENT RESTRUCTURE**

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Strategic Director - Communities and the Interim Head of Corporate Personnel on proposals to establish a framework for the restructure of departments and Senior Management within the Communities Directorate.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals to establish a revised structure for the Communities Directorate, as referred to in the report and detailed at Annex C, be endorsed;
- (2) the appointment procedures set out in paragraphs 3.2 and 3.3 of the report be approved;
- (3) it be noted that the changes to the structure will contribute £250,000 of savings as part of the 2011/12 budget; and
- (4) it be noted that, in accordance with the Responsibility for Functions provided in the Council's Constitution, the personnel implications described in the report have been approved by the Interim Head of Corporate Personnel, in consultation with the Strategic Director - Communities.

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## **143. PARTIAL RESTRUCTURE OF THE SCHOOLS ADVISORY SERVICE**

The Cabinet considered the joint report of the Strategic Director - Communities and the Interim Head of Corporate Personnel on proposals to establish a revised structure for the Schools Advisory Service in the Children, Schools and Families Directorate.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposals to establish a revised structure for the Schools Advisory Service, set out in paragraphs 3.1 to 3.8 and Annex 2 of the report, be endorsed;
- (2) the appointment procedures set out in paragraphs 3.5 to 3.7 of the report be approved;
- (3) it be noted that the changes to the structure will assist in contributing to savings over the period of the Strategic Budget Review;
- (4) approval be given to the change in designation of the service from the Schools Advisory Service to Schools and Settings Improvement Service; and
- (5) it be noted that, in accordance with the Responsibility for Functions provided in the Council's Constitution, the personnel implications described in the report have been approved by the Interim Head of Corporate Personnel, in consultation with the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families.

# Fair Society, Healthy Lives



## Sefton's Health 2010

Annual Report of the Director of Public Health

# THANK YOU

# CONTENTS

## Production of a report, such as this, requires a lot of hard work and cooperation.

I would like to thank the following people for their contribution towards making this report one that I am pleased to be associated with:

- |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Elsbeth Anwar</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton                      | <b>Janette Maxwell</b><br>Neighbourhoods, Sefton Council   |  |
| <b>Sarah Austin</b><br>Children's Services, Sefton Council             | <b>Pat Nicholl</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton  |  |
| <b>Beet</b><br>centre Plus   | <b>Jim Ohren</b><br>Health & Social Care, Sefton Council   |  |
| <b>Nettie Dalzell-Brown</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton               | <b>Dave Packard</b><br>Environmental Services, Sefton Council  |  |
| <b>Alan Chan</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton                          | <b>Sheelagh Page</b><br>Children's Services, Sefton Council  |  |
| <b>Il Davies</b><br>Marketing Market Renewal, Sefton Council           | <b>Nicky Speakman</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton   |  |
| <b>Katie Dutton</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton                       | <b>Carol Stanley</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton  |  |
| <b>Emma Finnigan</b><br>Learning & Development, Sefton Council         | <b>Paul Tinsley</b><br>Children's Services, Sefton Council   |  |
| <b>Rachael Gosling</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton                    | <b>Linda Turner</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton   |  |
| <b>Simone Hill</b><br>Sefton Council for Voluntary Services            | <b>Steven Ward</b><br>Public Health Intelligence, NHS Sefton   |  |
| <b>Liz Johnson</b><br>Children's Services, Sefton Council              | <b>Ian Weller</b><br>Energy Team, Sefton Council   |  |
| <b>Margaret Jones</b><br>Public Health, NHS Sefton                     | <b>Alex Westwell</b><br>Public Health Communications, NHS Sefton   |  |
| <b>Pat Keith</b><br>Children's Services, Sefton Council                | <b>Charlie Whelan</b><br>Leisure Services, Sefton Council  |  |
| <b>Claire Maguire</b><br>Economic Regeneration, Sefton Council         | I also wish to acknowledge the contribution made by Dr Janet Atherton, Acting Chief Executive, NHS Sefton. This report builds on Janet's previous reports as Director of Public Health in 2008 and 2009. |  |
| <b>Gary Mahoney</b><br>Environmental Services, Sefton Council          | <i>H. Chellaswamy</i>  |  |
| <b>Michael Mainwaring</b><br>Sefton Council for Voluntary Services     | <b>Hannah Chellaswamy</b><br>Director of Public Health (Acting), NHS Sefton  |  |
| <b>Jean Massam</b><br>Children's Services, NHS Sefton & Sefton Council |  |  |
| <b>Steve Matthews</b><br>Planning, Sefton Council                      |  |  |

**HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN SEFTON**  
Lead Author: Steve Ward, Senior Public Health Intelligence Officer

**MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE A**  
Give every child the best start in life.  
Lead Author: Margaret Jones, Public Health Consultant

**MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE B**  
Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives.  
Lead Author: Katie Dutton, Health Promotion Specialist – Partnerships

**MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE C**  
Create fair employment and good work for all.  
Lead Author: Nicky Speakman, Workforce Development Manager

**MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE D**  
Ensure healthy standard of living for all.  
Lead Author: Pat Nichol, Deputy Head of Health Improvement

**MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE E**  
Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities.  
Lead Author: Rachael Gosling, Specialty Registrar in Public Health

**MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE F**  
Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.  
Lead Author: Cathy Warlow, Head of Health Improvement and Partnerships



Welcome to the 2010 Public Health Annual Report

# FAIR SOCIETY, HEALTHY LIVES

**Firstly, the good news is that the health of Sefton's population continues to improve. Overall, people are living longer. Both male and female life expectancy continues to rise in line with national averages and people are living healthier lives; smoking rates are down, fruit and vegetable consumption is up and alcohol consumption is heading in the right direction. However, we continue to face a significant challenge, as not all people in Sefton have seen improvements in their health and the gap remains between those living in the most and least deprived neighbourhoods.**

As you may recall, the extent of the health inequalities experienced by local communities in Sefton was highlighted in the previous two annual reports; Sefton's Health 2008, 'Investing to Save Lives', focused on the interventions needed to narrow the gap in life expectancy in the short-term; Sefton's Health 2009, 'Invest for the Future', built upon this approach by recommending actions needed to tackle health inequalities in the medium-term. Following the publication of Professor Sir Michael Marmot's Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' (February 2010), this year's Public Health report aims to complete the series by using Professor Marmot's framework to focus our efforts to improve health and well-being in a sustainable way for the longer term. The chapter headings in this report mirror Professor Marmot's policy objectives.

Central to my report are the continuing actions necessary for us to create a fairer society in Sefton. Inequalities in health arise because of inequalities in the conditions in which people are born, grow, live, work and age. Taking action to reduce health inequalities does not require a separate health agenda nor does it require us to focus solely on the most disadvantaged. Universal action from cradle to grave and across all the social determinants of health is vital but actions should be on a scale and intensity that is proportionate to the level of disadvantage. This way of tackling inequalities has been conceptualised by Professor Marmot as 'proportionate universalism'.

As we prepare for the establishment of Health & Wellbeing Boards, proposed in the NHS White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', I hope that the recommendations in this



report, coupled with the evidence of need in Sefton's recently updated Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, will energise collective planning across statutory, voluntary, community and private sectors in Sefton. With less money in the whole system, there is a real need for the health service and its partners to come together and refocus priorities to ensure that combined resources are used to tackle the deep-seated issues that we face here in Sefton and, more importantly, to prevent the gap in health inequalities from widening.

I hope that this report will contribute to our collective endeavours towards supporting people in Sefton to lead happier, healthier and more fulfilling lives.

## FIND OUT MORE...

Sefton's Health 2008 'Investing to Save Lives' – Annual Report of the Director of Public Health [http://www.sefton.nhs.uk/Library/Board\\_Papers/Board\\_Papers/May\\_2008/Layout%201s.pdf](http://www.sefton.nhs.uk/Library/Board_Papers/Board_Papers/May_2008/Layout%201s.pdf)

Sefton's Health 2009 'Invest for the Future' – Annual Report of the Director of Public Health [http://www.sefton.nhs.uk/Library/Publications/corporate\\_publication/Layout%201.pdf](http://www.sefton.nhs.uk/Library/Publications/corporate_publication/Layout%201.pdf)

The Marmot Review – Strategic Review of Health Inequalities in England post 2010 'Fair Society, Healthy Lives' <http://www.marmotreview.org>

NHS White Paper – 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' (July 2010) [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_117794.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/@dh/@en/@ps/documents/digitalasset/dh_117794.pdf)

Sefton's Joint Strategic Needs Assessment 2010 – <http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/index.htm>

# Progress on recommendations made in SEFTON'S HEALTH 2009

**It is pleasing to report that partnership working in Sefton continues to blossom and mature. Since the publication of last year's Public Health Annual Report, which focused on the work needed to address some of the wider determinants of health, a number of significant developments have taken place to help improve the life chances of people throughout Sefton.**

Many of the recommendations were for medium-term actions and work is ongoing. The following provide a summary update:

## **Employment and Health**

### *Health promoting workplaces*

With the ever-growing body of evidence showing the positive impact that employment can have on health and wellbeing, a Workplace Wellbeing Charter has been developed by Liverpool City Region's Health is Wealth Commission. This charter promotes the importance of the workplace as a setting for the improvement of health and wellbeing of employees. The charter is open to all public, private and third sector organisations based within the Liverpool City Region (Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley, St Helens, Wirral and Halton) and encourages striving towards the achievement of a set of standards and the demonstration of commitment to the health and wellbeing of employees. Many people who work in local businesses also live within Liverpool City Region and improved health of local workers will contribute to the overall health of the population. The Charter also acts

as a way of promoting local businesses. Sefton is currently in the process of rolling out the Charter.

## **2. Education and Health**

*Schools as a health promoter within the wider community*

With continued support from partner agencies, all schools in Sefton are engaged in the Healthy Schools Programme. Ninety-four percent of schools have achieved National Healthy Schools Status (NHSS). As part of the programme, schools have sought to involve parents, carers, grandparents and other members of the community in a number of local 'Healthy Schools' activities. These include: Involving grandparents in gardening clubs, to help children plant and care for a variety of fruit and vegetables and inviting parents to join the children in cookery sessions at school, which use the food that has been grown. To add to these activities, Formby school councils are currently working with the Healthy Schools team, the Travel to School team, local Councillors and the local community to look at ways of making Formby a safer place for pupils to walk and cycle to and from school.

## **3. Housing and Health**

*Landlord accreditation scheme*

Sefton has been successful in forming a partnership with other Merseyside Local Authorities to establish a new Merseyside-wide Landlord Accreditation Scheme. This scheme will reach out to private landlords and build stronger relationships. Using a formal



inspection regime, it seeks to work alongside landlords and the Sefton Landlords' Forum to ensure that they meet agreed standards, which should lead to an improvement in living conditions in this sector.

Sefton Council's departmental restructure has brought together key housing-related services within one single department. This has unified the housing strategy, Housing Market Renewal Initiative, housing grants and financial assistance. The 'Neighbourhood and Investment Programmes' department is part of the Council's stated intention to pursue regeneration in a more integrated manner in order to create high quality homes in well-designed settings.

## **4. Healthy Environments**

*School travel plans*

Since last year's report, a further eighteen schools in Sefton have developed School Travel Plans, taking the overall total within Sefton to 109 schools out of 116 schools (94%). Walking and cycling are high on the agenda of all new plans including: the provision of secure cycle shelters throughout the borough, the assembling of pedestrian barriers at Lydiate Primary School, Farnborough Road Primary School and Trinity St Peters, the introduction of vehicle-activated signs to provide traffic-calming for Stanley High and Marshside Primary and a voluntary 20 mph speed limit at Formby High School. Introduction of these measures has helped towards creating a safer environment for the local community and have contributed towards an increase in the number of children choosing to walk to school.

## **5. Climate Change and Sustainability**

*Preparing for climate change*

As part of Sefton's commitment to achieving the objectives of National Indicator 188 (NI 188: Adaptation to Climate Change), individual organisations within the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) have formally considered the likely impact of changes in climate and weather patterns on their areas of responsibility. Using the UKCIP02 (Climate Impact Programme 2002), partner agencies have completed an exercise to identify possible issues, vulnerabilities and opportunities across a range of different departments/directorates. Outcomes from the impact assessments have been fed into a partnership 'risk assessment', the highlighted threats and opportunities ranked, and appropriate adaptive measures proposed. This risk assessment forms the basis for development of Sefton's Adaptive Strategy, which is a key requirement of NI188.





# HEALTH INEQUALITIES IN SEFTON

Lead Author: Steven Ward, Senior Public Health Intelligence Officer

## 6. Community Cohesion

### Healthy Communities Collaborative

The community and voluntary sectors create a strong force for the development of local communities. Since the publication of the last report, a range of work has been undertaken to overcome some of the challenges that are faced by communities within the borough.

Part of a national improvement programme, overseen by the Improvement Foundation, Sefton has successfully implemented the first phase of a Healthy Communities Collaborative (HCC), aimed at tackling obesity through community and clinical engagement. The HCC approach encourages multi-agency working and the development of partnerships to tackle health inequalities. The main aim of a collaborative approach to health improvement is to encourage people who live and work within local communities drive the changes.

Sefton's HCC project is borough-wide and focused within three localities - Ainsdale, Bootle/Seaforth and Netherton. These areas were chosen based on the prevalence of obesity, the level of health inequalities, whether or not the area had access to healthy living centre support and, finally, the strength of relationships with partner organisations. Significant achievements include:

- Development of teams of people committed to the healthy weight agenda and a passion to make a difference on behalf of their communities. The teams include local volunteers, community centres, housing associations, breastfeeding teams, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service and Children's Centre staff.
- Building community capacity by educating all team members to take a more holistic view of the issue of body weight using workshops to explore influences on weight management such as breastfeeding, weaning, access to healthy (and unhealthy) food, portion control, physical activity and access to green space.
- Mapping exercise of availability of and access to food within each locality, types of venues providing exercise or slimming classes, access to childcare provision and ante-natal classes. The findings were used to help the teams to identify areas and venues they needed to target to help change the environment to a more supportive one for people to maintain healthy weight.



### The Marmot Review identifies that:

- Reducing the avoidable social gradient in health is a matter of fairness and social justice.
- Taking action to reduce inequalities in health does not require a separate health agenda, but action across the whole of society.

In Sefton, as in the rest of England, people living in the poorest neighbourhoods will die earlier than those in the richest neighbourhoods. These differences were highlighted in both Sefton's 2008 and 2009 Public Health Annual Reports.

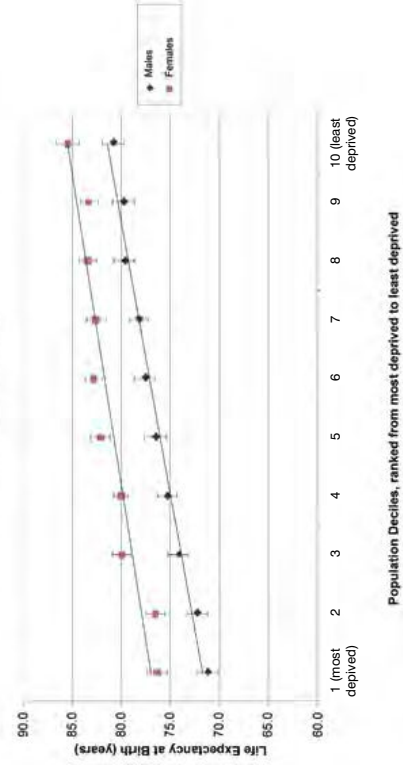
Estimates for wards show that the gap between the highest and lowest life expectancy can be as great as 11 years for males and 10 years for females. Indeed, despite living within two miles of each other, females living in Molyneux can

expect to live 10 years longer than females living in Linacre. The differences are greater still when disability-free life expectancy is considered.

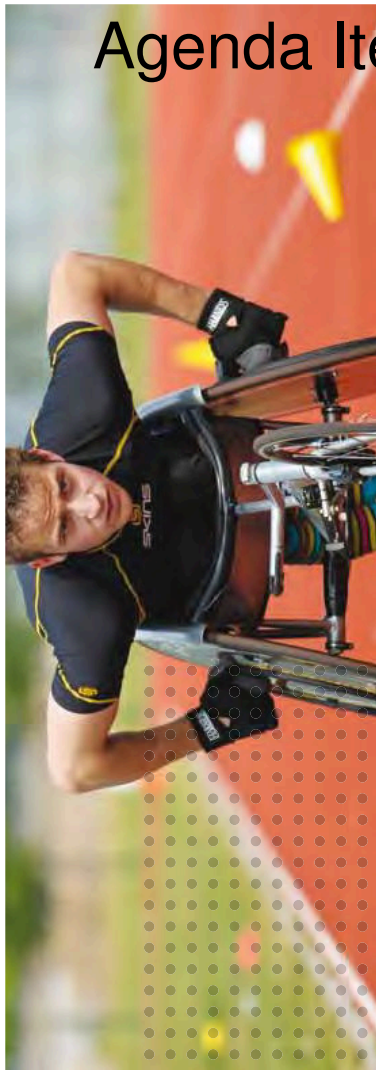
Even excluding the five percent poorest and richest wards in Sefton, the gap in life expectancy remains at nine years for males and eight years for females, illustrating that everyone beneath the very best-off experiences some effect of health inequalities. The fact that today, in Sefton, people in different social circumstances experience avoidable differences in health, well-being and length of life is, quite simply, unjust.

An alternative representation of Sefton's health inequalities is the Slope Index of Inequalities (SII). This shows the gradient in life expectancy within Sefton when the population is split into deciles (ten groups) by levels of deprivation. This is similar to considering deprivation quintiles, but provides a more detailed picture.

Life Expectancy by Deprivation Decile and Slope Index of Inequality NHS Sefton 2004-08



Population Deciles, ranked from most deprived to least deprived



## Sefton Mental Wellbeing Survey 2009 Summary

Like the ward level estimates for life expectancy, this is Sefton's social gradient in health. The higher one's social position, the better one's health is likely to be and the steeper the slope, the bigger the gap.

It is unrealistic to think that we could entirely eliminate Sefton's social gradient in health, but it is realistic that we aim to reduce the steepness of the gradient. This is proposed in Marmot's *principle of proportionate universalism*. Actions of sufficient scale and intensity need to be universal but also proportionately targeted to reduce health inequalities.

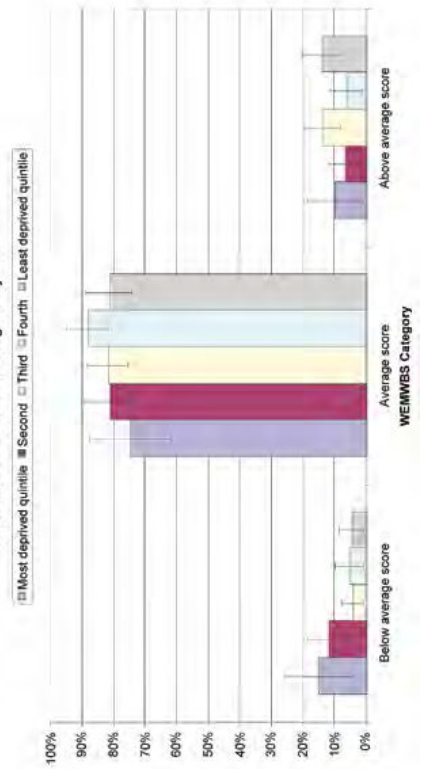
### Health Inequalities Gap - 2010

Progress has already been made on reducing the social gradient within Sefton. The SII for males peaked in 2002-06 and for females in 2003-07. However, progress for both males and females slowed in 2006-08.

This analysis focuses on Sefton's social gradient in health, in terms of deprivation, which takes into account geography, gender and age gradients. However, there may also be gradients in terms of religion, ethnicity, disability or sexual orientation. Evidence of a gradient in these areas is currently limited within Sefton. The national 2011 census will cover these additional areas and provide vital evidence of Sefton's social gradient. It is imperative that everyone in Sefton, including those in these groups, are encouraged to complete the 2011 census.

Additional to differences in life expectancy, the Marmot review focuses on inequalities in mental well-being. As shown by Sefton's Warwick-Edinburgh Mental Well-being Scale (WEMWBS) scores below, there is a strong social gradient in mental well-being in Sefton, with residents in the most deprived quintile being almost 4 times more likely than those in the third, fourth and or least deprived quintiles to have below average mental well-being.

WEMWBS Well Being Score By Deprivation Sefton and NW Mental Well Being Survey 2009



This year's report is concerned with reducing the social gradient (and thus addressing health inequalities) over the next 10-years. Although projecting current life expectancy or SII trends for the next 10-years could be viewed as tenuous, it is acknowledged that any progress in reducing health inequalities and improving life expectancy needs to be sustained.

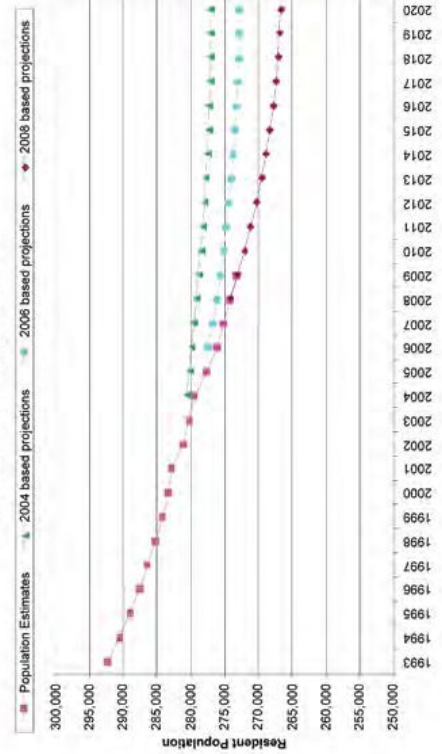
### Sefton's Population in 2020

Published population projections for Sefton cover a 25 year horizon from 2008 to 2033, but it should be noted that there is a greater degree of uncertainty the further ahead the projection is made, particularly for smaller geographical areas such as Sefton.

Currently, Sefton's population is projected to be 272,100. By 2020 the population is projected to have fallen by over 5,000 to 266,700. However, taking into consideration that over the last two decades Sefton's population has fallen by more than 10,000 per decade, Sefton's 2020 population projections maybe an under estimation than the actual turns out to be – indeed Sefton's 2020 population could be as low as 261,100.

Year	Estimated Population	Change
1990	294,000	
2000	283,300	-10,700
2010	272,100	-11,200
2020	266,700	-5,400

Population Estimates and Projections - Sefton





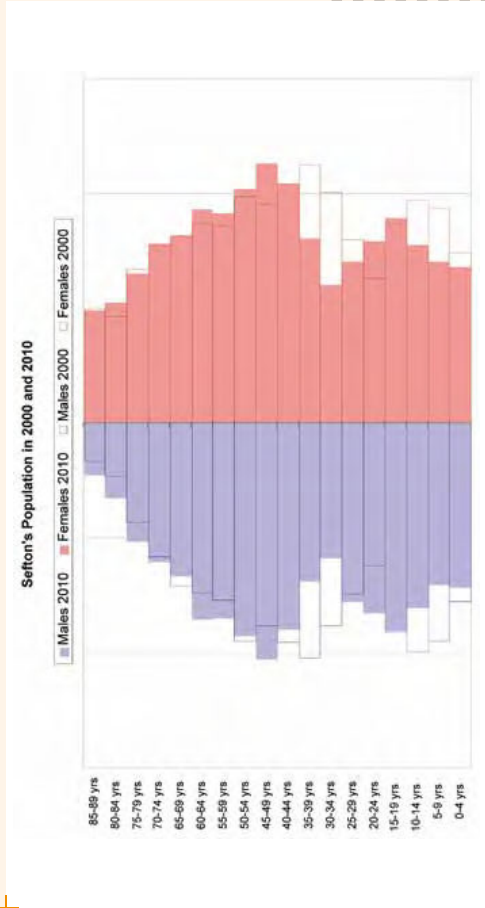


Projections are updated every two years and are based on current trends in births, deaths and migration, as can be seen from the graph on page 11, previous projections (based on 2004 and 2006 data) were higher than current projections (based on 2008 data). Changes in migration patterns are particularly hard to predict and again, if deaths continue to outnumber births and more people migrate of than in to Sefton, it is possible that the tent projections will be an over estimation.

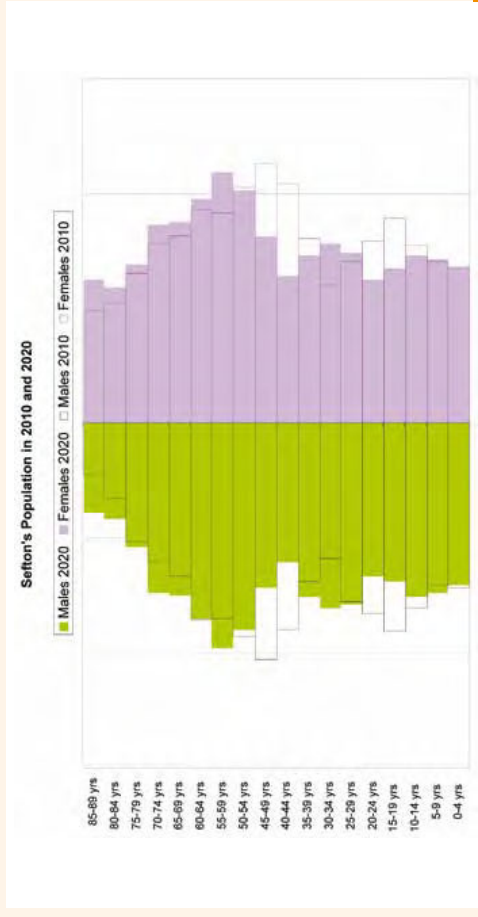
Projection Basis	Sefton's Projected 2020 Population
2004 based	277,100
2006 based	272,800
2008 based	266,700

Despite this uncertainty over the size of Sefton's population in 2020, it is reasonable to assume that not only will the population of Sefton shrink, but the make up of the population will also change.

Over the last decade, Sefton has fewer residents aged 15 years and under and 30-39 years, but more residents aged 20-24 years and 45+ years. This implies that there are fewer families with young children in Sefton, but more young adults, including international workers.



Over the next decade, Sefton is projected to have fewer residents aged 15-24 years and 40-49 years and more residents aged 65+ years. This reflects the ageing of the cohorts which grew and shrank in the last decade and the projected improvements in life expectancy leading to people living longer.



### The Health Inequalities Gap - 2020

Overall, life expectancy in Sefton continues to improve. However, not all groups of the population are experiencing the same rate of improvement. Partly due to increasing life expectancy, Sefton's population is projected to get older by 2020. It is fair to assume that, if current trends continue, the rich older people will see a greater increase in life expectancy than the poorer older people.

#### Sefton's options

- (i) the "Do Nothing Different" scenario
  - If we carry on as we are now, life expectancy is still projected to increase. Male life expectancy in the most deprived quintiles within Sefton could just about reach the current levels of life expectancy in the rest of Sefton. However, female life expectancy in the most deprived quintile will only improve slightly and for females, the social gradient will increase.

- (ii) the "focus only on the most deprived quintile scenario"

If we focus only on the most deprived areas, we could see an improvement in life expectancy that is better than the current trend (perhaps 1% or 2% better). This could see male life expectancy in the most deprived quintile pass the current life expectancy in the rest of Sefton as early as 2018. If female life expectancy improves 2% quicker than the current trend, the social gradient would begin to decrease rather than increase.

- (iii) the "focus on all areas, but particularly on the most deprived quintile" scenario
  - If as Marmot suggests, we adopt a principle of proportionate universalism i.e. action is taken across the whole of society, but with scale and intensity that is proportionate to the level of disadvantage, all areas of Sefton could see an improvement in life expectancy that is better than the current trend and more importantly, the social gradient in health could be reduced.

# Agenda Item 4



## KEY MESSAGES...

- People in Sefton continue to experience differential levels of health, dependent on their position in society. Many of these differences are due to avoidable factors and are, therefore, unacceptable.
- Some progress has been made in reducing health inequalities in Sefton, but, if we continue to do what we are currently doing, it is likely that Sefton's health gap will increase, particularly for females.
- Action to reduce inequalities does not require a separate health agenda – we need action across the whole of society.
- Embracing Marmot's principle of *proportionate universalism* across the spectrum will help improve the health of all Sefton residents.



## FIND OUT MORE....

NHS Sefton's Strategic Commissioning Plan (2010) "Better Health, Better Life"  
[http://www.sefton.nhs.uk/news\\_and\\_publications/publications/corporate.asp](http://www.sefton.nhs.uk/news_and_publications/publications/corporate.asp)

Census 2011 <http://comms.census.gov.uk/controller.php>

Office for National Statistics – 2008 based Sub-National Population Projections for England  
<http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlink=997>



# MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE A

## Give every child the best start in life

Lead Author: Margaret Jones, Public Health Consultant

**Giving every child in Sefton the best start in life means a radical rethink on how we deliver services to support young children and their families, including quality early education and childcare.**

Marmot focuses our attention on the need to make every effort to:

- Reduce inequalities in early child development (this includes differences in physical and emotional health, language, learning and social skills).
- Ensure high quality maternity services, parenting programmes, childcare and early years education.
- Build the resilience (*spirit, hardness*) and well-being of young children.

Crucially, these efforts must be addressed across the social gradient. Overall expenditure allocated to the early years needs to be increased to ensure that every family in Sefton has access to quality maternity, health visiting, and education services, but the scale and intensity of support received should be proportionate to the level of need and disadvantage.

We already know that children's access to positive early experiences, such as nursery education is not equally distributed across Sefton. We need to be clear that the biggest share of early years' resources is targeted towards those most in need. Although important, later interventions are considerably less effective and more costly, particularly if a child has not had a good start (pre-birth to the age of 5 years).

The impact of what happens during the early years has lifelong effects on many aspects of health and well-being. These effects may be either protective; increasing self esteem, life skills, resilience and

resistance to ill-health, or hazardous; undermining social skills, the ability to learn and creating the conditions for poor mental and physical health.

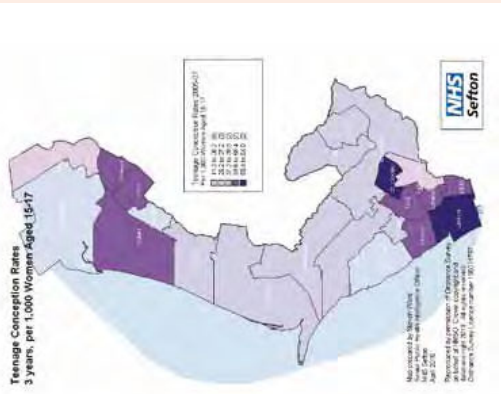
### What's the problem?

Development begins before birth when the health of a baby is significantly affected by the health and well-being of the baby's mother. We know that many of the risk factors for poor health are more common in the most deprived areas of Sefton. For example, babies born in Linacre are more likely to have low birth weights, are less likely to be breastfed and their mothers are more likely to smoke.

Furthermore, rates of teenage pregnancy are higher in disadvantaged communities. Despite Sefton having the lowest teenage pregnancy rate in the North West, the differences within Sefton are staggering, with rates in the former Neighbourhood Renewal areas double the national average. For young women from disadvantaged backgrounds, teenage pregnancy can have a negative impact on a whole range of outcomes for young women including on their educational achievement, subsequent employment opportunities and their earning potential, living standards, behaviours and physical and emotional health. What's more, the child of a teenage mother is also more likely to do less well at school, and become involved in risky health behaviour and become a teenage parent, thus creating a cycle of poverty.

Poverty is not just about lack of money or spending power. The Child Poverty Act (2010) says that lifting children out of poverty is about:

**Transforming the experiences, living standards and life chances of disadvantaged families with children, in order to break cycles of poverty that persist across and within generations.**



Sefton has average levels of child-related deprivation, but again there are strong contrasts within the borough. Bootle in the south has many issues relating to child poverty as does parts of thport in the north. Low levels of education, 1 rates of unemployment, poor housing conditions and limited family support are all orant factors to consider to ensure that today's ir children do not grow up to be tomorrow's ir adults.

**What works?**

Marmot highlights a number of evidence-based recommendations for reducing inequalities in terms of health outcomes of children and young people. Sefton has already applied interventions relating to these recommendations with encouraging results.

**Social spending on children below the age of five years is likely to be more effective in enhancing children's long-term outcomes.**

**1. Increased investment in early years**

*Healthy Child Programme*

The Healthy Child Programme is a national early intervention and prevention public health programme, led by health visitors. It offers screening tests, immunisation, developmental reviews and information and guidance to support

parents. This type of pre and postnatal support is a universal programme given to all families, but also identifies families that need additional support.

In Sefton, 90 percent of families receive a core service which includes eight visits during the first three years of a child's life. The health visiting service uses a family health assessment to decide whether families need more intensive support. Assessments take account of any known health risk factors and helps health visitors to decide whether more frequent visits are needed or whether help from other health and social care agencies should be included. Health equity audits within the service have helped redesign services and allocate workload so that families with the greatest need can receive additional support.

**Support for families needs to start prenatally to improve the health and well-being of both the mother and the child.**

**2. Support for families to develop children's skills**

*Family Nurse Partnership*

The Family Nurse Partnership programme targets first-time young parents. Service delivery varies from area to area, but generally involves specially trained midwives and health visitors providing intense support and advice from the 12th week of pregnancy until the baby is two years old. This programme has been shown to deliver faster language development for babies, encourage greater involvement of fathers in their baby's lives, and result in better post birth health for young mothers.

This particular programme does not operate in Sefton yet. However, the concept of *proportionate universalism* and additional targeted support provided to vulnerable families is included in Sefton's Healthy Child Programme and the services delivered by midwives in the borough.

*Routine support for families*

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Evidence (NICE) provides evidence-based guidance on the maternity services families should receive to ensure that women (and their partners) are supported during pregnancy, birth and early parenthood. In Sefton, the Maternity Services Liaison Committee is bringing together maternity health visiting, children's centres, health commissioners, public health and parents from

local communities to look at how services can be improved. Recognising that all parents need support at times, the group has reviewed current services and has developed an action plan to ensure service improvements. This year, efforts are focused on promoting direct access to midwives, providing a gateway to more intensive specialist support for those who need it.

Alongside this, it is important that the conditions are created to enable parents in Sefton to develop a positive relationship with their child, particularly during the first year of life. Mothers and Fathers across the social gradient need access to paid parental leave (this is linked to fewer low weight births, fewer deaths in infancy and higher levels of breastfeeding) as well as good quality childcare and flexible employment arrangements offered by employers that have adopted a family-friendly approach.

*Parenting Programmes*

At the heart of Sefton's Parenting Strategy is the recognition that parents have the most significant influence on a child's social, physical and emotional well-being and that meeting parents' needs for support, as early and effectively as possible, is vital if a child is to reach his/her full potential in life. To support parents in bringing up their children, Sefton champions a number of evidence-based parenting programmes, which can be viewed on a continuum from prevention and early intervention through to more specialist and intensive services.

These include:

- **Breast start** – a breastfeeding support programme, run throughout the borough but with additional support offered to specific groups of mothers to help them to start breastfeeding i.e. young mums and those living in the more deprived areas
- **And 'Triple P'** – Positive Parenting Programme provides parents of children and young people aged 2-19 years with clear and simple strategies to turn problems around and also to prevent problems from developing in the first place. The programme can be delivered on a single parent or group basis and has proven to be particularly successful for supporting children returning home from care and families with complex needs.

**Parents are the most important 'educators' of their children.**

**3. Provision of quality early years education and childcare**

*Two-Year Old Offer*

Building upon the successes of the 2006 national pilot scheme offering free early learning and support for the most disadvantaged two-year-olds and their families, Sefton FAST continues to coordinate the 'Two-Year-Old Offer' within the Sefton Council. For a target group of 86 children and their families living in the most deprived areas of the borough, the 'Two-Year-Old Offer' provides 10 hours of high quality, flexible childcare a week. Additional to this, there is family support offering parents access to a range of activities, for example, structured play with their child through home visiting and parenting classes, which include sign-posting to other services and training.

*What local action do we need to take?*

- Adequate provision for families in their children's early years needs to be seen as a responsibility of a range of agencies alongside health and children's services. To ensure efficient and joined-up commissioning of evidence-based interventions, budgets need to be pooled and where we know there is limited value or where services are being used by those who are less in need, interventions need to be more clearly targeted.
- A further key priority is to review the early years workforce to ensure that services are not unnecessarily duplicated and that they are integrated, i.e. policy and services related to the prenatal period and infancy lead into the planning and commissioning of maternity, infant and early years family support services as part of the wider multi-agency approach to commissioning children and family services.
- Findings from initiatives such as the child poverty pilot and from evaluations such as those for children's centres need to be considered in future commissioning. Where positive impacts on child outcomes are evidenced, best-practice needs to be rolled out universally, but proportionately across the borough.
- The Voluntary, Community and Faith (VCF) sector are well placed to build upon developing the health and well-being of young children across the social gradient. The experience of the VCF sector, in consultation and engagement with communities, should be further used, drawing on the enthusiasm, innovation and commitment to developing mentoring, outreach and befriending programmes such as breastfeeding peer support and developing parenting skills.

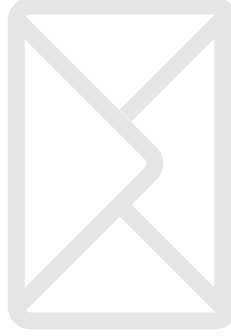
**Agenda Item 4**





## KEY MESSAGES...

- Interventions need to focus on empowering families, building resilience and breaking the cycle of dependence.
- Investment in early years, nursery education and parenting is vital.
- Resources must be shifted from areas of less need to areas of highest need, whilst maintaining a quality universal service. Proportionate universalism will mean that not everyone in Sefton will get the same level of service.



## FIND OUT MORE...

Sefton's Parenting Strategy <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=9900>

Maternity Matters – [www.dh.gov.uk](http://www.dh.gov.uk)

The Child Poverty Act [http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/9/pdfs/ukpga\\_20100009\\_en.pdf](http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/9/pdfs/ukpga_20100009_en.pdf)



# MARMOT'S POLICY

## OBJECTIVE B

### Agenda Item 4

Enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives

Lead Author: Katie Dutton, Health Promotion Specialist – Partnerships

**If we are serious about reducing health inequalities across the social gradient, a commitment to children and young people through the years of education must be maintained. It is important that we create the conditions to enable all children and young people in Sefton to develop skills for life and for work, as well as to attain qualifications.**

educational stages. This has significant implications for their subsequent employment opportunities, income, living standards, behaviours and physical and mental health.

Important to cognitive development is parents' transmission of skills to their children. Where parents have not gained basic cognitive skills for themselves, disadvantage is passed on from one generation to another. It is therefore crucial that reducing inequalities in skills development and educational outcomes across the social gradient remains a key priority within Sefton.

#### What's the problem?

Inequalities in educational outcomes are as persistent in Sefton as those for health and are subject to a similar social gradient.

Educational attainment is strongly influenced by what a child experiences during the early years. Children from disadvantaged backgrounds are more likely to begin primary school with lower personal, social and emotional development and poorer communication, language and literacy skills than their peers.

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) measures educational attainment of children in nursery and reception year. EYFS has 13 assessment scales each of which has 9 points (1 = low and 9 = high). Children are expected to achieve a total of 78 points across the scales. As illustrated in table 1, when free school meals is used as an indicator of deprivation, children in Sefton who are eligible for free school meals perform slightly lower than both the England and Northwest average and considerably lower than their counterparts not receiving free schools meals.

**Education is not just about attainment; it is about enabling children to develop so that they can fulfil their potential.**

Within the national review of health inequalities, Marmot focuses our attention on the need to take action to:

- Reduce the social gradient in skills and qualifications.
- Ensure that schools, families and communities within Sefton work in partnership to reduce the gradient in health and well-being.
- Improve the access and use of quality life-long learning across the social gradient.

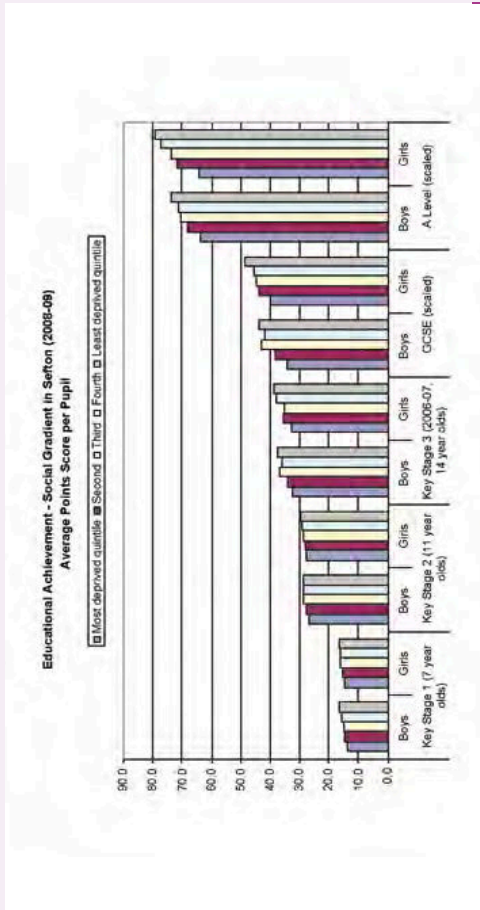
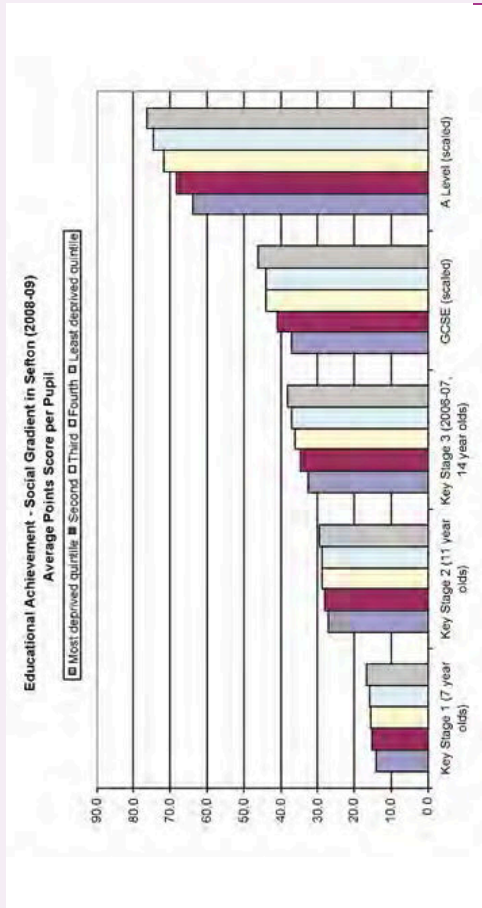
As we know, success in education brings many advantages, including good health. Central to such educational achievement is the acquisition of both cognitive (i.e. ability to learn and solve problems) and non-cognitive (i.e. attention, motivation, self efficacy) skills. A child who fails to acquire basic skills in the early years is more likely to lack school readiness - the ability to learn in a more formal setting; and is therefore more likely to fall further behind at subsequent



	EYFS eligible for FSM	Free School Meals Pupils Achieving 78 or More Points Across All Scales	Non-Free School Meals Pupils Achieving 78 or More Points Across All Scales
Sefton	15%	54%	79%
England	15%	58%	78%
NiW	18%	57%	79%

Overall, educational attainment in Sefton is good, with the average point score for pupils being higher than the England average up until GCSE level (2008/09 figures). However, when we look at the indicator in more detail, we realise that the gap between the most and least deprived increases with age and across educational levels. So, by GCSE level, a pupil from the most deprived quintile is, on average, likely to achieve 20 percent lower than their counterpart in the least deprived quintile.

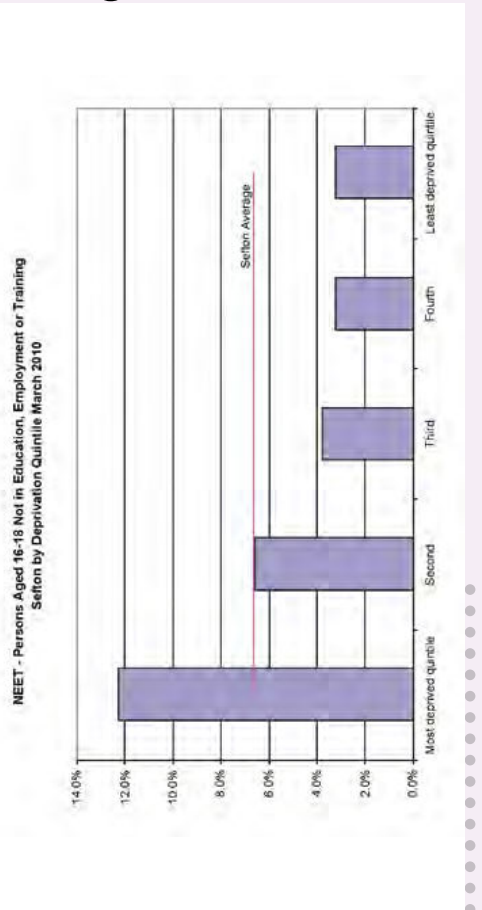
Looking even further at Sefton's social gradient in educational achievement, differences between genders can be seen across all quintiles and at all levels of education. Girls in Sefton achieve higher average point scores at every level. On top of this, the slope of inequality is greater for boys at Key Stage 1, Key Stage 2 and GCSE.



**In 2008/09, there were 3,266 GCSE pupils. Of these pupils 46.1% did not achieve 5+ A\* - C including English and Maths – that's 1505 pupils without level 2 qualifications.**

and mental health. A sustained collaborative effort by Sefton Council and its partners has seen a significant reduction in NEET in the past year and Sefton has amongst the lowest levels of NEET within the Greater Merseyside area at 6.6% (697 young people), which compares favourably with the North West and England averages. However, despite improvements, there are significant differences across the borough. Young people in the most deprived quintile are almost four times more likely to be NEET than young people in the least deprived quintile and the percentage of young people in NEET with a learning difficulty or disability in Sefton is 12.4% (119 young people).

It is well recognised in Sefton that being classed as NEET - Not in Education, Employment and Training, between the ages of 16 - 18 years is a major predictor of later unemployment, low income, teenage motherhood and poor physical





# Agenda Item 4

## 2. Reduce the social gradient in life skills

Every Child a Talker programme (ECaT)

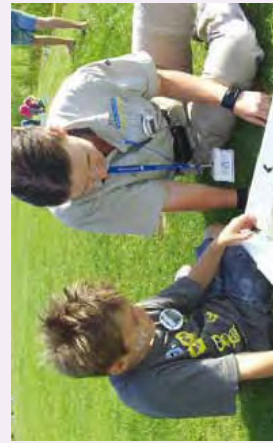
The national 'Every Child a Talker' programme is designed to improve the skills and expertise of Sefton's Early Years workforce in early language. The programme aims to increase practitioners' understanding of early language development and equip them to work with both children and parents to ensure that children experience a language-rich environment, both at home and in settings. A wide range of settings within Sefton are included in the programme, including the private and voluntary sector and children's centres. The child-minder network is also represented.

**Not having qualifications or having only low levels of skills are both associated with lower chances of being unemployed and being in low paid work.**

## 3. Provide opportunities for ongoing skills development through life-long learning

Work-based learning and apprenticeships

With the aim of increasing the range of entry level opportunities available to people who wish to work for Sefton Council, the Corporate Learning and Development Unit has established a corporate apprenticeship programme, which aims to recruit 101 young people within the borough who are NEET with an appetite to work. Matching ideal candidates to a range of departments within the Authority, the apprenticeship programme offers young people the opportunity to learn through a combination of on and off the job training and education with at least 7 hours per week



## What Work's?

Marmot makes reference to a number of evidence-based recommendations to address the gap in educational achievement, thereby equipping our young people with the necessary skills, attitudes and experience to fully engage in, and contribute to, the economy and society in later years. Sefton has already started to implement a number of interventions under these priority objectives with encouraging results:

**Addressing inequalities in education requires collective action outside of schools.**

## 1. Reduce the social gradient in educational outcomes

Access to *Childcare for Disabled Children*

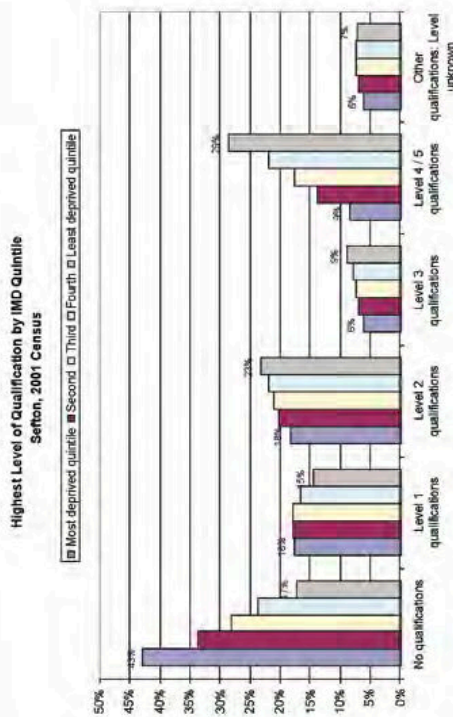
Sefton is successfully involved in a national pilot to develop services around disabled children's access to childcare (DCATCH). The project is aimed at enabling parents of disabled children and young people to access inclusive childcare with confidence, so that they are able to remain in paid or unpaid work or education, or to access training.

A key aspect of the work carried out by Sefton's DCATCH team is to support childcare providers to enhance their inclusive practice. This involves supporting childcare settings and providers to identify and address barriers to inclusion, and providing a range of training, specialist resources and advice on inclusive strategies, as well as provision of individual funding, where necessary. Through the success of the DCATCH pilot, childcare providers have increased their confidence and expertise in meeting the needs of disabled children and young people, which in turn has increased the number of parents able to remain in work, take up volunteering or access training.

**Success in learning at school is rooted in the stimulation and encouragement a child receives in the home, family and community.**



Looking at lifelong achievement and the highest qualification achieved at the time of the last census for all of Sefton's adult population, the graph below shows that, in Sefton's most deprived quintile, 43% of people have no qualifications, 18% of people have level 2 qualifications (5 GCSE grades A-C or equivalent) and only 10% of people have a qualification at level 4/5 (first degree, professional equivalent or higher). This compares to 17%, 23% and 29% of people in the least deprived quintile, respectively.



No qualifications	No academic, vocational or professional qualifications
Level 1 qualifications	1+ "O" level passes, 1+ CSE/GCSE any grades, NVQ1, Foundation GNVQ
Level 2 qualifications	5+ "O" Level passes, 5+ GCSEs (Grade 1) 5+ GCSEs (grades A-C), School certificate 1+ "A" levels /AS levels, NVQ level 2, Intermediate GNVQ
Level 3 qualifications	2+ "A" levels, 4+ AS levels, Higher school certificate, NVQ level 3, Advanced GNVQ
Level 4/5 qualifications	First degree, higher degree, NVQ levels 4 and 5, HNC, HND, Qualified teacher status, qualified medical doctor, dentist, nurse, midwife, health visitor
Other qualifications: level unknown	Other qualifications( eg City and Guilds, RSA/OCR, BTEC/Edexcel) Other professional qualifications





dedicated to training and development; the cost for this is funded by the Learning and Skills Council. To date Sefton has had 45 young people on the programme.

From the 1st April 2010, the Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning (ASCL) Act 2009 transferred responsibility for the commissioning and funding of 16-19 education and training in the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) to local Authorities. Sefton Council now has the central commissioning role for all publicly-funded education and training for young people aged 16-19 (and for learners up to 19 who have a learning difficulty or disability) in the borough. This will align services for 14-19 year olds to ensure that all young people get the widest possible choice of learning opportunities they need to succeed.

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### What local action do we need to take?

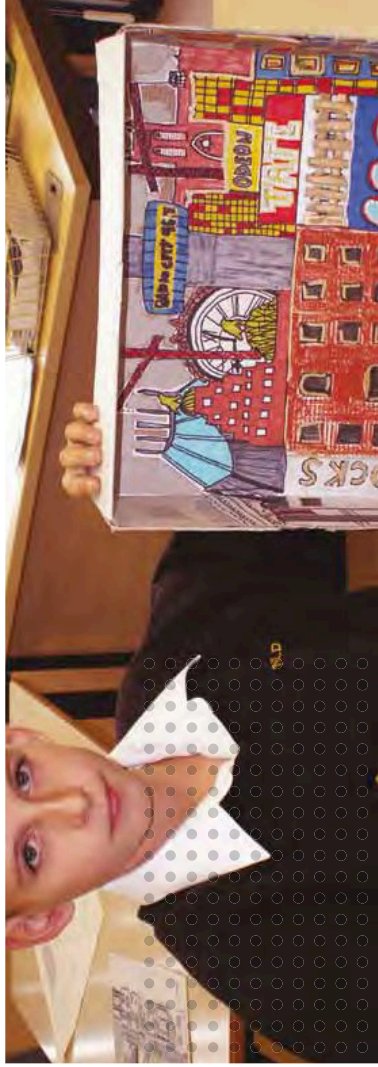
As with health inequalities, reducing educational inequalities requires an understanding of the interaction between the social determinants and educational outcomes. This includes the socioeconomic status of parents/carers, family structure, neighbourhood and peers influence, child characteristics, as well as what goes on in schools.

- Families rather than schools have the biggest influence on educational attainment. A whole family approach, working across school-home boundaries that foster closer links between schools, the family and the local community is required.



- A review of the school workforce mix should be undertaken to include more professional non-teaching staff with skills in, for example, enabling children's play, which forms a vital part in a happy childhood.

- Learning does not just happen in schools nor does it stop as soon as we leave school. Beyond compulsory education, investment in young adults should be prioritised to enable the full development of people's capabilities and foster their ability to take control of their lives. This includes supporting apprenticeships and work-based learning. Further support for young adults is required to develop skills for continuing education, work and training, managing relationships, debt and housing concerns, and preventing risky behaviour.



## KEY MESSAGES...

- The relationship between socio-economic position and educational outcome has significant implications for subsequent employment, income, living standards, behaviours and mental and physical health.
- Maintaining the reduction of inequalities across the social gradient requires a sustained commitment to children and young people.
- We need to invest in our children and young people during their formative years to give them better life skills and prepare them for employment in adulthood.



## FIND OUT MORE...

Department for Education <http://www.education.gov.uk/>

Sefton Council Education and Learning  
<http://www.sefton.gov.uk/Default.aspx?page=1761>



# MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE C

Create fair employment and good work for all

Lead Author: Nicky Speakman, Workforce Development Manager

**Being in good quality employment can be protective of health and well-being. Conversely, being unemployed or indeed in poor quality employment can contribute to poor physical and mental health. Getting people into 'good' work that is sustainable, is therefore, critical if we are to reduce health inequalities.**

It not highlights three priority objectives to reduce inequalities in employment and working conditions:

improve access to good jobs and reduce long-term unemployment across the social gradient.

- Make it easier for people who are disadvantaged in the labour market to obtain and keep work.

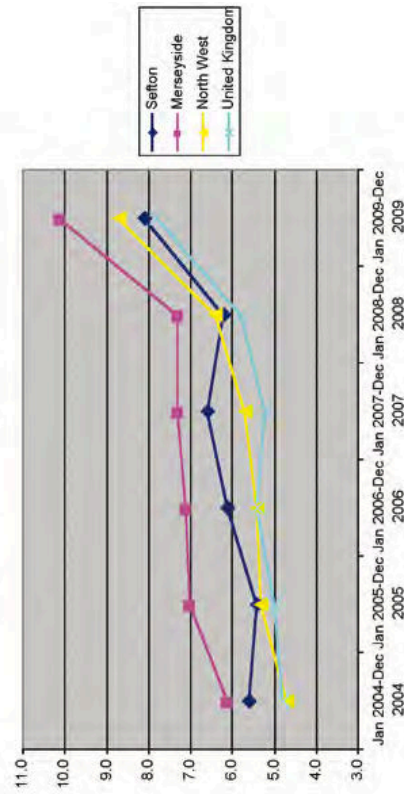
- Improve quality of jobs across the social gradient.

Good work is characterised by a secure living wage, enables the working person to exert some control over his/her work, offers opportunities for in-work development, aims to be flexible, protects the working person from adverse working conditions, contributes to workers' well-being and attempts to support sick and disabled people into full employment, where possible.

### What's the problem?

Since 2008, rates of unemployment in Sefton have risen in line with rates both nationally and in the Northwest. In December 2009, eight percent or 10,500 working age (16-64 years) people were classed as unemployed in Sefton.

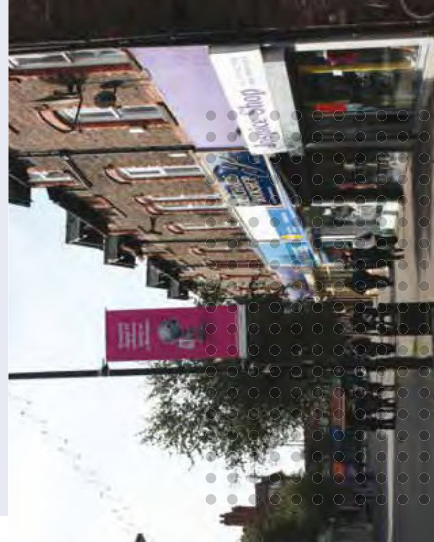
Unemployment Rates 2004 - 2009



Employment in Sefton is unequally distributed, with people living in areas that are most deprived at higher risk of being unemployed or in low-paid, poor quality jobs with few opportunities for advancement.

People of working age who are unemployed incur elevated health risks including: increased rates of long-term illness, mental illness and cardiovascular disease. These negative effects are proportional to the duration of unemployment. Therefore, adverse effects on health are greatest among those who experience long-term unemployment. Moreover, the experience of long-term unemployment is strongly associated with an increase in overall mortality.

While unemployment and economic inactivity are associated with higher rates of poor health, it should be noted that jobs that are insecure, low-paid and that fail to protect employees from stress and danger also make people ill. Poor work conditions increase the risk of poor physical and mental health; this in turn leads to absence due to illness and potential future worklessness. In Sefton, the most common causes of work-related ill-health are mental health issues and musculo-skeletal disorders.



**Young people (18-24 years) are the age group most likely to be unemployed and to be in low skilled jobs.**

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### What works?

Marmot makes two key recommendations for creating fair employment and good work for all:

### 1. Prioritise active labour market programmes

#### Future Jobs Fund

Sefton has been involved in a number of active labour market programmes over the last few years, one of the most recent being the "Future Jobs Fund". This fund was aimed at creating new jobs in the labour market for young people (specifically 18-24 year olds who have been in receipt of Job Seekers Allowance for a period approaching 12 months) and adult job seekers in deprived communities. Opportunities to run Future Jobs for a six month period were identified across the borough, mainly focused within the voluntary, community and faith sector and public sector employers, such as NHS Sefton and Sefton Council. In those 6-months jobs provide opportunities for training and experience in a wide range of areas, including administration and health advocacy. This improves people's skills and future employability. Partners involved in the programme committed to a minimum standard 'wraparound' model, including targeted support for individuals, mentoring, job search time and an exit interview.

**Work is good and unemployment is bad for physical and mental health, but the quality of work matters.**

### 2. Development of good quality work

#### Sefton Routeways

Sefton MBC has been operating a number of Skills Funding Agency contracts to identify employers with vacancies and willing to work with local agencies; ensuring that workless people in Sefton have access to the jobs on offer. The 'Sefton Routeways' opportunities are targeted at people who live in the most disadvantaged communities and are open to anyone regardless of what type of benefit they are claiming, and therefore have included





Local people who are wanting to leave benefit dependency behind, even though some may need assistance to manage their health condition. The 'Sefton Routeways', delivered in partnership with Jobcentre Plus, combines pre-employment training, confidence building, support with selection processes, such as interviews or competency testing, and financial help with travel and clothing. They are bespoke - designed as a direct result of employer input and they have yielded real results in opening up recruitment processes. In total, more than 550 previously workless Sefton residents have benefited from the Routeways. In addition, employers in a wide range of sectors, including retail, logistics, social care, tourism, catering and the public sector, have benefited from recruits who are motivated, energised and committed to sustainable work to benefit themselves and their families.

#### Employer Award

Through Sefton Council's Employment and Skills programme, an employer award is established; this focuses on identifying and acknowledging best practice for family friendly employment. Parental employment and work progression is an essential feature to tackling child poverty and securing improved health and economic outcomes for both adults and young people. This initiative, being trialled in the Southport area, is expected to form an important part of Sefton's ongoing strategy to work with smaller employers to ensure that people who could be at risk of social and economic isolation can benefit from sustainable employment.

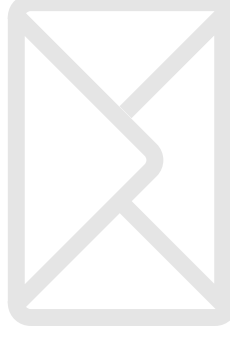
#### What local action do we need to take?

- A commitment in Sefton to working with a range of agencies to assess the implications for Sefton's communities of the proposed changes to the Welfare benefits system including tax credits, housing benefits and lone parent obligations in addition to out of work benefits.
- Furthermore, with the introduction of a new system based on the principle of assessing what people can do rather than what they cannot do, there is real concern locally that we need to gain a rapid understanding of the impact of the work capability assessment on incapacity benefit claimants who unexpectedly find themselves classified as 'fit for work'.
- More horizontal linkages are needed between health, housing and worklessness services to better integrate support systems for families to enable the transition from benefits to work.
- More work with employers in the private sector to encourage them to see people with health conditions in a more favourable light.
- More qualitative information about the effects of work on health in deprived communities.
- More continued support for people who have been long term workless to enter the labour market.



## KEY MESSAGES

- **Young people are the group most likely to be unemployed and to be in low-skilled jobs.**
- **Increasing skills and the number of people in good employment will have a positive impact on health within Sefton.**
- **We need to continue to enhance employability skills within our working age population and especially those who are not in education, employment or training.**



## FIND OUT MORE...

Dame Carol Black's Review of the health of Britain's working age population  
'Working for a healthier tomorrow' (March 2008)  
<http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/hwwb-working-for-a-healthier-tomorrow.pdf>

NHS Health and Well-being Review (Nov 2009)  
<http://www.nhshealthandwellbeing.org/> [http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod\\_consum\\_dh/groups/dh\\_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh\\_108907.pdf](http://www.dh.gov.uk/prod_consum_dh/groups/dh_digitalassets/documents/digitalasset/dh_108907.pdf)

Department for Work and Pensions <http://www.dwp.gov.uk/>



# MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE D

Ensure healthy standard of living for all

Lead Author: Pat Nicholl, Deputy Head of Health Improvement

**Insufficient income is associated with worse outcomes across virtually all domains, including long-term physical and mental health and life expectancy. Ensuring that all people receive enough money for their stage in the life course, to lead a healthy life, is therefore critical for reducing health inequalities.**

The review of health inequalities in England, not proposes three priority objectives to ensure that all people have a sufficient income to live a healthy life:

- establish a minimum income for healthy living for people of all ages.

- Reduce the social gradient in the standard of living through progressive taxation and other fiscal policies.

- Reduce the cliff edges faced by people moving between benefits and work.

Clearly, a significant amount of action to address the priority objectives needs to happen at a national level. However, we should look to ensure that a healthy standard of living for all in Sefton is achieved through relevant local action, which recognises the different levels of need for people in different circumstances.

Before proceeding, it is important to acknowledge that household income is affected by taxation – both direct taxes for example, income tax, National Insurance and council tax, and indirect taxes, for example, VAT and duty on petrol, alcohol and tobacco. Indirect taxation is not progressive. The impact of indirect taxes fall disproportionately with people on low incomes.

### What's the problem?

The adverse health effects of being on a low income are not confined to those who are 'worst off' who find it difficult to make ends meet.

The graded relationship between income and health is consistent with the fact that a person's position in society is important.

### Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 – Income domains

	IMD07 (% of popn)	Income domain (% of popn)	IDACI (% of u15s)	IDAOP1 (% of retirement age)
Most deprived quintile	25%	25%	23%	22%
Second	18%	16%	12%	22%
Third	28%	29%	26%	20%
Fourth	19%	19%	22%	16%
Least deprived quintile	10%	12%	17%	19%
<b>Sefton</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>100%</b>

- IDACI is income domain affecting children index

- IDAOP1 is income domain affecting older people index

Source: Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 ([www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk))

# Agenda Item 4

and Incapacity Benefit/Severe Disablement Allowance (IB/SDA) than people living in the least deprived quintile.

In Sefton, particular social groups are at higher risk of having low income and consequently poorer health. As outlined in the previous chapter, some groups have significantly reduced opportunities for employment and lower earning capacity; these include disabled adults, people with mental health problems, those with caring responsibilities, young people with no/low skills and qualifications and lone parents.

Poverty involves not just a lack of money, but a lack of sufficient resources to participate fully in society and to maintain human dignity. Because of Sefton's specific geography and make-up of population, there is a concentration of poor older people, low paid, temporarily employed and single people in inadequate accommodation in some parts of the north of the borough. In the south, there is a greater proportion of single parents and long term unemployed households with children.

Lack of sufficient income, combined with poor accommodation that is thermally inefficient, means certain households cannot afford to heat their homes to an adequate, safe and comfortable healthy level. Furthermore, the same lack of income also prevents those households from undertaking the necessary improvements to increase the energy efficiency of their properties to alleviate the problem.

Whilst above average, children (23% in most deprived quintile) and older people (22%) exhibit slightly lower levels of income deprivation than Sefton's overall population (25%). This perhaps implies that people of working age experience slightly higher levels of income deprivation than children or older people.

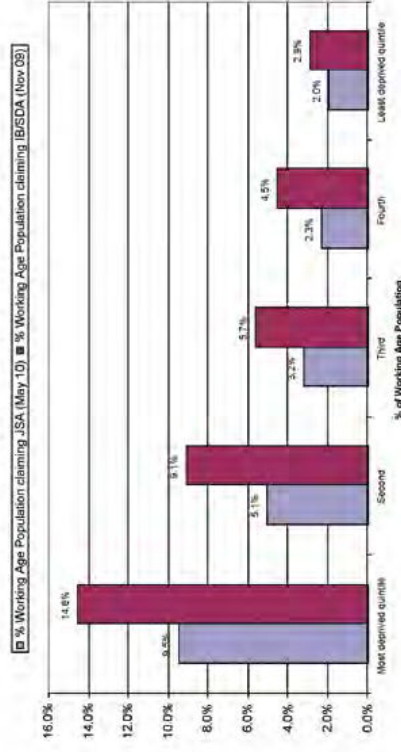
It is worthwhile noting that older people in the second most deprived quintile also have higher than average levels of income deprivation (22%), thus further demonstrating the social gradient in income in Sefton.

Sefton is ranked 43rd worst out of 354 local authorities for income deprivation (within 15% nationally). Within Sefton, parts of Bootle are within the most income deprived 0.6% of England, but parts of Formby are within the least income deprived 3% of the country.

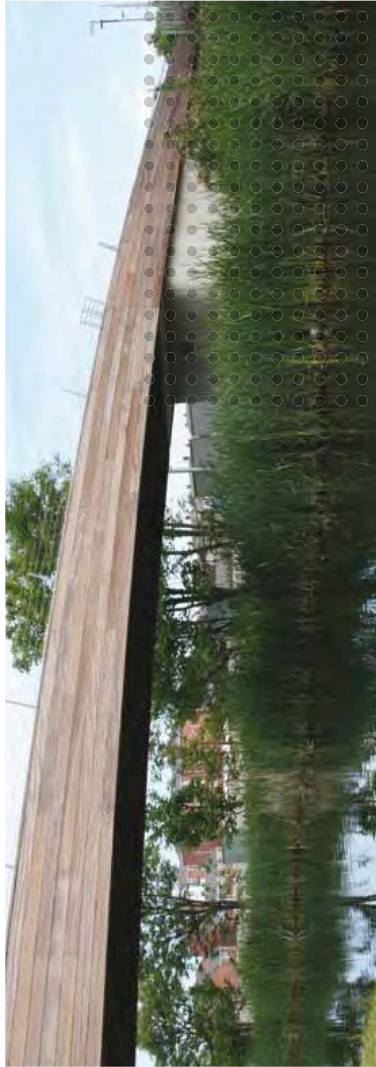
For many people in Sefton, their income plus benefits is inadequate to support a healthy life. It is well-recognised that people on low incomes refrain from purchasing goods and services that maintain or improve health and a larger proportion of their money is spent on commodities that attract indirect taxes and present increased health risks.

People living in the most deprived quintile are nearly five times more likely to claim benefits such as Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

Job Seekers Allowance Claims and Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance Claims at % of Working Age Population in Sefton







It is worthwhile noting that the relationship between low income and poor health can operate in both directions: low income can lead to poor health and ill health can result in a lower earning capacity.

#### What works?

### 1. Develop and implement standards for minimum income for healthy living.

#### Linking Child Poverty

Recognising that there are a range of factors that are connected to child poverty, including low educational achievement and employment, Sefton has successfully become one of eight Child Poverty Innovation Pilot sites. Focused in the Southport area and led by the Local Authority's Planning and Economic Regeneration Department, the 'Promoting Parents' programme aims to improve employment levels and employability by assisting families caught in low paid, low skilled jobs or those who wish to enter the workforce, to maximise their income and develop their choices and aspirations. A team of family coaches has been established to help target families work through their tailored progression plans, which include: training plans, advice on budgeting and debt management, advice and support in accessing child care, and health advice for example on stopping smoking.

The project has received funding for two years till March 2011. Initial findings suggest that the positive impact of the programme is not only felt by the parents, but also by the children.

### Low income can lead to poor health and ill-health can result in lower earning capacity.

#### Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) Health Outreach

The CAB in Sefton offers outreach sessions in health settings to people with both physical and mental ill-health. As part of the service Health Outreach Advisers offer free confidential, impartial advice on a number of issues, which maybe causing the symptoms of ill-health. As well as assisting with benefits checks to ensure that people are receiving their correct entitlements, advisers often support people who have fallen into the debt trap by taking out loans with high interest rates, or in worst cases, falling prey to loan sharks. In these situations, the adviser works with the client to help them to prioritise their debts and compile a detailed and realistic budget. During the whole process, the adviser adopts an educative role so that clients can improve their confidence in knowing how to deal with similar situations that may arise either now or in the future.



#### Fuel Poverty Outreach Service

Working towards the outcomes of Sefton's Affordable Warmth Strategy, Sefton Council's Energy Team, in partnership with the Supporting People Programme, is delivering a fuel poverty outreach service. As part of the programme two Affordable Warmth Workers have been appointed to provide a home visiting service to hard-to-reach residents, offering support and assistance in applying for heating and insulation grants to make their homes warmer and healthier. During the home visits, additional housing and social needs are identified and individuals are signposted accordingly to a wide range of partners (such as, community fire service, environmental health services and welfare rights teams). The role of the Affordable Warmth Worker has been very successful in Sefton by helping to enhance the work of the Council's Energy Team and ultimately enabling vulnerable people to remain living independently in their homes.

### 'Cliff Edges' – the distinction between being in work and being out of work.

#### 2. Remove 'cliff edges' for those moving in and out of work and improve flexibility of employment.

Moving into work can be problematic for many people, especially for those moving from benefits to low-income jobs. Jobcentre Plus advisers work with clients to remove the 'cliff edges' between work and benefits:

- 'Better off calculations' are conducted with customers to review their current income and establish how a wage, plus return to work incentives, can provide them with a higher income.
- People who are out of work, particularly the long-term unemployed, can be nervous about taking up paid employment in case it doesn't work out and fear losing long-term benefits. To address these concerns Jobcentre Plus have a rapid reclaim process for those customers coming back onto

Jobseekers Allowance within 26 weeks of their last claim. Additionally, there are work trials available, which allow customers to remain on benefits whilst testing out a new job for up to 15 working days.

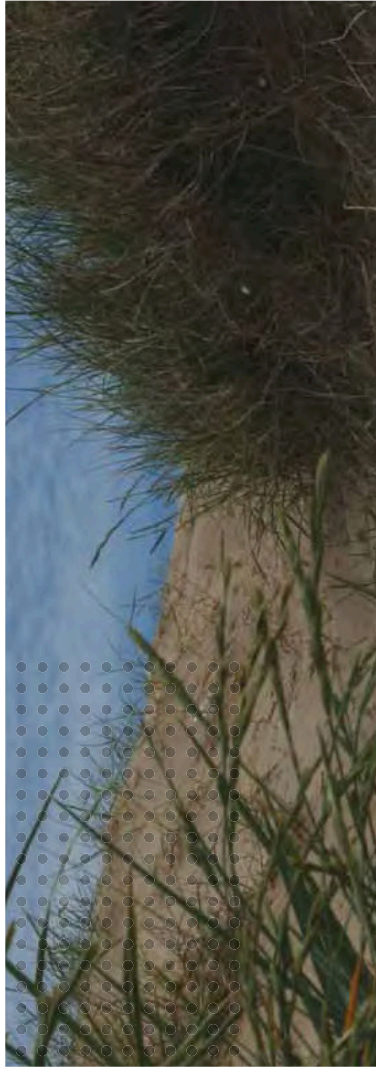
- For customers in receipt of specific benefits due to illness or disability there is a 'permitted work' scheme, which provides customers with a stepping stone into work of 16 hours per week, therefore helping to remove some of the barriers that have prevented them from securing employment.

#### What local action do we need to take?

The challenge for Sefton is to make the healthy choice the affordable choice. Ensuring a healthy standard of living for all in Sefton means maximising household income levels and exploring all opportunities locally to access healthy living measures.

- Income maximisation through partnership working, supporting people into work, increasing take up of benefits, tax credits, housing/council tax, providing access to debt advice, managing money, saving schemes and credit unions.
- Good work is good for being healthy and, being in-work for longer is more productive for business and the economy as a whole.





## KEY MESSAGES...

- A certain minimum level of income is necessary to lead a physically and mentally healthy life and we must work with businesses to improve better paid work opportunities.
- Low income households are vulnerable to national budgetary changes that result in a drop in minimum acceptable standard of living and we must advocate on behalf of our population.
- Continue to build on existing and thriving partnership work to implement interventions to ensure a healthy standard of living for all.



## FIND OUT MORE...

Joseph Rowntree Foundation [www.jrf.org.uk](http://www.jrf.org.uk)

Index of multiple deprivation [www.communities.gov.uk](http://www.communities.gov.uk)



# MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE E

## Create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities

Lead Author: Rachael Gosling, Speciality Registrar in Public Health

**Communities are important for our physical and mental health. The physical and social characteristics of communities all make a contribution to inequalities in health.**

Marmot prioritises the following objectives:

- Develop common policies to reduce the scale and impact of climate change and health inequalities.
- Improve community capital and reduce social isolation across the social gradient.

People's health and well-being is affected by the environment in which they live, grow, learn, work and age. For example, living in a cold damp house in a deprived neighbourhood which has high levels of crime and a lack of access to open green space, impacts negatively on health.

Having strong social networks and being actively involved in the community can also bring positive health benefits. This is often described as community or social capital and chimes with the coalition Government's idea for a 'Big Society'. A range of benefits can stem from strong community capital such as improved mental health, and increased resilience to illness. Building community capital at a local level is important as it can empower local people to shape policies or programmes that affect them.

Climate change has been described as the greatest threat to global public health. Investing in measures, such as active travel, air quality, energy efficiency and the food environment, will both improve health and lower carbon emissions, thus reducing the impacts of climate change.

### What's the problem?

People on low incomes are more likely to live in more deprived neighbourhoods which have social and environmental characteristics that present risks to health. These include poor housing, poor air quality, a lack of green spaces and places for children to play, and a greater risk to the impact of climate change.

The existing housing stock in Sefton can be divided into two broad groupings: the public or socially rented sector and the private sector. In recent years, a great deal of attention and investment has been placed into public and socially-rented housing to drive up the proportion of Decent Homes within the sector. There has also been a significant improvement in the number of Decent Homes within the private sector. The 2007 Sefton Stock Condition Survey (SSCS) found that only 23.1% of all private households in Sefton live in a Non-Decent Home, a significant improvement on the 2002 level of 33.2%. However, this overall figure masks significant inequalities in the standard of living within the private sector stock.

The 2007 findings relating to economically vulnerable households showed that, within the private rented sector, 48.9% of households live in a Non-Decent Home, in houses built pre-1919, 51.1% of households live in a non-decent home, and, where the head of the household is 65+ years, 43.9% of households live in a Non-Decent Home.

One of the main aspects of the Decent-Home Standards with the greatest impact on health is failure to provide effective insulation and/or efficient heating. It is estimated that there are over 30,000 households in Sefton at risk of





fuel poverty (i.e. more than 10% of household income is spent heating the home). Those groups most at risk of being fuel-poor tend to be older people, lone parents with young children and those with long term illnesses.

Reducing fuel poverty in the coming years presents a number of challenges: rising fuel prices, grants being cut, much of Sefton's existing housing stock being 'hard-to-treat' expensive to insulate and an increasing likelihood of extreme weather events.

Under the Environment Act (1995), Sefton Council has declared three Air Quality Management Areas in the borough. This means that air quality in these areas does not comply with the National Air Quality Strategy's objectives, which are set on the basis of information on the health effects of pollutants.

These three areas include: Crosby Road North, (between the junctions with College Road and South Road), Princess Way (from the Ewart Road flyover up to and including the flyover and roundabout at Crosby Road South), and Millers Bridge around the junction with Derby Road. Within these three areas, the main sources of pollutants (fine particles and nitrogen dioxide) are road traffic and emissions from local industrial processes.

Access to green space improves physical and mental health and has been shown to reduce health inequalities. Currently, the quantity, quality and accessibility of green space (i.e. parks, play facilities and outdoor sports facilities, allotments, waterways and private gardens) varies greatly in different parts of Sefton.



For example, those living in the most disadvantaged areas of the borough generally have smaller or no private green space and there tends to be a greater need for more high quality public green space in these areas than is currently available.

The UK Climate Impact Programme has modelled a range of future weather scenarios for Sefton, using different levels of greenhouse gas emissions. These assessments suggest that in Sefton, we will experience warmer, drier summers and warmer, wetter winters. A number of risks have been identified, such as increased likelihood of flooding, loss of habitat and species, periods of drought and the effect on

health of heat waves and milder winters. Those living in more deprived areas are more likely to suffer both the physical and mental impacts from extreme weather events (e.g. flooding) caused by climate change. The NHS is responsible for 30% of all public sector greenhouse gas emissions and all health organisations in the Borough need to be looking at how they can reduce their carbon footprint.

There is evidence that in Sefton, the environment impacts on people's wellbeing. For example, those living in more deprived areas are less likely to be satisfied with their local area and less likely to feel they belong to their immediate neighbourhood.

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Sefton's Fuel Poverty Champion, Cllr Anthony Hill, received the footprint award on behalf of Sefton along with Ian Weller and Debbie Phillips from the energy team and Dr Janet Atherton, Director of Public Health, NHS Sefton & Sefton Council.

**The lack of attention paid to health and health inequalities in the planning process can lead to unintended negative consequences.**

2. **Integrate planning, transport, housing, environmental and health systems to address the social determinants of health in each locality**

Sefton's Core Strategy

To inform the preparation of Sefton's Core Strategy, which will set the vision, strategy and core policies for spatial development in Sefton over the next 15-20 years, a phased consultation and engagement process is underway. Involving those with an interest in the area – local residents, businesses and other organisations, initial consultation has taken place through a number of workshops held in the seven Area Committee areas. The aim of the workshops was to obtain a wide range of views about the key issues and opportunities for settlement in Sefton using four key headings:

- Housing
- Jobs and Economy
- Protecting and enhancing the environment and climate change
- Town & local centres, facilities, services and getting around.

The second stage of consultation has moved onto the preferred options of how key stakeholders in Sefton can best provide the solutions to the issues that Sefton faces in the future in light of the initial findings. Giving key stakeholders 6-weeks to formally comment on the emerging core strategy, the process is due to conclude in early 2011 with a third phase of consultation on the draft Core Strategy for Sefton.

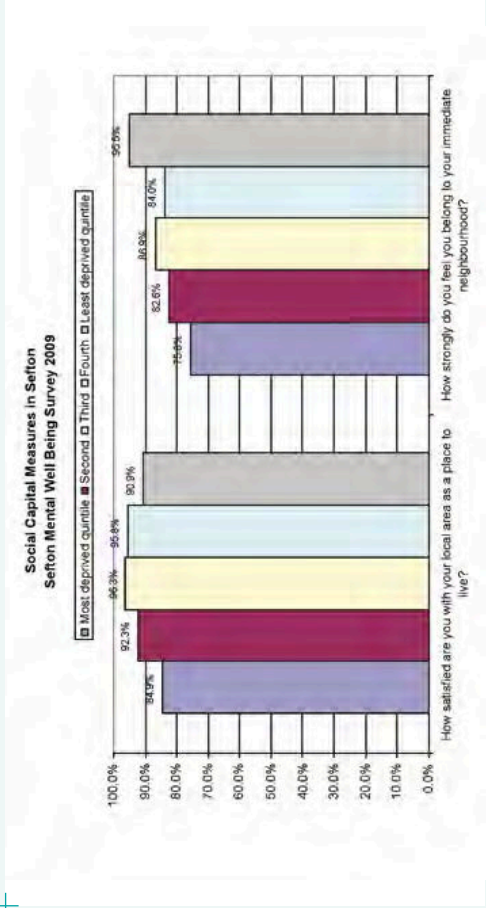
**Social capital builds trust, which leads to the cooperation and synergy that is necessary to build healthy communities.**

## Food environment

In areas of Sefton where access to affordable good quality fruit and vegetables is poor, 'Fruit and Vegetable Co-ops' have been established through the Brighter Living Partnership in the north of the borough and the Women's Royal Voluntary Services in the south. The purpose of the cooperatives is to provide members of the community with a variety of seasonal items that are, as far as possible, sourced locally from within the North West of England. For £2.50 people can collect (or for a small additional cost have delivered to the workplace, school or home) a mixed bag of fruit, vegetables and salad. For those eligible families with children under the age of 4 years, healthy start vouchers can be used at the 'Fruit and Vegetable Co-ops', thus supporting young children to try a variety of new and fresh foods.

## Improve energy efficiency

Sefton's 'House Warmers' project has recently been named as best in the North West by the fuel poverty charity, National Energy Action. The project aims to work with local organisations to help people living in properties that are cold, damp and expensive to heat by assisting them with payment for essential work that addresses fuel poverty. There are over 300 front line workers actively involved in the 'House Warmer' referral network, who have been briefed on fuel poverty and, as a result, regularly signpost households in need of assistance to local services to make their homes warmer and healthier.



## What works?

The Marmot review makes a number of evidence based recommendations, many of which are already being successfully implemented in Sefton.

**To prioritise policies and interventions that reduce health inequalities and mitigate climate change.**

ive travel

The Southport and Ainsdale Cycling Town Project has entered its third and final year of funding. The aim of the project is to increase the cycling rates in these areas (particularly within the centrally deprived area of Southport), by creating an environment whereby visitors and residents can choose cycling as a genuine option for travel.

Recent developments as part of the Cycling Town project include: cycle hire for non-Sefton residents (residents can access free use through the Free Wheeling scheme); additional facilities for parking bikes; additional cycle training for adults and the accessibility of Newlands as an opportunity for off-road cycling.



**The creation of healthy, sustainable places and communities should go hand in hand with mitigating climate change**

## Good quality green spaces

The quality of the parks in Sefton is improving following increased capital and revenue investment over recent years and closer working with local communities to engender increased and better use of the parks. In order to reduce the impacts of climate change, tree planting and the creation of new green spaces is being promoted across the Borough. The Landscape Development & Management service of Sefton Council was awarded the prestigious Green Apple Award for its 'neighbourhood approach to landscape management' - caring for parks and green spaces. For those parks that are under-utilised as a result of people's perception that they are unsafe, partnerships between the local police and the Park Rangers have been established to run sports coaching activities for younger people in the evenings, thereby reducing antisocial behaviour in parks while encouraging physical activity. Outdoor gyms have also been installed and are being well used in Crosby Coastal Park and Bedford Park, Southport.



Given the problems of installing insulation to current housing stock, we need to look at more innovative ways of providing affordable and efficient energy (heat, power and light) to households that are at risk of fuel poverty.

We need to make sure that the Area Management approach makes services work for all neighbourhoods and that nobody is disadvantaged by where they live. Area Committees are in a key position for engaging and consulting with local people efficiently and effectively and responding to residents' concerns quickly. The move towards a "Total Place" area management approach could enhance their impact.

Marmot recommends a national policy planning statement on health. At a local level we need to influence the Core Strategy for Sefton so that it takes in to account the wider determinants of health. There is an opportunity to align policy agendas on regeneration, inequalities, climate change mitigation and the use of renewable energies. We need to work with partners (e.g. health, planning, transport, environment and housing) to produce a framework to check that decisions are made taking into account the potential impact on health inequalities in each locality.

The economic climate undoubtedly means services will be cut and this poses a challenge as to how our communities develop over the next ten years. It is imperative that the health sector, local authority, the third sector and the private sector work closely with the community to identify local needs and to identify further opportunities for economic development and joint commissioning. Making things work with less money is a challenge but can result in creative and innovative solutions. In meeting our needs today, it is essential that we do not compromise the ability of others to meet their needs, today or tomorrow.



Club members also benefit from chair-based exercise, learn from guest speakers and get information, advice and advocacy from the partner organisations to ensure that the needs of older people in Sefton are met.

### What local action do we need to take?

In order to ensure that we are tackling the social gradient, we need to target and measure interventions by socio-economic groups. Existing data sources should routinely be used to analyse the impacts of programmes and policies on the social gradient.

Action on mitigating climate change needs to be strengthened through local partnerships and, where possible, aligned to improving health. NHS Sefton needs to make greener commissioning of health services its core business if we are to reach the challenging target of reducing carbon emissions by 34% by 2020. We also need to develop action plans to respond to the health risks posed by climate change.

Given current financial constraints, there is unlikely to be funding to provide more green spaces. Therefore, we need to look more creatively at how we can use existing green spaces. For example, school playing fields can be opened up for wider public use. We need to think creatively about how the community can use land to grow food, for example through the Sustainable Schools Framework. Legal agreements between a developer and a local planning authority can be used which make planning permission acceptable, for example, to provide green space, or affordable housing. We need to ensure partnership arrangements are further strengthened so that resources for green space are based on the needs of communities and generated by new development.



### 3. Create and develop communities

#### Increasing social participation

Sefton Councils Environmental Protection Department has been successful in securing funding from the Working Neighbourhood Fund (WNF) and Housing Market Renewal - 'living through change' to undertake an 'Environmental Services initiative with an emphasis on encouraging local people into volunteering (NVQ level 2), and employment within service. The initiative was developed with local partners through identifying environmental needs and ensuring subsequent activities addressed local problems. As well as supporting economic development within the south of the borough, the initiative enhanced the work provided by core-funded environmental services to improve neighbourhood cleanliness such as litter, graffiti, dog fouling and reducing the rat population. To-date, the Community Engagement Team has led 106 regular clean up days to address specific problems identified during local community walkabouts, including fly-tipping, littering, dog fouling and defective drains, which attract rats.

This intervention has seen vast improvements in terms of the amount of litter, detritus and rat population in the communities, thus making parts of Sefton more attractive and healthy place to live and invest in. It has also succeeded in training a number of long-term unemployed people who have gone on to secure employment, generating health benefits for them and their families.



#### Reducing social isolation

Reducing social isolation among older people is a key area identified in the three-year Sefton Partnership for Older Citizen's (SPOC) strategy. There are many initiatives operating across Sefton that support older people with the aim of reducing social isolation. Examples of providers delivering these initiatives include Anchor Staying Put, Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service, Netherton Feelgood Factory, Sefton Pensioners Advocacy Centre, Sefton OPERA and Sefton CVS.

Sefton CVS delivers an initiative called the "North Sefton Social Inclusion Project". The project supports three "Ageing Well Clubs" in the Formby and Southport area. The service can be accessed by anyone over the age of 50, and are for older people who find themselves socially isolated for whatever reason, giving them the opportunity to socialise and make friends. People may feel socially isolated due to illness, a stay in hospital or bereavement and the clubs are a way of meeting people and making new friends.



## KEY MESSAGES...

- Health inequalities stem from deprived social, economic and physical environments. The gains made in these areas in recent years through investments in infrastructure and innovative approaches need to be built on and extended rather than abandoned in the face of a more difficult financial climate.
- Taking care of our environment can be cost-effective and life-enhancing for example, reducing car usage reduces pollution and pedestrian death, and installation of solar panels is very energy efficient.
- There are well-established community groups in Sefton and more should be done to empower communities to help shape the future of Sefton.



## FIND OUT MORE...

Green Space Strategy for Sefton [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)  
 Southport and Ainsdale Cycling Town [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)  
 The Brighter Living Partnership Food Co-operatives [www.brighterliving.org.uk](http://www.brighterliving.org.uk)  
 A range of resources are available from the NHS Sustainable Development Unit on promoting sustainable development within the NHS, including the NHS Carbon Reduction Strategy: [www.sdu.nhs.uk](http://www.sdu.nhs.uk)  
 Adapting to Climate Change – Guidance Notes for NI188: [www.lga.gov.uk](http://www.lga.gov.uk)

# MARMOT'S POLICY OBJECTIVE F

## Strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention

Author: Cathy Warlow, Head of Health Improvement and Partnerships

Previous chapters have been concerned with tackling the wider social determinants of health inequalities. The purpose of this final chapter is to address health behaviours.

Marmot focuses our attention on the need to:

- Prioritise prevention and early detection of those conditions most strongly related to health inequalities.
- Increase availability of long-term and sustainable funding in ill health prevention across the social gradient.

Before proceeding, it is important that we first clarify what we mean by 'ill-health prevention' and 'health promotion'. There are a couple of important definitions to consider: The first definition, adopted in 1948 by the World Health Organisation (WHO), states that health is:

**"Being in a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity."**

The second is enshrined in the WHO - Jakarta Declaration of 1977, which states that:

**"Health Promotion is the process of enabling people to increase control over their health and its determinants and thereby improve their health."**

A combination of the five domains of health promotion is required to improve ill-health prevention and to have a comprehensive impact on positive health. These five domains are evidence-based and are as follows:

- Building healthy public policies
- Creating supportive environments for health
- Strengthening community action for health
- Developing personal skills
- Reorienting health services

Implementing an evidence-based approach shows us that population-wide interventions need to be proportionately targeted across the social gradient but targeted interventions need to focus on particular groups. The evidence also shows that health behaviours are complex; therefore multi-faceted programmes are required across the life course to tackle the issues.

Marmot is clear that ill health prevention and health promotion is a shared responsibility across local and national governments. In Sefton we need to ensure that all partners share this responsibility and have prevention as a key priority for their own organisation and are clear about their contribution to this shared agenda.

### What's the problem?

As previously mentioned, there have been welcome improvements in people's health in Sefton, including in the worst off; however, the gap in health inequalities has not narrowed. Inequalities in life expectancy and ill-health relating to conditions, such as cancer, diabetes, chronic lung diseases and cardiovascular disease, continue to persist. These conditions are strongly related to health behaviours such as smoking, misuse of alcohol and unhealthy eating, and we need to make healthier choices easier in Sefton. Aiming interventions at the individual alone will not reduce health inequalities. We need population-wide and individually targeted interventions, proportionately targeted across the social gradient.

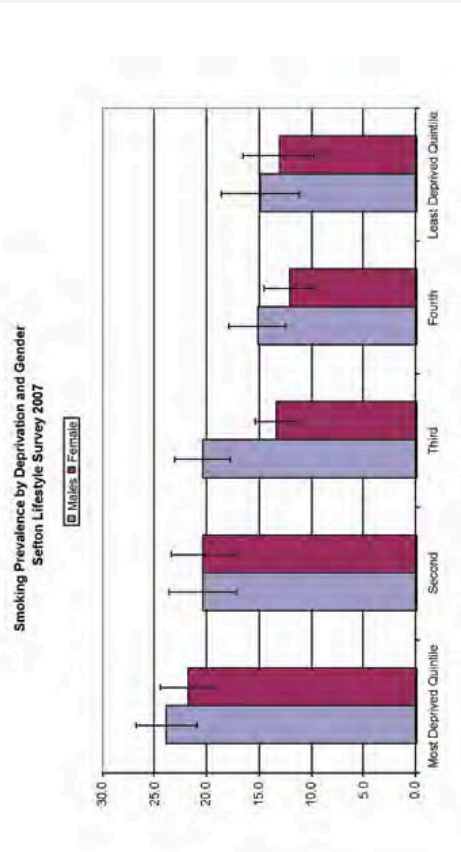


The NHS has traditionally been seen as having the responsibility for both the prevention and treatment of ill-health. However, nationally in 2006-7, only four percent of NHS funding was spent on ill health prevention and health promotion. In 2002 Derek Wanless recommended that health promotion expenditure should grow in line with expenditure on general practice and hospital care but this did not happen. The sub-optimal level of funding

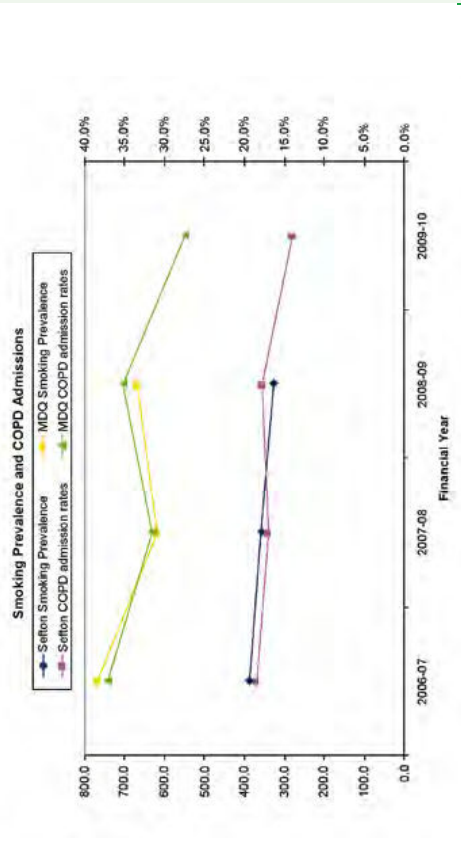
has meant that some prevention and health promotion programmes have not been on a large enough scale or never commenced.

### Smoking

The graph below shows the difference in smoking prevalence rates across Sefton, with the most deprived areas still having the highest smoking rates.



We know that more than 85%-95% of Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) is smoking-related and also accounts for a significant level of potentially avoidable emergency admissions and reduced quality of life. It is interesting to note the following graph and the potential cost savings:

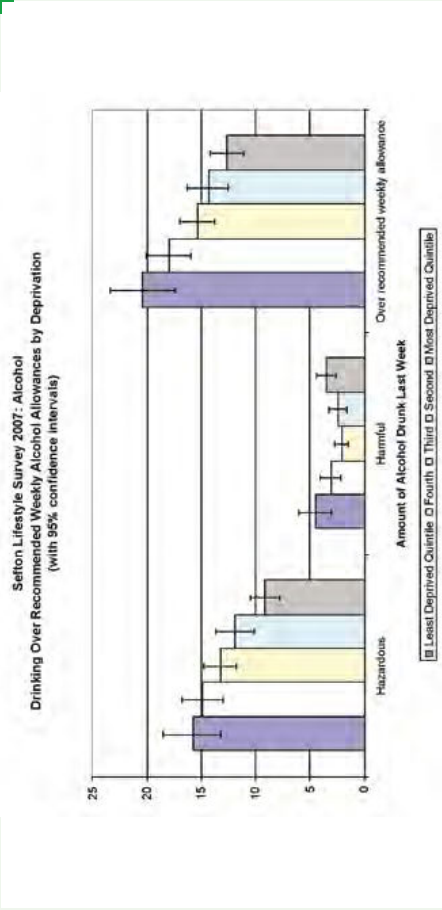


We know that roughly half of COPD admissions are from the most deprived quintile (MDQ) and we also know that a one percent reduction in smoking rates roughly equates to a one percent reduction in admissions. This one percent amounts to around 80 admissions per year.

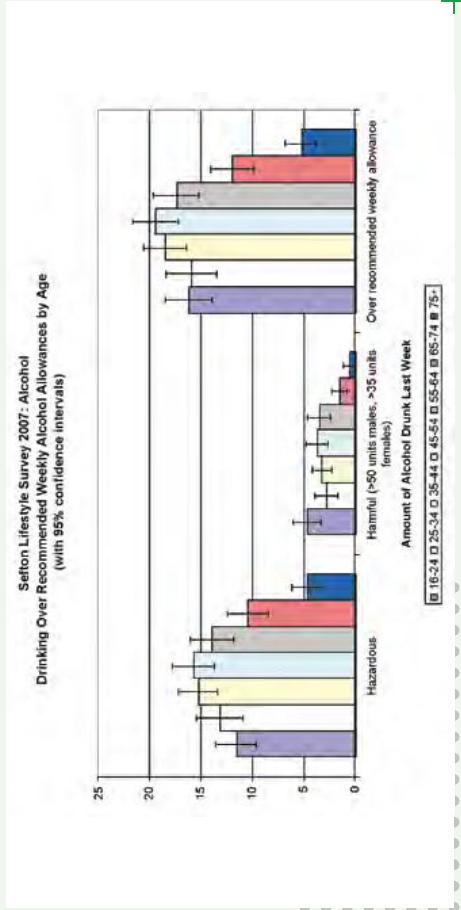
COPD Admissions	2006 - 2007	2007 - 2008	2008 - 2009	2009 - 2010
Sefton	1025	942	985	775
MDQ	518	436	486	379

### Alcohol

From the Sefton Lifestyle Survey 2007, over 1 in 5 men and 1 in 10 women drink more than the recommended weekly amounts of alcohol, whilst 1 in 5 men and 1 in 8 women binge drink. While drinking more than the recommended weekly allowance decreases with increasing deprivation, harmful drinking is most prevalent at the extremes of deprivation.



Harmful drinking is most common in the 16-24 year age group. The 45-54 year age group has the second highest percentage of harmful drinking and is also the age group most likely to be drinking over the recommended weekly allowance.



# Agenda Item 4

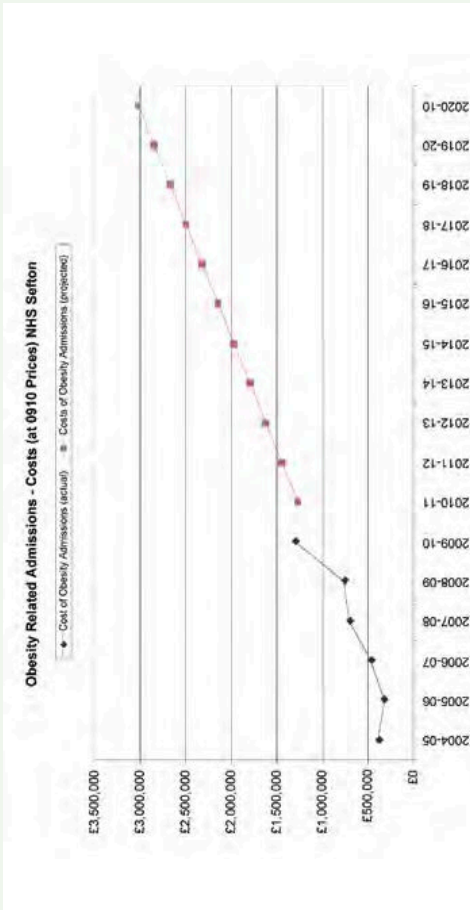
## Obesity

The ill-health costs associated with the treatment of preventable lifestyle-associated diseases such as Type 2 diabetes are enormous and ever increasing. For example 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: A toolkit for Developing Local Strategies' 2008 estimated the annual costs to the NHS, for each local Primary Care Trust, of diseases related to overweight and obesity and obesity by itself.

Estimated annual costs to NHS Sefton of diseases related to overweight and obesity	Estimated annual costs to NHS Sefton of diseases related to obesity
2007 82.1m	2007 42.6m
2010 85.2m	2010 46.1m
2015 91.1m	2015 52.9m

Local information and data from hospital-related obesity admissions in Sefton show that costs have quadrupled in the last 5 years (2004/05-2009/10). If this trend were to continue, the costs in five years could be £2m and in ten years could be £3m.

Cost (2009-10 equivalent)	Obesity
2004-05	£381,945
2005-06	£319,373
2006-07	£462,822
2007-08	£698,222
2008-09	£756,496
2009-10	£1,299,789



## What Works?

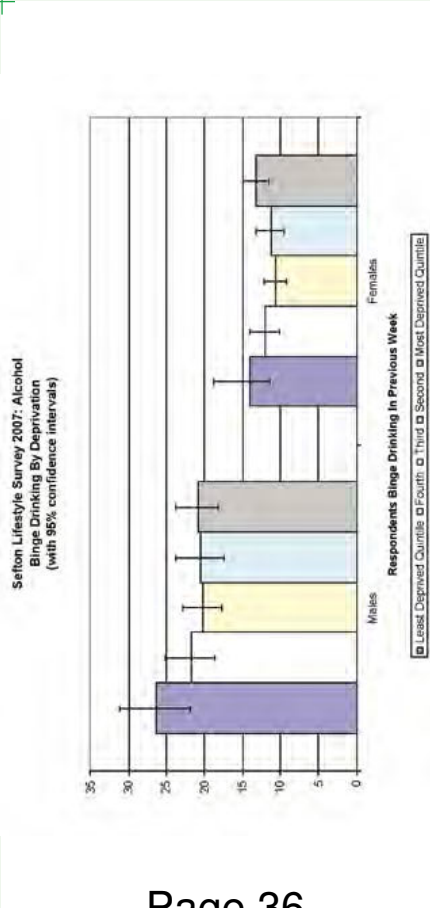
As well as the actual finance costs of obesity related-diseases, the cost of obesity on life expectancy has recently been quantified. This shows that moderate obesity (Body Mass Index - BMI 30-35) was found to reduce life expectancy by an average of three years, while morbid obesity (BMI 40-50) reduced life expectancy by eight to ten years. This eight to ten-year loss of life is equivalent to the effects of lifelong smoking.

Marmot makes a number of recommendations to strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention and thus to tackle health inequalities. Sefton has already started implementing a number of these as follows:

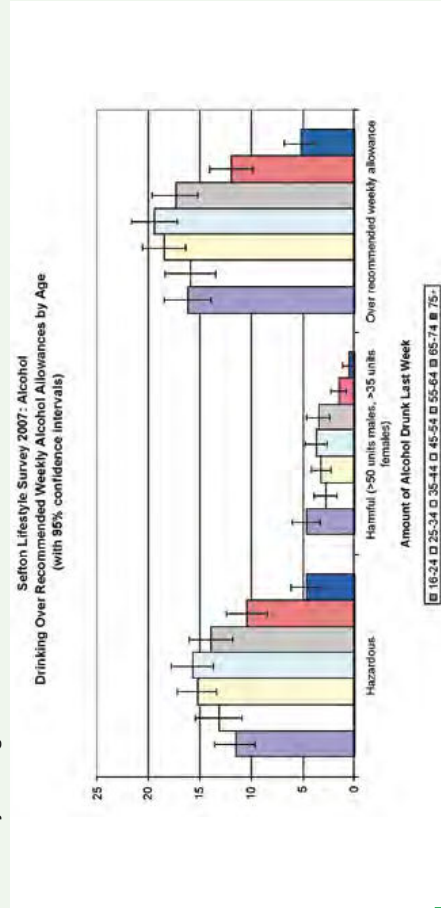
**Investing in public health and ill-health prevention will help to 'build the foundations of a healthier population for the future.'**



Similar to harmful drinking, binge drinking is most common in the least and most deprived quintiles - in these areas more than 1 in 4 people are estimated to binge drink. Levels are most noticeably higher in the least deprived males.



Binge drinking generally decreases with age, but females aged 25-34 years are the group most likely to binge drink.





## 1. Prioritise investment in prevention across government departments

### The Public Health Partnership (PHP)

The PHP was formed in 2005 to implement the six 'Choosing Health' priority areas of alcohol, food, mental health, physical activity, sexual health and smoking. The PHP has commitment from key Strategic Directors from Sefton Local Authority, Sefton PCT and Sefton Council for Voluntary Services and sub-groups include senior representatives from across the organisations. Targets are agreed, services are commissioned and performance managed.

Work has progressed with significant impact. For example, a new sexual health service has been commissioned, a paid peer support breastfeeding service 'Brest Start' has been developed with the Third Sector, smoking rates in the most deprived wards have fallen faster than the rest of Sefton and a range of social prescribing interventions, such as 'Relax and Revive' and 'Creative Alternatives', have been established. The PHP has strengthened joint working across organisations and continues to press public health priorities.

### Health Inequalities Investment Programme

008/9 the PCT Board earmarked 0.5% (1.1m) of the PCT budget to support a programme for tackling significant inequalities in health experienced in Sefton. The main areas for investment were developed to link with the Strategic Commissioning Plan, 2008-2013, 'Better Health Better Life', the main aim of which was to improve health and to

reduce health inequalities. Some of the essential infrastructure and capacity needed to be able to deliver against the Strategic Commissioning Plan priorities, viz. smoking, obesity, alcohol, cardiovascular disease and mental ill-health are already in place.

*Royal Society of Public Health Partnership Award*  
In September 2008 Sefton PCT, Sefton Local Authority and Sefton Council for Voluntary Services were the first national partnership to be awarded the 'Health Promotion and Community Well-being Organisation and Partnership Award' by the Royal Society of Public Health. This was national recognition of the work achieved by the organisations on health promotion. Work is progressing with partner organisations, such as the Fire and Rescue Service, One Vision Housing and the Third Sector, to develop these organisation as health promoting ones in preparation for securing the award for a further three years.



## CASE STUDY: One Vision Housing (OVH)

A Health Promotion officer post was created jointly between NHS Sefton and One Vision Housing in 2009 to develop and promote residents' health through increased community involvement and engagement and also to develop and promote health for OVH staff. OVH stock is located in some of the most deprived areas in Sefton.

Some outcomes achieved include: the establishment of an active cheer-leading troop for young people aged between 10 and 16 years, participation of men aged 55+ years in 'cooking on a budget' course which also taught them the importance of reducing salt, sugar and fat, stop-smoking sessions for staff and a programme of weekly walks (in all weathers!). Other spin-offs include working in partnership with other organisations such as Women's Royal Voluntary Service (WRVS) to set up fresh fruit and vegetable pick up points within OVH high rise flats, sheltered accommodation and community centres (with OVH tenants running the schemes), links and support to the WRVS Good Neighbours scheme that supports older OVH residents through a befriending and visiting service.

## Population-wide interventions on smoking, alcohol and obesity, which are evidence-based, are needed to reduce the social gradient but they may need to be targeted towards particular groups.

### 2. Implement evidence-based ill-health preventive interventions

#### Reducing smoking

Smoking is a major risk factor for three of the main contributors to the gap in life expectancy in Sefton - cardiovascular disease, lung cancer and respiratory disease. The work undertaken on the Smokefree Strategy for Sefton has included a range of interventions such as developing Smokefree Homes, implementing the national legislation for Smokefree places, targeting people in priority groups such as men and young women and having a quality Stop Smoking Service. Sefton has seen the overall smoking prevalence drop from 23% in 2003 to 18% in 2007, (data from Sefton Lifestyle surveys). Smoking rates are highest in the most deprived areas but prevalence is falling fastest in the most deprived areas with 11.8% reduction over four years compared with 2.4% in other areas of Sefton. This is mainly due to targeted interventions and an example of how proportionate universalism can be applied locally.

#### Reducing Alcohol consumption

The Sefton Alcohol Harm Reduction Strategy is working towards vital sign and local targets of 'reducing the current rate of increase in alcohol-related hospital admissions by 1% per annum', set against the context of actual increase of 12% per annum between 2002/3 and 2007/8.

In 2008/2009, we did have some success in reducing the rate of admission but, unfortunately, the quarterly figures for 2009/2010 is showing that we are above target. We will continue with our evidence-based campaigns and will refine and target them better. Current campaigns include the 'Best Bar None' award, brief intervention training packages for primary care staff, profiling of alcohol admissions by use of Mosaic intelligence package and the most recent 'It's Your Choice' campaign.

### Addressing Obesity

Sefton is committed to tackling obesity in children and in adults and aims to increase physical activity levels and improve healthy food and nutrition uptake rates. The PHP sub-groups have piloted a range of programmes using the 'Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives' toolkit. Some examples of local action include:

Some examples of local action include:

### Children: healthy growth and healthy weight

- Excellent coverage is being achieved in the National Child Measurement programme, measuring height and weight of children in reception year and Year 6.
- A Child Health Promotion Programme has been launched locally.
- The 'Appetite for Life' programme is promoting healthy eating through childminders and nursery staff.
- Pram walks, funded by NHS Sefton, is being provided by the Local Authority.

### Promoting healthier food choices

- A free phone number - Healthy Sefton 0300 100 1000, is streamlining access to lifestyle services, including access to healthy food and practical cooking courses.
- Fruit and vegetable co-ops promoting healthy options are thriving.
- Healthy vending machines are being piloted in different settings.

### Building physical activity into our lives

- School travel plans are in place in several schools.
- Programmes for cycling and walking are available widely.
- A strategic plan for 'Green Space' is in place.

### Personalised advice and support

- Community weight management leaders' programme trains local people to run free community weight courses, including men-only courses.
- Lifestyle card training for a range of front line workers offers clear information and signposts to local services.

**The core efforts of public health departments should be focused on interventions related to the social determinants of health, proportionately across the gradient.**

**3. Building public health capacity to reduce the social gradient**

*Public Health Workforce*

The Public Health Workforce comprises not just staff within the public health directorate but also the wider workforce, such as direct health care-givers and non-health professionals working in leisure services, children's services and community centres. A huge number have been trained to give health promotion messages and we have worked hard to develop capacity and capability at all levels.

It has been referenced in the Cheshire Merseyside Public Health Network Top 5 for commissioners for having a 'Strategic co-ordinated approach to behaviour change'. Our Lifestyle cards were one of the reasons - A range of lifestyle cards were developed after carrying out a training needs assessment across Sefton PCT, Sefton Local Authority and Sefton CVS staff on the six 'Choosing Health' priorities of alcohol, food, mental health, obesity, smoking, sexual health.

The cards aim to provide consistent public health messages for staff for them to deliver to the general public. A range of different training sessions were also developed and implemented according to the needs of the staff. A 'train the trainer' module was developed so that staff were trained to be able to cascade the training to their own staff.

A network has been set up to support the trainers and provide regular updates. Further lifestyle cards have been developed on breastfeeding, smoking and pregnancy and oral health. To date 1740 people have been trained in the Choosing Health Cards since Jan 2009. A further 1000 pocket sized cards have been distributed along with 200 A4 desk top sized cards.

*Social marketing as a tool to reduce health inequalities*

We have used social marketing techniques to inform targeted programmes - For example, by understanding the characteristics of smokers who were not accessing the Stop Smoking Service, the 'Money to Burn' campaign was launched. This work has seen an increase of 36% in numbers accessing the Stop Smoking Service from this specific group compared to the same period last year.

**What local action do we need to take?**

Health, Local Authority, CVS and other key partners need to work on the shared responsibility on ill-health prevention and health promotion to:

- Address and prevent ill-health behaviours which require both population and targeted action at different levels including individuals, local communities and local partner organisations.
- Ensure interventions are targeted proportionately across the social gradient to reduce health inequalities effectively.
- Review current mainstream services, using tools, such as health equity impact assessment and the new Single Equality Duty, to demonstrate their impact on health inequalities.
- Implement the range of NICE guidance on public health interventions. Increased investment in public health is key to increasing efficiency in the health service".



# Agenda Item 4

**KEY MESSAGES...**

- **Inaction on ill-health prevention and health promotion cannot be afforded, given the increasing costs associated with illness.**
- **We need to target our collective resources across partner organisations to areas and groups of highest need, whilst maintaining universal levels of service.**
- **We must engage and empower individuals and our local communities to take control of their own lives.**
- **We need to ensure that all staff across local organisations and members of the community and voluntary sectors are trained to deliver evidence-based messages and have the skills to work with the local community.**



**FIND OUT MORE...**

Royal Society of Public Health, Promoting Health and Well-being: Reducing Health Inequalities (Dec 2009) <http://www.rsph.org.uk/en/policy-and-projects/projects/commissioning-tool-for-health-promotion.cfm>



**This report has been Equality Impact Assessed. We will continue to make the case for equality, that individuals should be given equal access and opportunities, whatever their age, race, sex, sexual orientation, religion or belief, disability or transgender status. We look forward to working with a wide range of partners to achieve this goal.**



If you require this document in a different format such as Braille, large print or another language, please call PALS on 0800 218 2233 or if you would like further information please e-mail [enquires@sefton.nhs.uk](mailto:enquires@sefton.nhs.uk)

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# Agenda Item 6

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 25 November 2010

**SUBJECT:** Treasury Management 2010/11 Mid Year Review

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** John Farrell  
Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT  
Strategy

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Jeff Kenah  
Corporate Finance Manager  
0151 934 4104

**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To review Treasury Management Activities undertaken in the first half of 2010/11 against the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy document 2010/11.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

To comply with the requirements of the Council's Treasury Management Policy Statement.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

Cabinet is requested to note the Treasury Management Mid-year Review for 2010/11.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

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

# Agenda Item 6

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

This report is put before Cabinet in order to comply with the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy document 2010/11 that was approved by Cabinet in March 2010.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Compliance with the Policy and Strategy Documents, incorporating appropriate reporting, will enable the Council to secure the most favourable terms for raising funds, maximise returns on investments whilst at all time minimising the level of risk to which it is exposed.

**Financial:** There are no additional financial implications as a result of the report.

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	---	---	---	---
Funded by:	---	---	---	---
Sefton Capital Resources	---	---	---	---
Specific Capital Resources	---	---	---	---
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
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?				

# Agenda Item 6

**Legal:** None.

**Risk Assessment:** Compliance with the Policy and Strategy Documents minimise the level of risk to which the Council is exposed.

**Asset Management:** None.

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Discussion with the Council's Treasury Management Advisor – Sector Treasury Services.

## CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

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

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

None.



# Agenda Item 6

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy document for 2010/11 (approved by Council on 4 March 2010) included a requirement for a mid-year review of treasury management activities in 2010/11. This report is the first of such documents and presents relevant treasury management information for the period ending 30 September 2010. The strategy document also requires us to produce a quarterly update on treasury management activity. The quarterly report will be included as part of this mid-year review and no separate quarterly report will be issued for the second quarter to September 2010.
- 1.2 The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's (CIPFA) Code of Practice on Treasury Management (revised November 2009) was adopted by this Council on 4 March 2010.

The primary requirements of the Code are as follows:

- Creation and maintenance of a Treasury Management Policy Statement which sets out the policies and objectives of the Council's treasury management activities.
- Creation and maintenance of Treasury Management Practices which set out the manner in which the Council will seek to achieve those policies and objectives.
- Receipt by the full council of an annual Treasury Management Strategy Statement - including the Annual Investment Strategy and Minimum Revenue Provision Policy for the year ahead, a Mid-year Review Report and an Annual Report covering activities during the previous year.
- Delegation by the Council of responsibilities for implementing and monitoring treasury management policies and practices and for the execution and administration of treasury management decisions.
- Delegation by the Council of the role of scrutiny of treasury management strategy and policies to a specific named body. For this Council the delegated body is:

This mid-year report has been prepared in compliance with CIPFA's Code of Practice, and covers the following:

- An economic update for the first six months of 2010/11
- A review of the Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy
- A review of the Council's investment portfolio for 2010/11
- A review of interest earned
- A review of the Council's borrowing strategy for 2010/11
- A review of any debt rescheduling undertaken during 2010/11
- A review of compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits for 2010/11

## 2 ECONOMIC UPDATE

### 2.1 Global economy

The sovereign debt crisis peaked in May 2010 prompted, in the first place, by major concerns over the size of the Greek government's total debt and annual deficit. However, any default or write down of Greek debt would have substantial impact on other countries, in particular, Portugal, Spain and Ireland. This crisis culminated in the EU and IMF putting together a €750bn support package in mid May.

Growth in the US, UK and the Euro zone in quarter 2 of 2010 was particularly driven by strong growth in the construction sector catching up from inclement weather earlier in the year and is unlikely to be repeated; general expectations are for much more subdued figures for the remainder of 2010. Market expectations for all three sectors of the economy is that these have all peaked and are pointing downwards, though not necessarily in to negative territory.

### 2.2 UK economy

Following the general election in May 2010, the coalition government has put in place a plan to carry out a reduction of the public sector deficit over the next five years. The inevitable result of fiscal contraction will be major job losses during this period as has been highlighted in the press. This will have a knock on effect on consumer and business confidence. House prices have started a negative trend during the summer and mortgage approvals are at very weak levels and also declining.

**Economic Growth** – GDP growth is likely to have peaked at 1.2% in quarter 2 of 2010.

**Unemployment** – the trend of falling unemployment (on the benefit claimant count) has now been replaced since July with small increases which are likely to be the start of a new trend of rising unemployment.

**Inflation and Bank Rate** – the Consumer Price Index (CPI) has remained high so far during 2010. It peaked at 3.7% in April and has fallen back to 3.1% in September. The Retail Price Index (RPI) remains high, at 4.6% in September. Although inflation has remained stubbornly above the MPC's 2% target, the MPC is confident that inflation will fall back under the target over the next two years. The last quarterly Inflation Report in August showed a significant undershoot after the end of 2011.

The Bank of England finished its programme of quantitative easing with a total of £200bn in November 2009 (although there is currently some increase in expectations that there might be a second round of quantitative easing).

The view of our treasury consultants, Sector, is that there is unlikely to be any increase in Bank Rate until the middle of 2011.

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**AAA rating** – prior to the general election, credit rating agencies had been issuing repeated warnings that unless there was a major fiscal contraction, then the AAA sovereign rating was at significant risk of being downgraded. Sterling was also under major pressure during the first half of the year. However, after the Chancellor’s budget on 22 June, Sterling has strengthened against the US dollar and confidence has returned that the UK will retain its AAA rating. In addition, international investors now view UK government gilts as being a safe haven from EU government debt. The consequent increase in demand for gilts has helped to add downward pressure on gilt yields and PWLB rates.

2.3 Our Treasury Consultants, Sector, project bank base interest rates and PWLB borrowing rates to be as follows:

	Sep-10	Dec-10	Mar-11	Jun-11	Sep-11	Dec-11	Mar-12	Jun-12	Sep-12	Dec-12	Mar-13	Jun-13
Bank rate	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.50%	0.75%	1.00%	1.25%	1.50%	2.00%	2.50%	3.00%	3.25%
5yr PWLB rate	2.20%	2.20%	2.20%	2.40%	2.60%	2.80%	3.00%	3.30%	3.60%	3.80%	4.10%	4.40%
10yr PWLB rate	3.30%	3.30%	3.30%	3.40%	3.70%	3.90%	4.00%	4.30%	4.40%	4.60%	4.60%	4.90%
25yr PWLB rate	4.20%	4.20%	4.30%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.70%	4.70%	4.80%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%
50yr PWLB rate	4.20%	4.20%	4.30%	4.30%	4.40%	4.50%	4.70%	4.70%	4.80%	5.00%	5.00%	5.00%

## 3 TREASURY MANAGEMENT STRATEGY STATEMENT AND ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY UPDATE

The Treasury Management Strategy Statement (TMSS) for 2010/11 was approved by this Council on 4 March 2010. The Council’s Annual Investment Strategy, which is incorporated in the TMSS, outlines the Council’s investment priorities as follows:

- Security of capital
- Liquidity

The Council will also aim to achieve the optimum return (yield) on investments commensurate with the proper levels of security and liquidity. In the current economic climate it is considered appropriate to keep investments short term (maximum investment period of 12 months), and only invest with highly credit rated financial institutions, using Sector’s suggested creditworthiness approach, including sovereign credit rating and credit default swap (CDS) overlay information.

A breakdown of the Council’s investment portfolio is shown in Section 4 of this report.



Borrowing rates have been at historically low rates during the first six months of the 2010/11 financial year. Any new external borrowing undertaken has been identified in Section 6 of this report.

Investments and borrowing during the first six months of the year have been in line with the strategy.

As outlined in Section 2 above, there is still considerable uncertainty and volatility in the financial and banking market, both globally and in the UK. Against this background it is considered that the strategy approved on 4 March 2010 is still applicable in the current economic climate.

## 4 INVESTMENTS HELD

4.1 Investments held at the end of September 2010 comprise the following:

### Immediate access deposits

Institution	Deposit £m	Rate %	Maturity date	On current counterparty list?
Santander Group	5.000	0.80	N/A	Yes
Natwest	5.000	0.80	N/A	Yes
Blackrock MMF	6.890	0.56	N/A	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<u>16.890</u>			

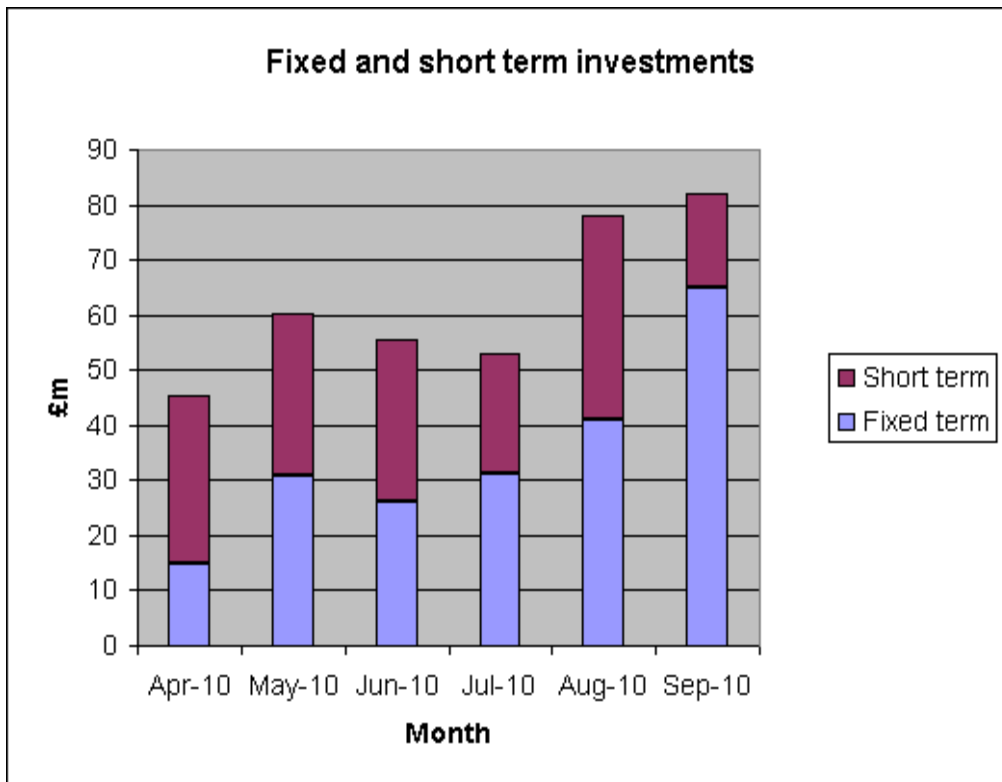
### Fixed term deposits

Clydesdale	15.000	0.75	14/10/2010	Yes
Barclays	6.000	0.92	18/11/2010	Yes
Barclays	5.000	0.90	17/11/2010	Yes
Barclays	4.000	0.90	01/03/2011	Yes
Lloyds	5.000	1.82	30/11/2010	Yes
Natwest	10.000	1.32	30/11/2010	Yes
Santander	10.000	1.32	14/04/2011	Yes
Lloyds	10.000	1.70	22/09/2011	Yes
<b>Total</b>	<u>65.000</u>			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u><u>81.890</u></u>			

4.2 All of the organisations are on the current counterparty list. The maximum level of investment permitted in any one institution, or banking group, is currently £25m. Whilst the maximum should be retained, in case conditions change, a day to day operational maximum of £15m is currently being imposed. This will spread the risk of investments for the Council, but will have a small detrimental impact on the returns the Council will receive in the future.

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- 4.3 It should be noted that the deposit with Clydesdale is a 15 day notice account, which until recently had been an immediate access account. An immediate access account is available with Clydesdale but at a much lower rate of interest. This move away from immediate access accounts paying above the Bank of England base rate will continue as banks are required to hold larger capital balances, and hence wish to move away from immediate access accounts which pay above the base rate. This move may cause us to use our money market fund accounts more regularly as they still pay a rate of interest above the base rate.
- 4.4 The ratio of overnight deposits (i.e. short term) to fixed term investments is illustrated below:



The standard lending list is contained within appendix A

## 5 INTEREST EARNED

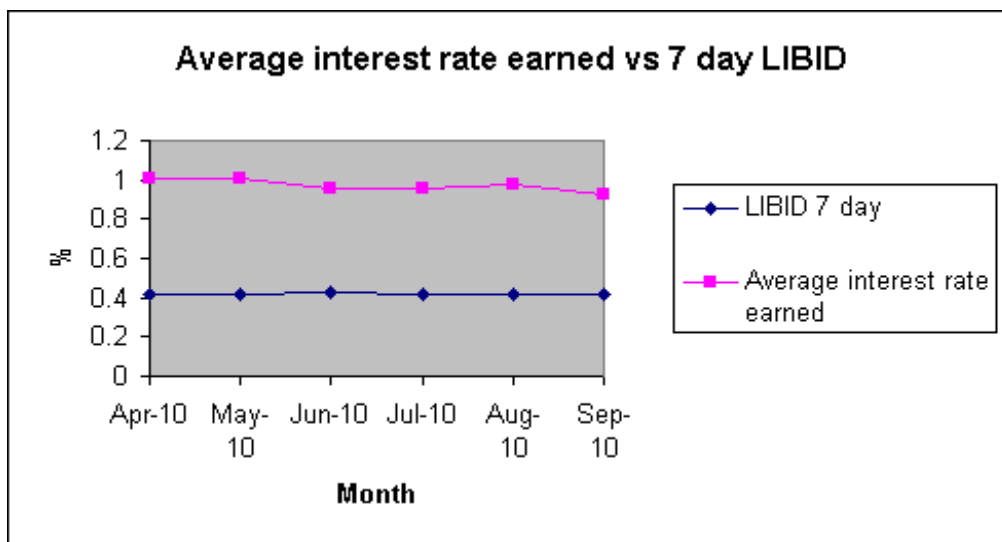
- 5.1 The actual performance of investments against the profiled budget for the period to 30 September is shown below:

	Budget £'000s	Actual £'000s	Variance £'000s
To 30 September	96	264	168

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- 5.2 The original budget of investment income for 2010/11 was £0.228m (which equated to an average interest rate of 0.515%), was based on investments in place at 1st April 2010.
- 5.3 The investment income achieved during the first half year is £0.264m, which equates to an average interest rate of 0.97%.

We have outperformed the 7 day LIBID average (standard measure of performance for local authorities) as follows:



## 6 NEW BORROWING

The Council's capital financing requirement (CFR) for 2010/11 is £200m. The CFR denotes the Council's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes. If the CFR is positive the Council may borrow from the PWLB or the market (external borrowing) or from internal balances on a temporary basis (internal borrowing). The balance of external and internal borrowing is generally driven by market conditions. Due to the high cost of borrowing as against the low level of interest rates earned on investments, the Council had taken the decision to internally borrow.

Due to a fall in PWLB interest rates on short term loans in recent months, new external borrowing of £20m was undertaken from the PWLB on 31/08/2010 and this has had the impact of reducing our level of internal borrowing. Two loans were taken out, one for £10m over five years at a rate of 1.86%, and one at £10m over six years at a rate of 2.17%. The Council's current level of PWLB borrowing at September 2010 is £131.65m.

As outlined below, the general trend has been a reduction in interest rates during the six months, across all bands, with the low points occurring in the middle to end of August. The high points were in early to mid April. However,



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following the Comprehensive Spending Review, an additional 1% has been added to the cost of borrowing rates for new borrowings from PWLB with effect from 20 October 2010. By taking the £20m additional borrowing in August the Council has fortuitously the 1% levy. However, future borrowings will be affected; this will impact on our revenue position compared to budget.

It is not anticipated that further borrowing will be undertaken during this financial year.

## **7 DEBT RESCHEDULING**

Debt rescheduling opportunities have been limited in the current economic climate and consequent structure of interest rates. During the first six months of the year, no debt rescheduling was undertaken.

## **8 PRUDENTIAL INDICATOR MONITORING**

8.1 Prudential indicators are an integral component of measuring how prudently a Council is acting with regard to its finances. They were introduced into all local authorities (by CIPFA) following the Local Government Act 2003. A number of measures/limits/parameters including capital financing, external debt, impact on council tax, and treasury management are set prior to the start of the year and are monitored on a monthly basis.

8.2 It should be noted that two of the prudential indicators have been breached.

(i) The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) limit has been breached by £0.85m. This is because when the indicator was calculated an assumed asset value of £6m was used in respect of the Crosby Leisure Centre PFI scheme, the valuation being supplied by Sector, our Treasury Management Consultants. The actual value of the asset at 31 March 2010 as valued by Capita Symonds was £7.525m, which has caused the breach. This issue was reported in the Prudential Indicators Outturn report 2009/10 as presented to Cabinet on 8 July 2010. This indicator will be monitored over the coming months and a revision of the indicator may be put forward; and

(ii) The Interest Rate Exposure Indicators has been exceeded:

- The limits for fixed rate interest rate exposure expressed as a percentage of net outstanding debt were set to remain between 200% and 120%.
- The limits for variable rate interest rate exposure expressed as a percentage of net outstanding debt were set to remain between -20% and -100%.

8.4 The above indicators are there to prevent either too much investment in fixed or variable interest rate arrangements. This is to ensure a reasonable balance between fixed rate investments where cash is locked away, and variable rate

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investments that earn a lower rate of interest but give more immediate access to funds.

- 8.5 The variance in both of these indicators is due to the higher level of overnight deposits being held than originally envisaged. As noted in paragraph 2.3, the problem of identifying institutions with which to invest has meant higher levels of investments in liquid funds, including Money Market Funds. Although these deposits do not earn as much income as fixed term deposits, they are felt to be safer in current economic conditions due the immediate access to funds that they allow. Hence, this breaching of these indicators may continue over coming months, and no corrective action is considered necessary. If monitoring does suggest that these indicators will continue to be breached, a revision of the indicators may be put forward.
- 8.6 The breaching of these indicators has been caused by specific reasons which are not considered to be an indication of any inherent problems.

## **9 RECOMMENDATION**

Cabinet is asked to note the Treasury Management Mid-year Review Report 2010/11.

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## APPENDIX A

### SEFTON COUNCIL STANDARD LENDING LIST

<u>UK and International Banks (including Nationwide Building Society</u>	RATING	Negative rating watch?	Individual rating	Support rating	CDS	Deposit £000s
<b><u>United Kingdom AAA</u></b>						
Santander UK)	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	Monitoring	
Barclays	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	In range	
Clydesdale Bank	F1+ / AA-	Yes	C	1	N/A	
HSBC	F1+ / AA	Yes	B	1	In range	
Lloyds TSB/HBOS - nationalised	F1+ / AA-		C	1	N/A	
RBS Group – nationalised	F1+ / AA-	Yes	C/D	1	N/A	
Nationwide	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	Monitoring	
<b><u>Canada AAA</u></b>						
Bank of Montreal	F1+ / AA-		B	1	N/A	
Bank of Nova Scotia	F1+ / AA-		B	1	N/A	
Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	N/A	
Royal Bank of Canada	F1+ / AA	Yes	A/B	1	N/A	
Toronto Dominion Bank	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	N/A	
<b><u>Finland AAA</u></b>						
Nordea Bank	F1+ / AA-		B	1	N/A	
<b><u>France AAA</u></b>						
BNP Paribas	F1+ / AA	Yes	B	1	In range	
CNCE Calyon Corporate & Investment	F1+ / AA-	Yes	C	1	Monitoring	
Credit Industriel et Commercial	F1+ / AA-		B/C	1	N/A	
<b><u>Germany AAA</u></b>						
Deutsche Bank	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B/C	1	In range	
Landwirtschaftliche retenbank <b><u>Netherlands AAA</u></b>	F1+/AAA		W/D	1	N/A	
Bank Nederlandse Gemeenten	F1+ / AAA		A	1	N/A	



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<b><u>UK and International Banks (including Nationwide Building Society)</u></b>	<b>RATING</b>	<b>Negative rating watch?</b>	<b>Individual rating</b>	<b>Support rating</b>	<b>CDS</b>	<b>Deposit £000s</b>
Coop Centrale Raiffeisen – Boerenleenbank BA	F1+ / AA+	Yes	A/B	1	In range	
<b><u>Singapore AAA</u></b>						
DBS	F1+ / AA-		B	1	In range	
Overseas Chinese Banking Corporation	F1+ / AA-		B	1	In range	
United Overseas Bank	F1+ / AA-		B	1	In range	
<b><u>Sweden AAA</u></b>						
Nordea Bank	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	N/A	
Svenska Handelsbanken	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	In range	
<b><u>Switzerland AAA</u></b>						
Credit Suisse	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B/C	1	In range	
<b><u>USA AAA</u></b>						
Bank of New York Mellon	F1+ / AA-		A/B	2	N/A	
Deutsche Bank Trust Company Americas	F1+ / AA-	Yes	N/R	1	N/A	
HSBC Bank USA	F1+ / AA	Yes	B/C	1	N/A	
JP Morgan Chase Bank	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	In range	
Wells Fargo	F1+ / AA-	Yes	B	1	In range	

The recent economic situation has provided challenges for the Council with regard to its investment strategy. The report presented to Cabinet on 11 June 2009 explained the difficulties in identifying banking institutions to invest in (which provided reasonable investment returns), whilst remaining within the deposit limit of £15m. Consequently, Cabinet agreed to increase the deposit limit from £15m to £25m. As noted in 4.2 above, the Council has remained within an operational boundary of £15m. At present, it is not expected that

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**REPORT TO:** Cabinet  
Council

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**SUBJECT:** Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention Fund

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Bill Milburn  
Strategic Director (Communities)

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** Mike Martin – Tele: 0151 934 3506  
David Street – Tele: 0151 934 2751

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To seek approval for the inclusion of a Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision within the Capital Programme, funded from the proceeds of asset disposals, to address on-going property management issues.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Cabinet approval is required to recommend to Council the establishment of a Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision within the Capital Programme, and the changes in the Scheme of Delegation within the Constitution as described in this report.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1. Recommend to Council the establishment of a £500,000 Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision within the Capital Programme to be funded and maintained from capital receipts derived from asset disposals.
2. Recommend to Council that the management responsibility for the Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision be delegated to the Strategic Director (Communities) in conjunction with the Head of Corporate Finance and IS and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.



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It is recommended that Council agree:-

- a) The establishment of a £500,000 Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision within the Capital Programme to be funded and maintained from capital receipts derived from asset disposals.
- b) That the management responsibility for the Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision be delegated to the Strategic Director (Communities) in conjunction with the Head of Corporate Finance and IS and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

**KEY DECISION:** None

**FORWARD PLAN:** None

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Immediately following Council

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

Cabinet/Council could choose not to accept the recommendations which would mean that all routine property intervention issues of the nature described in the report would need to be reported to Cabinet and Council in order to be included within the Capital Programme, which could lead to inordinate delays in the commencement of work, particularly if the requirement is of an emergency nature.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None

**Financial:**

The proposal is to establish a £500,000 provision within the Capital Programme from the current year's proceeds of asset disposals and to maintain that provision at that level as it is utilised by top slicing future capital receipts going forward.

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<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N No	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	.			

**Legal:**

The recommended protocol will require a change to the Scheme of Delegation within the Council's Constitution.

**Risk Assessment:**

The fund will enable the Council to manage its property risks more effectively.

**Asset Management:**

The fund will assist the Council in managing its property portfolio in a more effective manner by enabling interventions that will either reduce risk or maximise opportunities to create additional value or minimise revenue expenditure

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

FD 562 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.  
Legal Dept, Strategic Asset Management Group

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## CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

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

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

Asset Management Report 2010.

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Members will recall that up to 2009/10 a New Starts Capital Programme (NSCP) was agreed as part of the budget setting process, funded primarily from specific allocations and approvals from central Government, with the addition of agreed prudential borrowing identified within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan. The NSCP was also supported by any anticipated proceeds from asset disposals expected during the year. As a reflection of the Council's financial position, a New Starts Capital Programme was not approved for the current year and a number of Capital provisions for addressing routine property interventions were deleted from the 2009/10 budget.
- 1.2 The absence of this funding from the Capital Programme means that there is no provision to facilitate works (interventions) that frequently arise within the Council's asset holdings, given the size of the portfolio and diverse cross-section of property types. Examples include health and safety matters (including urgent demolitions), compliance with urgent Disability Discrimination Act issues and progressing "invest to save" opportunities (including accommodation relocations). Consequently, the only way to address such issues is to take individual and specific reports to both Cabinet & Council to have each emerging issue added to the Capital Programme, this has the potential to lead to delays in the commencement of works, which is particularly problematic if the requirement is of an urgent or emergency nature.
- 1.3 There is a growing appreciation of the impact that the "Credit Crunch" and subsequent recession has had on property asset values in the UK and Sefton has not been immune to these impacts. The value of Council assets has been diminished and surplus assets that would have sold readily in the recent past struggle to achieve more than opportunistic or speculative enquiries. However, there is still a market for certain assets, typically existing buildings in need of renovation or small development sites in good residential locations that need minimal investment in infrastructure. It is this type of asset that is likely to form part of a limited asset disposal programme over the next few years.

## **2.0 Proposal**

- 2.1 The Strategic Asset Management Group (SAMG) has formulated a proposal to recommend to Cabinet and Council that will, if accepted, help improve asset management arrangements and allow the types of issues outlined above to be routinely progressed without constant referral to both Cabinet and Council for inclusion in the Capital Programme. The proposal involves the establishment of a Property Interventions provision within the Capital Programme, funded initially from the proceeds of asset disposals received since 1 April 2010. It is recommended that this provision be established in the sum of £500,000 and maintained at this level as it is utilised by top slicing further capital receipts at the end of each financial year.



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- 2.2 It is difficult to accurately predict the level of use of such a fund and it is possible that in some years it will be fully expended and in other years that it will carry over a substantial proportion into the following financial year. If asset receipts are not generated within any year then the Property Intervention fund will not be “topped up”.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Property Intervention provision be managed by the Strategic Director (Communities) in his capacity as Chair of SAMG and that he, in conjunction with the Head of Corporate Finance and IS, be given delegated authority by Council to authorise allocations from the provision as and when required.
- 2.4 In order to ensure effective governance of this funding it is proposed that a report on the previous year’s utilisation of the Property Intervention provision will be presented to Cabinet at the beginning of each Municipal Year.
- 2.5 Members are aware that in the current economic climate with reduced activity and low values the Council may be ill advised to seek to dispose of its major assets. Nevertheless, some activity does continue which would allow the establishment of the Property Intervention fund without seeking base budget growth. Should Members agree to the recommendations of this report, the balance of asset receipts received, after generating/maintaining the Property Intervention fund will, as in the past, be utilised to repay existing borrowings with the benefit of reducing revenue costs.
- 2.6 Members will be kept fully informed as the economic climate improves and the prospect of generating significant income from asset disposals returns, in order that they may decide whether to utilise such returns for investments in specific facilities or Capital New Starts.

## **3.0 Recommendations**

- 3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet:-

Recommend to Council the establishment of a £500,000 Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision within the Capital Programme to be funded and maintained from capital receipts derived from asset disposals.

Recommend to Council that the management responsibility for the Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision be delegated to the Strategic Director (Communities) in conjunction with the Head of Corporate Finance and IS and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

- 3.2 It is recommended that Council agree:-

The establishment of a £500,000 Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision within the Capital Programme to be funded and maintained from capital receipts derived from asset disposals.

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That the management responsibility for the Strategic Asset Management Property Intervention provision be delegated to the Strategic Director (Communities) in conjunction with the Head of Corporate Finance and IS and that the Constitution be amended accordingly.

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# Agenda Item 8

**REPORT TO:** CABINET MEMBER, CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES  
CABINET

**DATE:** 16 NOVEMBER 2010  
25 NOVEMBER 2010

**SUBJECT:** PRESFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL - SPECIALIST SCHOOL  
STATUS:

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** MEOLS WARD

**REPORT OF:** PETER MORGAN  
STRATEGIC DIRECTOR - CHILDREN, SCHOOLS &  
FAMILIES

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** CHRIS DALZIEL (0151 934 3337)

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To seek approval for the scheme detailed in this report.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The Cabinet Member has delegated powers to approve the scheme and to refer the funding to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

- i). approve the proposed scheme, detailed in this report;
- ii). refer the funding to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

**KEY DECISION:** No.

**FORWARD PLAN:** Not appropriate.

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting.



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## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not appropriate.

## IMPLICATIONS:

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None.

**Financial:** There are no financial implications for the Council's general capital resources as all funding is from specific resources. The total cost of the scheme is £40,000 which will be funded from the Specialist Schools Programme grant (£20,000) and a further £20,000 from sponsorship raised by the school. The Specialist Schools Grant will finance the increase in capital expenditure as shown in the table below.

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	20,000			
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
Specialist Schools Grant	20,000			
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
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:** Not appropriate

**Risk Assessment:** There are no financial risks associated with this report as all funding is from specific resources.

**Asset Management:** In line with the School's Asset Management Plan.

## **CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

The Headteacher and Governors at Presfield Special School have been fully consulted.

The Department for Education has approved the capital scheme.

FD 535 - The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT Strategy has been consulted and has no comments on this report.

## **CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>		<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
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	✓		

## **LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:**

The scheme, detailed in this report, will contribute towards creating highly effective, inclusive learning environments for all age groups where learners can enjoy and achieve.

## **IMPACT UPON CHILDREN, SCHOOLS & FAMILIES TARGETS AND PRIORITIES:**

The proposal is in line with the partnership vision of 'working together to ensure children, young people and families are safe, healthy and achieve their potential'. The scheme will make a positive contribution to the CYPP priorities of:-

- ❖ narrowing the gap;
- ❖ think family and community;
- ❖ Safeguarding;
- ❖ Resourcing.

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

None.

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## **SPECIALIST SCHOOL STATUS: PRESFIELD SPECIAL SCHOOL**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 The Secretary of State has designated Presfield Special School as a Specialist College with a specialism in SEN Communication and Interaction with effect from 1 September 2010.
- 1.2 The grant funding applied for was £100,000 with a further £20,000 to be generated by the school, in unconditional sponsorship in cash or relevant goods. However, as a result of Government spending cuts, the Department for Education have confirmed that the grant has been reduced from £100,000 to £20,000 and the school has reduced its plans accordingly.

### **2. Proposed Scheme**

- 2.1 The school proposes to create a new sensory room at an estimated cost of £12,000 and a further £4,000 to provide new doors and a security system around the Community Room which will improve pupil safety. A new accessible toilet will also be created at a cost of £4,000.
- 2.2 The £20,000 sponsorship, raised by the school, will pay for an upgrade to the ICT system (£14,000), the refurbishment of the Community Room (£2,000) and will provide laptops and electronic notebooks for pupil use (£4,000).
- 2.3 The Governors have informed the Authority that, following the designation, the name of school will be changed to Presfield High School and Specialist College.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-
  - i). approve the proposed scheme, detailed in this report;
  - ii). refer the funding to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

# Agenda Item 9

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet  
Council

**DATE:** 25 November 2010  
16 December 2010

**SUBJECT:** Flood Risk Management

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Peter Moore  
Environmental and Technical Services Director

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** Graham Lymbery – Project Leader - Coastal Defence  
0151 934 2959

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to request inclusion of the projects detailed below in the Capital programme.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:** Part 4 of the Council's Constitution states that before capital expenditure is incurred, individual schemes should be submitted for approval.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

(1) Cabinet is requested to submit a recommendation to the Council that the following schemes be included in the Capital Programme to be fully funded from ringfenced Environment Agency grant and a Sefton Revenue contribution:

- (i) Claremont Avenue Maghull Land Drainage investigation - £35,000
- (ii) Thornton and Lunt Land Drainage Investigation - £39,000
- (iii) Dobbs Gutter Flood Alleviation Study - £41,000
- (iv) Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) - £120,000 (including £20k Revenue contribution)

(2) That Members note the grant application to the Environment Agency for the Moss Lane, Lydiate Flood Alleviation Scheme (£245,000) and that this be the subject of a further report following the outcome of the bid.

Council is requested to approve the recommendation set out in (1) above



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**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the Council meeting

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:**

**Financial:** There are no additional capital or revenue financial implications for the Council arising from these projects. All are fully covered by ringfenced Environment Agency Grants with the addition of a £20,000 revenue contribution towards the SWMP project from within the Council’s existing Land Drainage Works Budget.

	2010/11 £	2011/12 £	2012/13 £	2013/14 £
<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	215,000			
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources (revenue contribution)				
Specific Capital Resources	215,000			
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	N/a – these are one off grant funded projects.			

**Legal:**

**Risk Assessment:**

**Asset Management:** The schemes have been considered by the Strategic Asset Management Group.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

**FD 523** - The Acting Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

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

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

# Agenda Item 9

## 1. Background

1.1 The following schemes have received ringfenced grant-aid approval from the Environment Agency:

- i) **Claremont Avenue Maghull Land Drainage investigation £35,000**
- ii) **Thornton and Lunt Land Drainage Investigation £39,000**
- iii) **Dobbs Gutter Flood Alleviation Study £41,000**

These schemes will improve our understanding of flood risk in these areas, will set out how best to manage this and develop a business case for the Council to apply for further grant-aid from the Environment Agency.

- iv) **Surface Water Management Plan £120,000 (£100,000 ringfenced grant-aid plus £20,000 from the Council's 2010/11 Land Drainage Works Budget. )**

This project will document our understanding of flood risk from surface water and set out how best to manage this risk.

1.2 The following scheme will be the subject of a grant application to the Environment Agency:

- Moss Lane Lydiate, Flood Alleviation Scheme £245,000**

This scheme will reduce the flood risk currently experienced at this location.

## 2. Financial Implications

2.1 There are no additional capital or revenue financial implications arising from these projects as all are Grant-aided from the Environment Agency plus £20,000 from within the Council's Land Drainage Works Revenue Budget. Following completion of these investigations ,no further expenditure will be incurred on individual projects other than preparation of applications for further grant-aid approval from the Environment Agency.

# Agenda Item 10

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**SUBJECT:** Proposed New Post 16 Special Educational Needs Facility, Thornton

**WARDS AFFECTED:** Manor

**REPORT OF:** Peter Morgan  
Strategic Director for Children's Services.

Peter Moore  
Environmental and Technical Services Director

**CONTACT OFFICERS:** Chris Dalziel  
Children's Services  
0151 934 3337

David Kay  
Architecture and Buildings Manager  
Tel: 0151 934 4527

**EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:** To seek authorisation to waive the standing orders necessary to enable a negotiated contract to be placed for the works required to provide a new post 16 Special Educational Needs (SEN) facility at the site of the former Thornton CP School, Thornton.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:** The timescale for delivery of this project does not permit procurement via an traditional approach and authorisation to proceed as proposed is required in order to ensure that the projects required delivery date is met.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Authorise the appointment of Conlon Construction as preferred contractor.
- (ii) Subject to the conditions outlined in Paragraph 3.3, authorise the Environmental and Technical Services Director to enter into a formal contract with Conlon Construction for the delivery of the Thornton Special Educational Needs project.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** Not Appropriate

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**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

All alternative options have been considered and have been discounted.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Funding totalling £2,000,0000 is included in the Children’s Services Capital Programme for the works necessary to provide a new post 16 SEN facility on the site of the former Thornton CP School, Thornton.

**Financial**

Subject to Members approval it is proposed that a negotiated target cost will be identified with the preferred contractor and, provided the total scheme cost is contained within the funding available, a formal contract be entered into accordingly.

This will also be subject to the receipt of formal planning approval for the scheme.

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



**Legal:** Not appropriate

**Risk Assessment:** Not appropriate

**Asset Management:** Not Applicable

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

FD 559 The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has agreed to the Contract Procedure Rules being waived in this instance.

The Acting Head of Corporate Legal Services has also been consulted and has agreed to the Contract Procedure Rules being waived in this instance.

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

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

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

Report to Cabinet 2 September 2010: Capital Programme Review  
 Children's Services Capital Programme

# Agenda Item 10

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Funding of £2,000,000 has been made available in the form of a Targeted Capital Grant for the Authority to provide a new post 16 SEN facility for up to 70 pupils within the Borough.
- 1.2 The development of this specialised facility will enable the Authority to provide better post 16 learning for pupils with significant learning difficulties, providing better vocational training and relieving pressure on spaces in existing special schools. Additionally it is envisaged that students who currently attend Independent Specialist Provider Placements will in future attend the Thornton centre, reducing the cost of such placements in future years. This fits with the new responsibilities of the LA to commission such provision since the demise of the Learning and Skills Council.
- 1.3 The former Thornton CP School, which closed in July 2010, has been identified as the most appropriate site for the new facility and outline proposals have been developed for the extensions and alterations necessary to provide the teaching and other facilities necessary.
- 1.4 There are up to 16 pupils currently studying at schools within the borough who have indicated intent to commence studies at the new facility in September 2011. In the event that there is any doubt that the facility will not be ready then the parents of potential pupils may seek to find an alternative place for the 2011/12 school year at an increased cost to the Authority.
- 1.5 In addition the constraints placed upon the funding provision are such that the vast majority of the expenditure must be made before the end of August 2011.
- 1.6 There is therefore a severely constrained timetable for the successful delivery of this project.

## **2.0 Procurement Proposals**

- 2.1 The options for procurement of contractor(s) in order to ensure the delivery of construction works to the required timetable has been considered jointly by the Environmental and Technical Services and Children's Services Departments and the Authorities Technical Services consultant, Capita Symonds.
- 2.2 It is felt that the project timescale is now such that procurement by any traditional route, in full compliance with the Council's Constitution and Financial Regulations, will fail to deliver the project in sufficient time.
- 2.3 It is therefore proposed that a single contractor should be selected without formal tender but rather through an analysis of who is most likely to meet the project timescale requirements and yet still ensure the Authority of good value.

- 2.4 The 'preferred contractor' will provide input and work with Capita Symonds to develop an economical design solution and agree a target cost for the project. The preferred contractor would then act as main contractor to undertake competitive market testing for each specialist work package and thereby provide the Authority with reassurance of good value for these works.
- 2.5 The main contractors overhead and profit and site set up and preliminary costs will be established through negotiation but these can be benchmarked against similar projects that have been competitively tendered, to again provide reassurance that the Authority is in receipt of good value.
- 2.6 Following discussions Conlon Construction, currently undertaking the Netherton Activity Centre project, have been identified as being the most appropriate contractor to undertake this project having demonstrated a commitment to co-operative working both for Sefton and other authorities in the region. The Council's Audit Section has reviewed the process of selection.
- 2.7 In anticipation of this report to Cabinet, and without making full commitment at this stage, Conlon Construction have been approached and they have indicated that they would be pleased to be considered for the project.

### **3.0 Implementation Proposals**

- 3.1 Subject to Members approval it is proposed that Conlon Construction be immediately appointed as preferred contractor for the delivery of the proposed Thornton SEN facility.
- 3.2 Once a final target cost and total scheme cost has been identified it is proposed that, in order to further curtail the procurement timescale, a formal contract would be entered into with Conlon Construction without further reference to members.
- 3.3 Members are, in effect, being requested to give authorisation to proceed in advance. Such authorisation would however be subject to a number of caveats. The authorisation would be subject to:
  - 3.3.1 The total scheme cost being contained within the £2,000,000 funding provision identified.
  - 3.3.2 The receipt of planning approval for the proposed scheme.

### **4.0 Recommendations**

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- (i) Authorise the appointment of Conlon Construction as preferred contractor.
- (ii) Subject to the conditions outlined in Paragraph 3.3, authorise the Environmental and Technical Services Director to enter into a formal

# Agenda Item 10

contract with Conlon Construction for the delivery of the Thornton Special Educational Needs project.

# Agenda Item 11

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet

**DATE:** 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**SUBJECT:** Proposed Closure of Homelessness Unit – Windsor House, Southport

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Alan Lunt - Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Neil Woodhouse – Housing Options Manager  
0151-934 3627

**EXEMPT/ CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To set out the business case for the proposed closure of the homelessness unit at Windsor House, Manchester Road Southport

**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;

1. Approves the closure of Windsor House Homelessness Unit;
2. Instructs the Neighbourhoods and Investment Programmes Director to implement an appropriate personnel process in respect of staffing requirements in light of the proposed closure

**KEY DECISION:** N/A

**FORWARD PLAN:** N/A

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Upon the expiry of the call in period for the minutes of the meeting



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## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

The alternative option is to maintain Windsor House as a homeless unit. However, based upon current occupancy levels, this is not a cost effective solution and alternative accommodation exists in which to place homeless families on a temporary basis while more permanent housing is identified.

## IMPLICATIONS:

### Budget/Policy Framework:

**Financial:** The closure of Windsor house would secure a net revenue saving of £36,500 per annum including potential savings in staffing costs.

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources (HMRI –HCA)				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross <b>Reduction</b> in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources		11,500		
Funded from External Resources		25,000		
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/ <del>N</del>	When? 31/3/2011			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	N/a			

### Legal:

The Council has a statutory duty to house vulnerable families who are homeless. However, adequate provision exists within the borough to provide such accommodation following closure of Windsor House

### Risk Assessment:

The relative risks of closure have been considered in arriving at the recommendations

**Asset Management:**

Windsor House is a Council owned asset that could be put to an alternative use or sold to generate a capital receipt

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

FD 551 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report  
 Acting Head of Legal Services  
 Strategic Director for Children Schools and Families

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

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

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

None

# Agenda Item 11

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Local Authorities have a statutory duty to offer suitable accommodation to people who are homeless and in priority need.
- 1.2 In discharging it's duty, Sefton has two Homeless units for vulnerable families; a unit in Litherland offering 10 self contained flats and managed by a residential accommodation support manager and Windsor House, offering 5 flats and also managed by an accommodation support manager.
- 1.3 In recent years, the Government has shifted emphasis away from the provision of accommodation for homeless people and towards activity to prevent homelessness. As the council increasingly becomes successful at preventing those at risk of homelessness from becoming so, demand for accommodation at it's homeless units has reduced.
- 1.4 During the calendar year to August 31<sup>st</sup> 2010, occupation at Windsor House was 27%. The unit is currently empty as a result of a lack of demand. During the past year, vacancies did exist at the council's other unit, based in Lonsdale Road, Litherland, within which emergency re-housing could have been arranged for the tenants of Windsor House, thus consolidating homeless families adequately within Litherland while awaiting identification of more permanent accommodation. It is the opinion of the Housing Options Team Manager that it is not feasible to retain both units and closure of Windsor House – leaving 10 units of accommodation in Litherland – would meet identified emergency need adequately.
- 1.5 It is important to note that the units provide emergency accommodation to be utilised in cases of urgency for a short period of time while longer-term accommodation is found. If there was a case where the remaining unit was at capacity and additional accommodation was required, the short term need would be met by providing a rental bond to an appropriate private sector landlord.

## 2.0 Accommodation Details

- 2.1 Windsor House is located at 124-126 Manchester Road, Southport. It is a large double fronted Victorian property that was originally two separate semi-detached homes. It was converted to comprise;
  - 6 self contained flats
  - 1 office unit with combined mini-kitchen and attached w.c.
  - 1 large basement
  - Large rear garden
  - Limited parking spaces
- 2.2 Due to it's existing use, the property also has the following:
  - Fire escape
  - Fire and security alarm system

- 1 communal laundry area formed from part of the basement
- Full CCTV system
- Emergency lighting system

- 2.3 The building has been used for the last 6 years as a dedicated accommodation resource for applicants who are homeless and “vulnerable”. Prior to this period it had been used as accommodation as part of the Kosovar refugees program (1999 to 2004).
- 2.4 Of the six self contained flats, one is dedicated to a residential Accommodation Support Manager but due to recruitment difficulties in 2004 the accommodation has been managed without a resident manager, and as such this flat has remained empty. The other five flats have been used for homeless families.
- 2.5 If the decision to close the Windsor House unit is confirmed, then consideration would be given to potential future uses of the accommodation as well as to the potential disposal of the site.

### **3.0 Management of Homelessness Units**

- 3.1 In order to ensure effective management of the two homeless units, three accommodation support managers are employed to manage the units on a rota basis; One manager is a specific resource for Windsor House, one specifically for Lonsdale Road Litherland and a ‘peripatetic ‘ Manager who rotates between both units, covering leave, sickness etc. The duty rota is in effect two weeks on day shift plus one week on call.
- 3.2 If the decision to close the Windsor House unit is confirmed, then only two managers would be required in future.

### **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The closure of the Windsor House Homeless Unit would generate a revenue saving, a potential capital receipt OR would provide accommodation to meet other statutory requirements, without undermining the Council’s statutory duty to accommodate vulnerable households that are homeless.

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# Agenda Item 12

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member Technical Services  
Cabinet

**DATE:** 17th November 2010  
25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**SUBJECT:** Local Transport Plan – Allocation of Capital Contributions for  
2010/11 and 2011/12 Onwards

**WARDS** All  
**AFFECTED:**  
**REPORT OF:** Andy Wallis Director of Planning & Economic Development

**CONTACT** Stuart Waldron, Assistant Director Transport & Spatial Planning  
**OFFICER:** 0151 934 4006  
Stephen Birch, Team Leader STPU  
0151 934 4225  
K. Davies, Principal Officer LTP Co-ordination  
0151 934 4260

**EXEMPT/** No  
**CONFIDENTIAL:**

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To seek approval for the allocation of remaining capital contributions for transport schemes.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

For the Cabinet Member to make recommendations for allocation of amounts remaining from capital contributions to transport schemes.

Cabinet Member has delegated powers to approve the programme of schemes within the Local Transport Plan Transportation Capital Programme. The introduction of additional schemes that could be funded from these contributions requires Cabinet Member approval. In view of the ongoing review of the Council budget and the requirement to make savings, then Cabinet should give consideration as to how this uncommitted funding be allocated.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that Cabinet Member Technical Services:

- i) notes the resources available from capital contributions to transport schemes and the potential to allocate these resources to support the LTP capital programme.
- ii) advises Cabinet of the remaining capital contributions and the options for using them to support the transportation capital programme and seeks a Cabinet decision for the allocation of the available resources.

It is recommended that Cabinet:

- i) notes the resources available from capital contributions to transport schemes.
- ii) determines the allocation of available resources in accordance with the options presented.

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**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** N/A

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the 'call in 'period for the minutes of the meeting

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

Three options for allocation of the available capital resources are presented. The only alternative is to leave the funding un-allocated, which is not a feasible option given the current pressures on Council programmes.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:**

**Financial:** The report will facilitate the release of currently unallocated capital resources that were provided as contributions to transport schemes and approve the use of these resources to support existing programmes.

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

**Legal:**

**Risk Assessment:**

**Asset Management:**

<b>CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS</b>
Finance Department

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

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

<p><b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT</b></p> <p>Report to Council and Cabinet of 4<sup>th</sup> March 2010 – “2010/2011 – 2012/2013 Capital Programme”</p> <p>Report to Cabinet Member – Technical Services of 7<sup>th</sup> April 2010 – “2010/11 Local Transport Plan – Technical Services Capital Programme”</p> <p>Report to Cabinet Member – Technical Services of 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010 – “2010/11 Local Transport Plan – Revised Technical Services Capital Programme”</p> <p>Report to Cabinet Member – Technical Services 4<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and Cabinet of 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010 – “Area Based Grant reduction – effect on Merseyside Road Safety Camera Partnership”</p>
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# Agenda Item 12

## 1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 The Council's Transportation Capital Programme is approved on an annual basis as part of the Council's overall capital programme and in accordance with the Merseyside Local Transport Plan 5-year programme of investment. The total allocation is approved by Cabinet and the specific programme is approved by Cabinet Member.
- 1.2 The main component of Transportation Capital Funding is received through the Council's Single Capital Pot settlement but for some specific schemes, the Council has received additional contributions from third parties.
- 1.3 In June 2010, the Government announced changes to the Authority's 2010/11 Transportation Settlement involving reductions of £670k and £50k to the Integrated Transport Block and Drainage allocation respectively, as part of government savings for 2010/11. A revised programme incorporating these savings was approved by Cabinet Member on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2010.
- 1.4 Government savings in the allocation of Area Based Grant were also announced in June 2010. Cabinet Member Technical Services and Cabinet on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010 respectively considered a report detailing the impact of the in year reductions in the Area Based Grant funding used to fund the operation of the Merseyside Road Safety Partnership (formerly the Safety Camera Partnership). The report highlighted the consequential reduced contribution in 2010/11 used to fund Child Pedestrian Training across Merseyside, and the subsequent impact on staff resources in the Planning and Economic Development Department.
- 1.5 In considering these issues the Cabinet Member was aware that other posts relating to the provision of transport services, i.e. School Travel Plan Officer and Neighbourhood Travel Team were also on fixed term contracts. Many of these officers however, have been employed for a number of years and have gained employment rights.
- 1.6 Cabinet on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 2010, resolved:

*(1) it be noted that the Child Pedestrian Training Programme has a significant impact on improving road safety awareness in key stage 1 children, that this provides the foundation for all road safety education in Sefton and contributes greatly to the on-going reduction in child pedestrian casualty rates in the Borough;*

*(2) the cessation of the Area Based Grant funding of Child Pedestrian Training to a total of £21k in 2010/11 be noted;*

*(3) the Cabinet Member - Technical Services be requested to review the Local Transport Plan Capital Programmes to determine priorities for funding Child Safety, School and Workplace Travel Plan Programmes for 2010/11 and 2011/12 onwards; and*

*(4) a further report be submitted to the Cabinet Member – Technical Services and Cabinet detailing the review.*

1.7 To progress the Cabinet resolution a full review of funding available for the Local Transport Plan programmes is in progress although the availability of LTP funding in future years is still not clear following the Comprehensive Spending Review on the 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010, but it is anticipated it will be significantly reduced.

## **2.0 Review of capital contributions**

2.1 Over the years of implementing Local Transport Plan programmes every effort has been taken to maximise available funding by seeking contributions from a range of organisations willing to support schemes and programmes that have linked benefits.

2.2 The additional benefit of having this funding available is that it has enabled the prudent management of budgets and spend profiles and ensured LTP capital allocations are fully expended year on year, thus demonstrating the Council's ability to effectively deliver often complex transport schemes and programmes.

2.3 A review of these contributions was undertaken as part of the overall funding review and a total balance of remaining capital contributions of £387k has been identified. The majority of this (£303k) comprises two substantial contributions and the remaining £84k consists of the balances from fourteen smaller contributions. It must be stressed the work for which all this funding was provided has been completed hence there are no 'claw back' issues. The intention has been to progress further schemes within the approved LTP programmes.

2.4 These resources are not currently allocated to any specific schemes, so the options available for making best use of the remaining contributions have been investigated taking into consideration the Council's overall budget situation. Two options are suggested:

- i) Allocate a portion of the available capital contributions to support the delivery of Local Transport Plan objectives, for use in 2010/11 and in future years. For instance an allocation of £170k would permit a local safety scheme, deferred due to the in-year budget reductions referred to in 1.3 above, to proceed. Alternatively, a £100k would permit solutions to long-term traffic management and parking issues to be brought forward. The balance to contribute to the Council's budget savings programme. The allocation of some of the available resources would be consistent with the Council's commitment to the LTP.
- ii) Allocate all the remaining contributions to support the Council's budget savings programme. This would not be in accordance with the purpose for which the contribution was originally made ie to support the transport programme, and would also delay the delivery of any schemes that were deferred in response to the budget reductions in June.

2.5 Cabinet Member Technical Services and Cabinet are requested to consider the options available and determine the most effective allocation of the resources available.

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## **3.0 Recommendations**

3.1 It is recommended that Cabinet Member Technical Services:

- i) notes the resources available from capital contributions to transport schemes and the potential to allocate these resources to support the LTP capital programme.
- ii) advises Cabinet of the remaining capital contributions and the options for using them to support the transportation capital programme and seeks a Cabinet decision for the allocation of the available resources.

3.2 It is recommended that Cabinet:

- i) notes the resources available from capital contributions to transport schemes.
- ii) determines the allocation of available resources in accordance with the options presented.



**REPORT TO:** Planning Committee  
Cabinet

**DATE:** 10<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

**SUBJECT:** Annual Monitoring Report 2010

**WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL

**REPORT OF:** Andy Wallis, Planning & Economic Development Director

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Ian Loughlin 3558

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is a statutory document produced by the Council's Planning & Economic Development Department to report on the progress of the Local Development Framework by monitoring a range of indicators.

The 2010 Annual Monitoring Report can be viewed at [www.sefton.gov.uk/AMR](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/AMR)

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

In order to submit the 2010 AMR to Government Office for the North West (GONW) by the required 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That Planning Committee notes the 2010 AMR and recommends that Cabinet approve the document for submission to GONW.
2. That Cabinet approves the submission of the 2010 AMR to GONW.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Planning and Economic Development Director to
  - Make editorial changes relating to layout and presentation.
  - The addition of late information relating to data recently becoming available.
  - Make changes recommended by GONW prior to submission of the AMR.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the 'call in 'period for the minutes of the meeting

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

None – The submission of the Annual Monitoring Report is a statutory requirement.

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**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None

**Financial:** None

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
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:** None

**Risk Assessment:** We are required by legislation to prepare an Annual Monitoring Report.

**Asset Management:** None

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

FD 547 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report.

<b><u>Corporate Objective</u></b>	<b><u>Positive Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Neutral Impact</u></b>	<b><u>Negative Impact</u></b>
1 Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2 Creating Safe Communities		✓	
3 Jobs and Prosperity	✓		
4 Improving Health and Well-Being	✓		

# Agenda Item 13

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**

Sefton Unitary Development Plan, 2010-13 Local Development Scheme

# Agenda Item 13

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1. The Annual Monitoring Report (AMR) is part of the Local Development Framework, as introduced by the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. We have to produce one annually and it must be submitted to the Government Office for the North West (GONW) by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2010.
- 1.2. The Department for Communities and Local Government states that survey, monitoring and review are crucial to the successful delivery of Local Development Frameworks. A systematic and dynamic monitoring system will help the Council understand the wider social, environmental and economic issues affecting Sefton and the key drivers of change that affect our area.
- 1.3. This is Sefton's sixth AMR. It covers the period from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. A copy of this year's AMR can be viewed at [www.sefton.gov.uk/AMR](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/AMR).
- 1.4. The aims of the AMR are to measure the effectiveness of the policies in the UDP and any other Local Development Documents and to assess progress with our Local Development Scheme, our agreed timetable for producing documents. The effectiveness of policies is measured by a series of indicators, covering the monitoring period from April 2009 to March 2010.

## **2. Indicators**

- 2.1. The indicators used within the AMR are a mixture of contextual indicators and output indicators. Contextual indicators measure changes in the wider environment (e.g. employment rates), and output indicators measure the impact of policies in planning documents. Examples of the latter include, for example, the level of business development and the amount of new housing built on brownfield land during the year.
- 2.2. Each year we have increased the number of indicators we have been able to report on as we have improved our monitoring systems. This year's AMR continues this trend, although there are still a number of indicators we are unable to provide comprehensive data for. In these cases we have explained the difficulties we've encountered, and whether we are likely to be able to provide data in the future, or whether a different indicator is needed.

## **3. Progress with the Local Development Framework**

- 3.1 The AMR reviews progress in implementing the Local Development Framework. It sets out (in section 2) how successful we have been in meeting the key milestones of the Local Development Documents, as set out in the 2010 Local Development Scheme (LDS), and reasons for progress has been slower than anticipated.
- 3.2 The Core Strategy is the main document we have been progressing over the past year. Whilst good progress was made on early consultation and evidence gathering the options paper has been delayed slightly while we reported the findings of a draft Green Belt Study to each of the Area Committees during October and November 2010. The intention is that a draft Core Strategy options paper will be approved in December for consultation to begin early in 2011.

- 3.3 The other key document in the 2010 LDS is the Waste Development Plan Document. The Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, on behalf of all the Merseyside authorities, is producing this document. Again, whilst early consultation was going to plan, delays have been caused by difficulties in reconciling the approaches of the Waste DPD with those of the key stakeholders.
- 3.4 It is hoped that once these issues are resolved the documents will proceed in a timely manner and the dates as set out in the LDS will be not far from what is achieved.

## **4. Key Performances Identified**

4.1 Some of the key performances reported in this year's AMR are:

- There were 387 net additional dwellings built in Sefton during 2009/10, below our current annualised target of 500. This is, however, made up of healthy gains – 430 new build and 110 additional dwellings from conversions – and losses of 153 through demolitions as part of regeneration programmes.
- A total of 148 affordable homes were completed during 2009/10.
- 73.6% of business and industrial development was built on brownfield land. 97% of new homes were built on brownfield land.
- Over 14,000m<sup>2</sup> of employment floorspace was completed during 2009/10.
- Just over 3 hectares of employment land was lost to other types of development during 2009/10, most of this to housing. However, only a tiny amount of this land was designated specifically for employment or industrial use.
- Almost 24,000m<sup>2</sup> of retail, office or leisure development floorspace has been completed in Sefton during 2009/10, two-thirds of which was in out-of centre locations.
- Almost all new residential development has been built within 30 minutes travel time of a range of services, such as schools, GPs, shops and employment area.
- There have been no developments approved in the Green Belt during 2009/10 that would be considered inappropriate to that designation.
- The net increase in trees through approvals during 2009/10 is 3438 trees.
- Of the 73 relevant planning approvals during 2009/10, only 4 included a condition or design element to include Sustainable Drainage System (SuDS).

## **5. Using the information gathered**

It is important that we use the information gathered in the AMR to inform our future planning policies. For Sefton the key document to be produced in the next year or so will be the Core Strategy. The findings of the AMR will be considered along with the results of previous studies and consultation to determine the priorities for the Core Strategy preferred strategy and objectives. The end of each section in the AMR has an assessment of how the Core Strategy can address the key finding from the indicators report.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That Planning Committee notes the 2010 AMR and recommends that Cabinet approve the document for submission to GONW.

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2. That Cabinet approves the submission of the 2010 AMR to GONW.
3. That Cabinet delegate authority to the Planning and Economic Development Director to
  - Make editorial changes relating to layout and presentation
  - The addition of late information relating to data recently becoming available
  - Make changes recommended by GONW prior to submission of the AMR.



# Agenda Item 14

**REPORT TO:** Standards  
Cabinet

**DATE:** 18 November 2010  
25 November 2010

**SUBJECT:** Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Letter  
And Report 2009/10

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Acting Head Of Corporate Legal Services

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** David McCullough  
Tele 0151 934 2032

**EXEMPT /  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE / SUMMARY:**

To present the Local Government Ombudsman's Annual Letter and Report for 2009/10.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The Annual Letter and Report are presented for Member information, consideration and review.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Standard Committee notes the Annual Letter and Report and indicates any specific comments for consideration at the next Cabinet meeting on 25 November 2010.

That Cabinet considers whether it wishes to make any comments to the Ombudsman in response to the report.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet meeting

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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

None arising on this occasion

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget / Policy Framework:** None arising on this occasion

**Financial:** None arising on this occasion

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
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:** None arising on this occasion

**Risk Assessment:** None arising on this occasion

**Asset Management:** None arising on this occasion

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN / VIEWS**

Mike Fogg, Director of Corporate Services  
 Andrea Grant, Assistant Director, Democratic Services  
 John Farrell, Interim Head of Corporate Finance and ICT

**CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:**

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

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

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## **BACKGROUND:**

### **The Annual Letter**

1. A copy of the Ombudsman's Annual Letter is appended to the report (**Appendix A**). In addition the Ombudsman attached two further Appendices to the Annual Letter which are attached as **Appendices 1 & 2**. The Letter details statistical information about the complaints that have been received during the last financial year by the Ombudsman's office about this Council.
2. The Annual Letter is now a standard issue from the Ombudsman's office and is a helpful opportunity to reflect on this important area of work, to see what the Council can learn.
3. Overall the Annual Letter denotes that the total number of complaints about the Council to the Ombudsman was 53 (compared to 52 in 2008/9). 13 complaints were presented to the Ombudsman prematurely. This is where the Council has not usually had the opportunity to deal with the complaint through its own complaints procedures.
4. A total of 20 cases were sent to the Ombudsman's investigative team during 2009/10. The complaints were spread fairly evenly across the various Council functions as clearly shown in Appendix 2 to the Letter.
5. Cases referred to the Ombudsman this year, may not be determined in one financial year. However in the year 2009/10 25 cases were concluded. Of the 25 cases, 10 were settled through Local Settlement. This is where the Council has offered to take action about a complaint which satisfies both the complainant and the Ombudsman's office. There were no findings of maladministration by the Ombudsman against the Council.
6. The Ombudsman requests a turnaround time of complaint handling of 28 days or less. This Council has achieved a pleasing turnaround of 23.1 days in average.

### **The Annual Report**

7. More recently the powers of the Ombudsman have been extended to the following two areas and as such may result in an increase in the number of complaints referred to the Ombudsman in the future:
  - a. The Apprenticeship, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009 created a new role for the Ombudsman's office to deal with complaints from parents and pupils about state schools. This has commenced with a pilot programme in April 2010 in four local authority areas. It is intended that by September 2011, all state maintained schools will be covered by the Ombudsman's jurisdiction.

- b. The Health Act 2009 extended the Ombudsman's powers to deal with complaints about privately arranged and funded adult social care. These new powers will take effect on 1 October 2010. It would seem from the Annual Report that the Ombudsman's office expects that many complaints will be from people who have arranged and funded their care and this could involve the actions of both the local authority and the care provider.
8. There are a couple of cases worthy of mention following a brief overview of the cases that have been considered nationally by the Ombudsman's office during 2009/10.
9. The first case involved a London Borough Council that failed to consult with a resident about a planning application. The planning application had been registered using the incorrect address. On realising the failure to consult with an individual resident, the Council reviewed the planning application. The Council did not suggest that the planning applicant make any amendments to their proposed scheme. This meant that the resident's property (living room) was overlooked by the installation of a riverside balcony which was proposed in the planning application.
10. The Council concluded that the balcony did not result in an unacceptable level of overlooking in "planning terms" and that a neighbour had no right to privacy. The Ombudsman did not accept that a neighbour has no right to privacy. The Ombudsman also noted other planning applications that had been refused in the immediate locality as they had contravened Council's policy, namely causing a loss of privacy to the neighbouring property. The Ombudsman therefore concluded the case by issuing a formal report finding of maladministration causing injustice against the Council.
11. In the above circumstances the Council was ordered to pay some costs to the complainant directly re failure to consider the amenity properly and for the complainant's time and trouble, amounting to £1300. However what is particularly worthy of note is that the Council was ordered to pay a sum equivalent to the loss of the value of the complainant's property. This was to be determined by comparing the value of the property now with that if planning consent had been granted for a balcony that did not allow overlooking into the complainant's property.
12. Another case cited in the Annual Report by the Ombudsman involved three public authorities, namely the Environment Agency, a County Council and a District Council. For a period of 5 years, tonnes of rubbish were illegally dumped, burned and processed on farmland a few meters away from the complainant's house. It was estimated that the quantity of rubbish was sufficient to fill three Olympic sized swimming pools. The area was a beauty spot in the green belt noted for its biological and architectural heritage. The

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Ombudsman made a finding of maladministration with injustice against the three public bodies.

13. As a consequence the bodies were ordered to apologise to the complainant and to pay £95K to reflect years of extreme distress, aggravation and financial loss.
14. The above cases show that the Ombudsman's office is adopting new approaches with respect to their powers that can have potentially significant costs impacts in cases where the Council does have a finding of maladministration causing injustice.



**The Local Government Ombudsman's  
Annual Review  
Sefton Metropolitan Borough  
Council  
for the year ended  
31 March 2010**

The Local Government Ombudsmen (LGOs) provide a free, independent and impartial service. We consider complaints about the administrative actions of councils and some other authorities. We cannot question what a council has done simply because someone does not agree with it. If we find something has gone wrong, such as poor service, service failure, delay or bad advice, and that a person has suffered as a result, we aim to get it put right by recommending a suitable remedy. We also use the findings from investigation work to help authorities provide better public services through initiatives such as special reports, training and annual reviews.

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## Contents of Annual Review

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## Section 1: Complaints about Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council 2009/10

### Introduction

This annual review provides a summary of the complaints we have dealt with about Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council. I hope that the review will be a useful addition to other information your authority holds on how people experience or perceive your services.

There are two appendices to the review: statistical data for 2009/10 and a note to help the interpretation of the statistics.

### Enquiries and complaints received

Our Advice Team deals with all initial contacts to the Ombudsmen and advise people who want to make a complaint. The Advice Team recorded 53 enquiries about your Council in 2009/10 and forwarded 28 complaints for my office to consider. The complaints we considered were spread between planning and building control (5), public finance (4), education (4), adult care services (3), housing (3), other (3), transport and highways (3), children and family services (2) and benefits (1).

### Complaint outcomes

My office made decisions on 25 complaints about the Council in 2009/10. In any one year, there can be a difference in the number of complaints received and the number of decisions made by my office. This is because some decisions will have been made on complaints received in the previous year and not all the complaints received in 2009/10 will have been decided by 31 March.

### Local settlements

We will often discontinue enquiries into a complaint when a council takes or agrees to take action that we consider to be a satisfactory response – we call these local settlements. 26.9% of all decisions on complaints in the Ombudsmen's jurisdiction were local settlements. Of the complaints we considered about your authority, ten led to a local settlement (45.5%). I highlight a selection below.

There was a complaint about adult care services and the provision of respite and community support hours over three years. The Council agreed to make a payment of £3,500 to reflect the loss of additional support and put in place more flexible arrangements for future provision.

A complaint about a school admission appeal hearing identified misleading information in the admissions booklet and a policy that was not fully compliant with the new code. The Council was willing to offer a fresh appeal at an early stage which proved unnecessary as the child was subsequently offered a place. The Council also amended its policy and booklet.

There were two settlements relating to school transport appeals for travel passes. In both cases, the Council reviewed the decision reached and granted passes. The Council also agreed to review the arrangements for handling future travel pass appeals.

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A complaint about both housing benefit and council tax benefit reviews highlighted procedural faults and unreasonable recovery action. The Council agreed to pay £800 to remedy the errors, bailiff actions and time and trouble. The Council also met with two of my officers to discuss the issues raised which was very helpful.

A complaint about council tax and council tax benefit identified a number of procedural faults in both the way the claim had been dealt with and associated recovery action. The Council agreed to remove all recovery costs and review the account and pay £500. There was again a very helpful meeting with your Council to discuss the issues raised.

## **Liaison with the Local Government Ombudsman**

We made 11 first enquiries of your Council during the year and the average response time was 23.1 days comfortably within the target of 28 days.

## **Training in complaint handling**

Part of our role is to provide advice and guidance about good administrative practice. We offer training courses for all levels of local authority staff in complaints handling and investigation. All courses are presented by experienced investigators. They give participants the opportunity to practise the skills needed to deal with complaints positively and efficiently. We can also provide customised courses to help authorities to deal with particular issues and occasional open courses for individuals from different authorities.

I have enclosed some information on the full range of courses available together with contact details for enquiries and bookings.

## **Conclusions**

I hope this review provides a useful opportunity for you to reflect on how the Council deals with those complaints that residents make to my office. If there are any issues that you wish to discuss, I or one of my senior colleagues would be happy to meet with the Council.

**Mrs A Seex  
Local Government Ombudsman  
Beverley House  
17 Shipton Road  
YORK  
YO30 5FZ**

**June 2010**

## Section 2: LGO developments

### Introduction

This annual review also provides an opportunity to bring councils up to date on developments in the LGO and to seek feedback.

### New schools complaints service launched

In April 2010 we launched the first pilot phase of a complaints service extending our jurisdiction to consider parent and pupil complaints about state schools in four local authority areas. This power was introduced by the Apprenticeships, Skills, Children and Learning Act 2009.

The first phase involves schools in Barking and Dagenham, Cambridgeshire, Medway and Sefton. The Secretary of State no longer considers complaints about schools in these areas. In September the schools in a further 10 local authority areas are set to join the pilot phase.

We are working closely with colleagues in the pilot areas and their schools, including providing training and information sessions, to shape the design and delivery of the new service. It is intended that by September 2011 our jurisdiction will cover all state schools in England.

A new team in each office now deals with all complaints about children's services and education on behalf of the Ombudsman. Arrangements for cooperation with Ofsted on related work areas have been agreed.

For further information see the new schools pages on our website at [www.lgo.org.uk/schools/](http://www.lgo.org.uk/schools/)

### Adult social care: new powers from October

The Health Act 2009 extended the Ombudsmen's powers to investigate complaints about privately arranged and funded adult social care. These powers come into effect from 1 October 2010 (or when the Care Quality Commission has re-registered all adult care providers undertaking regulated activity). Provision of care that is arranged by an individual and funded from direct payments comes within this new jurisdiction.

Each Ombudsman has set up a team to deal with all adult social care complaints on their behalf. We expect that many complaints from people who have arranged and funded their care will involve the actions of both the local authority and the care provider. We are developing information-sharing agreements with the Care Quality Commission and with councils in their roles as adult safeguarding leads and service commissioners.

### Council first

We introduced our Council first procedure in April last year. With some exceptions, we require complainants to go through all stages of a council's own complaints procedure before we will consider the complaint. It aims to build on the improved handling of complaints by councils.

We are going to research the views of people whose complaints have been referred to councils as premature. We are also still keen to hear from councils about how the procedure is working, particularly on the exception categories. Details of the categories of complaint that are normally treated as exceptions are on our website at [www.lgo.org.uk/guide-for-advisers/council-response](http://www.lgo.org.uk/guide-for-advisers/council-response)

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## **Training in complaint handling**

Demand for our training in complaint handling has remained high, with 118 courses delivered over the year to 53 different authorities. Our core Effective Complaint Handling course is still the most popular – we ran some of these as open courses for groups of staff from different authorities. These are designed to assist those authorities that wish to train small numbers of staff and give them an opportunity to share ideas and experience with other authorities.

The new Effective Complaint Handling in Adult Social Care course, driven by the introduction of the new statutory complaints arrangements in health and adult social care in April 2009, was also popular. It accounted for just over a third of bookings.

Over the next year we intend to carry out a thorough review of local authority training needs to ensure that the programme continues to deliver learning outcomes that improve complaint handling by councils.

## **Statements of reasons**

Last year we consulted councils on our broad proposals for introducing statements of reasons on the individual decisions of an Ombudsman following the investigation of a complaint. We received very supportive and constructive feedback on the proposals, which aim to provide greater transparency and increase understanding of our work. Since then we have been carrying out more detailed work, including our new powers. We intend to introduce the new arrangements in the near future.

## **Delivering public value**

We hope this information gives you an insight into the major changes happening within the LGO, many of which will have a direct impact on your authority. We will keep you up to date through LGO Link as each development progresses, but if there is anything you wish to discuss in the meantime please let me know.

Mindful of the current economic climate, financial stringencies and our public accountability, we are determined to continue to increase the efficiency, cost-effectiveness and public value of our work.

**Mrs A Seex**  
**Local Government Ombudsman**  
**Beverley House**  
**17 Shipton Road**  
**YORK**  
**YO30 5FZ**

**June 2010**

## Appendix 1: Notes to assist interpretation of the statistics 2009/10

### Table 1. LGO Advice Team: Enquiries and complaints received

This information shows the number of enquiries and complaints received by the LGO, broken down by service area and in total. It also shows how these were dealt with, as follows.

**Premature complaints:** The LGO does not normally consider a complaint unless a council has first had an opportunity to deal with that complaint itself. So if someone complains to the LGO without having taken the matter up with a council, the LGO will either refer it back to the council as a 'premature complaint' to see if the council can itself resolve the matter, or give advice to the enquirer that their complaint is premature.

**Advice given:** These are enquiries where the LGO Advice Team has given advice on why the LGO would not be able to consider the complaint, other than the complaint is premature. For example, the complaint may clearly be outside the LGO's jurisdiction.

**Forwarded to the investigative team (resubmitted premature and new):** These are new cases forwarded to the Investigative Team for further consideration and cases where the complainant has resubmitted their complaint to the LGO after it has been put to the council.

### Table 2. Investigative Team: Decisions

This information records the number of decisions made by the LGO Investigative Team, broken down by outcome, within the period given. **This number will not be the same as the number of complaints forwarded from the LGO Advice Team** because some complaints decided in 2009/10 will already have been in hand at the beginning of the year, and some forwarded to the Investigative Team during 2009/10 will still be in hand at the end of the year. Below we set out a key explaining the outcome categories.

**MI reps:** where the LGO has concluded an investigation and issued a formal report finding maladministration causing injustice.

**LS (local settlements):** decisions by letter discontinuing our investigation because action has been agreed by the authority and accepted by the LGO as a satisfactory outcome for the complainant.

**M reps:** where the LGO has concluded an investigation and issued a formal report finding maladministration but causing no injustice to the complainant.

**NM reps:** where the LGO has concluded an investigation and issued a formal report finding no maladministration by the council.

**No mal:** decisions by letter discontinuing an investigation because we have found no, or insufficient, evidence of maladministration.

**Omb disc:** decisions by letter discontinuing an investigation in which we have exercised the LGO's general discretion not to pursue the complaint. This can be for a variety of reasons, but the most common is that we have found no or insufficient injustice to warrant pursuing the matter further.

**Outside jurisdiction:** these are cases which were outside the LGO's jurisdiction.



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## **Table 3. Response times**

These figures record the average time the council takes to respond to our first enquiries on a complaint. We measure this in calendar days from the date we send our letter/fax/email to the date that we receive a substantive response from the council. The council's figures may differ somewhat, since they are likely to be recorded from the date the council receives our letter until the despatch of its response.

## **Table 4. Average local authority response times 2009/10**

This table gives comparative figures for average response times by authorities in England, by type of authority, within three time bands.

**LGO Advice Team**

Enquiries and complaints received	Adult care services	Children and family services	Education	Housing	Benefits	Public Finance inc. Local Taxation	Planning and building control	Transport and highways	Other	Total
Formal/informal premature complaints	1	0	0	1	1	3	1	5	1	13
Advice given	0	0	0	2	2	0	2	3	3	12
Forwarded to investigative team (resubmitted premature)	0	1	0	0	0	1	4	1	1	8
Forwarded to investigative team (new)	3	1	4	3	1	3	1	2	2	20
<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>

**Investigative Team**

Decisions	MI reps	LS	M reps	NM reps	No mal	Omb disc	Outside jurisdiction	Total
	2009 / 2010	0	10	0	0	9	3	3

Response times	FIRST ENQUIRIES	
	No. of First Enquiries	Avg no. of days to respond
1/04/2009 / 31/03/2010	11	23.1
2008 / 2009	21	21.7
2007 / 2008	20	24.6

Average local authority resp times 01/04/2009 to 31/03/2010

Types of authority	<= 28 days		29 - 35 days		> = 36 days	
	%		%		%	
District Councils	61	22	17	6	17	6
Unitary Authorities	68	26	22	8	10	12
Metropolitan Authorities	70	22	32	36	20	20
County Councils	58	52	60			
London Boroughs	52					
National Parks Authorities	60					

<b>CABINET REPORT</b>		
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Ian Moncur	Cabinet Member for Children's Services	25 November 2010

**Unannounced Inspection of contact, referral and assessment**

Ofsted undertook an unannounced no notice inspection at our Contact, Referral and Assessment Services on 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> October. The outcome of the inspection is contained in a letter from Ofsted which indicates : strengths, the service meets the requirements of statutory guidance, areas for development. The letter will be reported to the Cabinet Member for CSF and Cabinet O&S Committee.

**St. Wilfrid's**

The statutory consultation process is under way in relation to the proposal to close the school with effect from the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2011. Meetings have taken place with staff, governors, parents and parents of feeder schools. All meetings were well attended. In addition written comments by post and by use of the Council's website are also being received as part of the consultation. This first part of the statutory consultation concludes on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2010. The outcome of the consultation will be presented to the Cabinet Member CSF in January 2011. However any final decision to close the school will not be made until April 2011.

**School Inspections**

The table below shows all schools inspected by Ofsted since September 2010. The overall grades clearly show most have either maintained or increased on progress made since their last inspection.

School	Overall	
	Recent	Last
Bishop David Sheppard CE	3	2
Christ Church CE Primary	2	2
Larkfield Primary	2	2
Linacre Primary	3	2
Linaker Primary	2	2
Northway Primary	2	2
Christ the King Catholic High	2	2
Greenbank High	1	3
Crossens Nursery	1	1
<b>1 – Outstanding</b>	<b>2 – Good</b>	
<b>3 – Satisfactory</b>	<b>4 - Inadequate</b>	

# Agenda Item 15a

## **Unicef Children's Rights Awards**

Schools across Sefton participated in a range of curriculum and celebration activities marking this annual international occasion. A celebration involving representatives from all the schools took place at the South Sefton Sixth Form College on the 19<sup>th</sup> November with awards presented by Councillor Maureen Fern, Mayor of Sefton. This celebration day also included the many international links by Sefton schools maintained with schools and young people across different parts of the world.

## CABINET MEMBER – COMMUNITIES

Cabinet Meeting Update – 25 November 2010

### COMMUNITY SAFETY PARTNERSHIP

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#### Community Payback

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Deployed weekly across the full Sefton region and an integral part of Sefton's response to Bonfire and Mischief Period plans (see separate part of the report). Managed by Strategy Support Officer, main headlines of weekly work include:

- Undertaking clear up work in Formby pine woods, throughout the summer months, as part of the successful Operation BeachSafe;
- Undertook painting of Abbeyfield Park railings (SONO) and painting of shop roller-shutters to remove graffiti at Marion Square (SONO). Cleared Glen Park (Sefton East) of broken glass and litter and cleaned up Kings Garden (Derby Ward), which was a key activity in restoring the Gardens. Routine graffiti removal rota in Southport (on key tourist routes) agreed and actioned, as a result this local issue has now been removed from Area Committee considerations.
- Average calculations suggest that Payback team have undertaken over 2,400 man hours of unpaid work, removed 640 bags of litter and dog fouling and 32 tonnes of fly tipped rubbish.

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#### Drug Action Team

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A Single Point of Assessment service is now fully functioning in 221-223 Knowsley Road offering client choice with evidence emerging to improved client outcomes. The service provides a holistic assessment of client need, (health & social needs are considered alongside drug treatment needs), recovery mentoring and learning mentoring. Housing and Welfare rights advice is available on site and staff from Job Centre Plus holds weekly surgeries. Sefton Carers Centre staff is available to support carers and families of drug users.

A series of open days have arranged for November, to include local Councillors, to agree and disseminate the DAT's new vision for service;

*The Sefton DAT Partnership is developing new approaches to the delivery of drug treatment and social reintegration in order to achieve a step change in system performance and the outcomes achieved by service users. We are moving both local community and prison treatment services beyond the traditional medical maintenance model towards a new service model that will offer more personalised services, greater choice, and increased prospects for sustainable recovery and social re-integration via improved access to housing, education, training and employment.*

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#### Anti Social Behaviour Unit

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A number of full ASBO and ABCs enacted through period including individuals in Southport, Litherland / Ford and St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell areas. The team worked with a family in Litherland / Ford through a Family Intervention Programme designe Page 113 the risk of their offending

# Agenda Item 15b

behaviour and worked closely with the Police across each of the BCU areas. The team referred 3 Young people to Sefton MBC's Leisure Services Positive Futures Programmes, and worked on Neighbourhood dispute issues in Shakespeare Street (Southport), as well as undertaking an environmental audit in Ainsdale.

Present caseload – 153 live cases, supporting 5 Vulnerable Victims (from a peak of 10) and a further 25 cases imminent.

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## Media / Marketing / Communications

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Major campaigns for the period include:

- '*Lets Stop Anti-Social Behaviour*': officially launched in September 2010, which includes development, design and distribution of leaflet and poster campaign, which received press coverage in "free" newspapers across the Borough;
- '*Christmas Presence*': including newspaper advertising, adshels and ad-vans in the key night time economy locations of Southport and Waterloo/Crosby (commencing early December);
- '*Appearing as a witness in court*': which included the development, and distribution of copies of a new DVD, produced in Sefton by the LCJB and with assistance by the Corporate Communications team, which provides information to vulnerable witnesses on the court experience. (Copies have been given to all local representatives)
- '*Responding to Hate Crime*': DVDs produced and forwarded to elected members for their information (available also to view online at [www.respectsefton.co.uk](http://www.respectsefton.co.uk))

Other highlights from the period include advertising of Sefton's Best Bar None campaign (2010), composing for publication press releases on "Operation Maynard" (tackling dangerous dogs in South Sefton), reductions in theft from cars in Linacre / Derby, Saturday's Skip scheme, Operation BeachSafe, and work of Victim's Champions. Further the content for a four-page newsletter as part of the anti-social behaviour campaign, is being finalised, which follows on from the "Informed" branding of last year Halloween/Mischief/Bonfire Night, and information on the bonfire night displays were posted to the Sefton council homepage, and the partnership website ([www.respectsefton.co.uk](http://www.respectsefton.co.uk)).

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## Civil Contingencies

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The Civil Contingency Team led in the immediate aftermath of the flooding incident in Bootle (August 2010), including overseeing the Community Fund which managed the distribution of charitable donations. Further, the team undertook "Exercise Watermark" a planning exercise which looked at the emergency prepared plans for Southport and Ormskirk NHS emergency. Further they undertook a review of human aspect of Business Continuity and continued work on the Mass fatality and excess deaths work streams, as well as taking part in One Vision Housing's severe weather exercise planning and reviewed National Oil Spill arrangements for the Borough.

A Bootle Power Outage on Thursday 14th October did not activate Civil Contingencies procedures although incident was monitored by the team. They also attended Mass Fatalities training out of area and worked on mass fatality and excess plans with other local and agencies; both very large



work streams. Training was also given in Emergency Duty Coordinator activities and Atlas and NRE.

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## **Strategy Support Officers / Community Safety Area Partnerships**

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Major examples of geographic work undertaken, include

- Managed a successful residents' Fun Day at Copy Farm Park, bringing communities and services together in an informal but informative way;
- Street Games arranged for Canning Road, Southport to tackle youth ASB incidents. (It proved so successful that Norwood Councillors looked at funding options for an extended stay);
- Arrangements made with Parks and Gardens colleagues to re-institute the BMX Bowl (a popular youth diversionary activity) in North Park, following disrepair;
- Hosted a meeting with One Vision Housing and other partners on new CSAP sub group, designed to achieve Kite Mark Status for King Avenue / St Augustine Field area

Further, the Strategy Support Officers have also been managing a number of "cross cutting / area" initiatives which include:

- Hate Crime – Preparation for publication of "Helping Victims of Hate Crime" booklet and DVD, key in raising awareness of Hate Crime, and forms part of a re-launch of tackling Hate Crime across Sefton;
- Firework Displays / Mischief Period Planning – Please see full paragraph below;
- Operation BeachSafe – Management of "Operation BeachSafe", which provided Police and other CSAP colleagues with an action plan for making safe the beaches with Formby during the summer period;
- Violent Crime Plan –Leading on development of a multi agency Violent Crime action plan, in Partnership with Merseyside Police, and as part of this, is arranging for resources to be managed for Christmas Presence Campaign.

Monthly CSAP meetings across the seven areas, continued to be chaired and serviced, and "one off" requests for assistance (from both members of the public and local Councillors most notably) continue to occupy time and skills, reflected in the attached tables, where complete, and some of which continues.

As well as CSAP meetings, the Strategy Support Officers also attended various Area Committee Meetings, to seek requests for funding for the Bonfire Displays and offering feedback to the Committees on the work achieved. They continued their close working relationships with the Police Inspectors and other police colleagues in their respective areas as well as looking at cross border working with police and Council colleagues in Kirkby and Liverpool North specifically.

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## **Bonfire / Mischief Period Plans**

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Operation Staysafe was carried out on Saturday 30th October 2010 as a way of reducing Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and dealing with young people deemed to be vulnerable by taking them home or to a designated 'Place of

# Agenda Item 15b

Safety. These places were The Brunswick Youth Centre, The Gordon Youth Centre and Crosby Youth Centre.

The Staysafe Operation has been formulated by a small working party that put a protocol in place to help inform and guide the delivery of the Operation. The Operation involved an Arriva bus staffed with Merseyside Police and Youth Workers travelling around the areas of Crosby, Litherland, Netherton & Bootle led by calls of anti-social behaviour in those areas. These areas were focussed on by the Operation using the areas that had the highest levels of ASB in 2009.

The below points provide the highlight results that the Operation contributed to:

- 5 of 7 ACA's have seen Rowdy / Inconsiderate Behaviour incidents reduced since 2008
- There has been a 1% reduction in Rowdy /Inconsiderate Behaviour incidents compared to 2009 and an 11% reduction compared to 2008
- Whilst Firework related ASB has increased slightly numbers remain low with only 10 recorded incidents across Sefton on Mischief Night
- All ACA's have had reduction in Criminal Damage
- There has been an overall reduction in Criminal Damage offences of 18% compared to mischief night 2009 and continual downward trend across three years.
- This equates to a saving of £18,360 for mischief night alone
- The 2 worst affected ACA's from 2009 contributed 66.66% of this saving

Sefton Cleansing Teams, Merseyside Fire & Rescue Crews and Merseyside Probation teams have worked in a co-ordinated manner to remove combustible material from Sefton. Calls from the public were filtered through to Sefton's Liveability Team to those teams. In total over 140 tonnes were removed from Sefton borough. This has contributed to a reduction in secondary fires by 37.3% (110 in 2009 down to 69 in 2010). Sefton is, this year, the best performing and safest Borough in Merseyside regarding secondary fires

Three successful Fire-work displays were held at Bootle, Netherton and Maghull. These displays, which were hosted by Leisure Services, were funded by the areas respective Area Committees, Merseyside Police, the Safer Stronger Communities partnership and Maghull Parish Council.

- Around 15,000 Sefton residents attended these three displays
- There was a 38% reduction in Firework Related ASB from 2009 to 2010 on the night

As a partnership we have succeeded in making this year's Halloween & Bonfire period the safest there has been on record.

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## Performance

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Across the range of crime indicators Sefton shows a good performance in reducing crime. Examples include:

Litherland / Ford area – Reduction in Criminal Damage by 42% and a 4% increase in satisfaction levels regarding ASB;  
Sefton East Parishes – Reduction in Domestic Burglary by 33%;  
Southport – Reduction in Theft from Shops by 25%;  
Linacre / Derby – Reduction in Woundings by 13%;  
St Oswald, Netherton and Orrell – Reduction in Secondary Fires by 14%  
Crosby – Reduction in Woundings by 30%  
Formby – Reduction in Criminal Damage by 48%

Sefton are ranked 4<sup>th</sup> in terms of IQUANTA returns (Similar Group – July to September 2010) across the BCSC comparator, 3<sup>rd</sup> in terms of Assault, 1<sup>st</sup> in terms of woundings and below the average of the 15 similar authorities on in terms of Criminal Damage, Robbery, Theft From a Motor Vehicle, Theft From the Person, Unauthorised Taking of a Motor Vehicle, and Vehicle interference.

September's perceptions surveys also show healthy results on residents' views on where they live;

- Percentage of Sefton residents that are very/fairly satisfied with their local area as a place to live is up by 5.2% in September compare to the previous month (from 74.7% to 79.9%).
- Percentage of Sefton residents that feel very safe/safe after dark out in their neighbourhood up 2.1% (from 60.9% in August to 63% in September).
- Percentage of Sefton residents that feel drug dealing is a problem is down 2.5% (from 23% to 20.5%).

## NEIGHBOURHOODS

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### Participatory Budget Update

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Participatory Budget (PB) in Manor and Church is progressing well.

#### Manor Ward

- Work have been carried out to Devilliers and Runnels Lane fields.
- Landscaping to the green on Whitemeadow Drive and planting along Williams Way will be completed in the next month.
- Kings Church and St. Frideswyde's Church have received PB funding to carry out Community Projects in the Thornton area.
- Bollards have been installed in Stiles Hey to prevent cars, vans breaking up the pavement.
- Saturday skips are still being provided and will carry on until the end of the financial year.

#### Church Ward

- Intergenerational Youth Project has carried out a gardening project in the Seaforth part of Church and young people have distributed hanging baskets that they made to residents in Dewlands Road.

# Agenda Item 15b

A Dog Fouling Project has been carried out in Church ward which included extra enforcement action and awareness raising activities being carried out.

- Two tea dances will take place at SING plus between now and March 2011 for local elderly residents.
- A good garden competition has taken place in streets not covered by the In Bloom competition with residents receiving vouchers for a local garden centre in order to buy plants and/or equipment.

## **Business Neighbourhoods Update**

- Business Village Partnerships have signed up to carrying out a review process of their activity, which will be completed by 10 December. Outcomes of this will be fed into wider area management proposals and will help determine the future direction of the BVP function and remit.

## **Area Management Update**

- A rolling programme of presentations has been initiated with senior officers across the Council with regards to the agreed changes to Area Committee processes.
- Meetings to discuss area management proposals held with Elected Members from three political parties with further consultation with the Conservative Group
- Initial meeting to discuss area management held with key partner agencies e.g. One Vision Housing, NHS Sefton and Police.
- Meeting arranged with Neighbourhood Regeneration Thematic Group to discuss area management proposals in November and Southport Area Partnership to discuss ideas at area level.

## **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. This work is on going.

### **Sefton Equalities Partnership Committee**

The Committee met for the first time in October 2010, following a number of intensive workshops with our under represented communities. The Committee is now part of the Sefton Borough Partnership structure and enables Seftons under represented communities to support sefton Council and other key partners with their statutory equality duty. At the meeting the group agreed terms of reference and direction of travel around a number of key areas of work, for example the development of a sefton wide inequalities evidence base/ report.

**Community Development Project for Black and Minority Ethnic Communities**

The bi-lingual Skills project has recruited 20 people. Volunteers on the project will be working within relevant services areas providing interpretation and translation services in the New Year. Currently Schools and transportation services have been identified. Eighty 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 40 staff from the public and third sectors.

**ABILITY Network**

The ABILITY network co-ordinated and facilitated a Customer service focus group with Sefton council frontline services (Avarto). The outcome of the session was the development of number products on improving the accessibility of their services. The day focussed on the experiences and needs of our learning disabled community and people with mental health issues

**Mystery Shopping**

20 disabled people and people with limiting long term illness have been commissioned to work with the Cancer network and a number of Merseyside wide NHS acute trusts. The outcomes of this work will form the basis of an action plan to remove barriers to access.

**Work Ability Project**

Work-Ability is currently supporting 40 members of Sefton's community with disabilities or long term limiting illness towards employment, training or volunteering opportunities. They have developed key partnership with employers and employment support organizations. The outcome of this work is building the capacity of frontline organizations to understand and meet the needs of our disabled communities and to ensure compliance with the Equality Act 2010.

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## CABINET – 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER, 2010

### CABINET MEMBER - CORPORATE SERVICES

#### **CORPORATE LEGAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

On 21st September Corporate Legal Services hosted the Annual General Meeting of the North Western and North Wales Branch of Solicitors in Local Government and on the same day hosted two Special Interest Group meetings relating to education and outsourcing.

As a founder member of the North West Legal Consortium we were involved in the organisation of its first annual conference which took place at the Leigh Sports Village on 12 October. The key note speaker was Baroness Hanham CBE, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State at the Department for Communities and Local Government. The event provided three free training sessions and an opportunity to network with colleagues throughout the North West.

A working group to review the constitution has been established and the first meeting of officers and members will take place on 30<sup>th</sup> November.

A 'task and finish' group of officers and members has been set up to consider the implications of the Bribery Act 2010 for the authority and a date for its first meeting will be set before the end of November.

We recently advised Lydiat Parish Council and the Trustees of the John Goore Charity on the rules relating to the appointment of trustees which involved the interpretation of deeds dated 1863 and 1913.

We have also been successful in the following prosecutions:

Dog control orders –

- ❖ dog wardens investigated a complaint of an attack by a labrador in the Kew area of Southport. The dog owner and person in charge were interviewed and admitted the dog had been out of control. The court ordered that the dog be kept under proper control and muzzled when in a public place. The court also ordered that the Defendant pay the complainant £50 compensation and SMBC £500 in costs.
- ❖ another case concerned the Defendant's failure to comply with a dog control order. Despite an order being made that the Defendant keep her dog muzzled and on a lead in a public place and for the dog to be neutered she had failed to comply and another dog was attacked whilst the Defendant's dog was off its lead. The Defendant was ordered to pay a fine of £115 plus costs of £150. She also produced evidence from her vet confirming the dog had now been neutered.

Failure to comply with Building Regulations (8 counts) - the Defendant is a property developer. Summonses were issued and as a result the defendant agreed to rectify the breaches. As all work was carried out to the satisfaction of Building Control and the



# Agenda Item 15c

Residents, the summonses were withdrawn upon the Defendant paying the Council's costs of £1500.

Multiple occupancy - this case concerned the management of a House in Multiple Occupation without the requisite licence and also the failure to produce an electrical safety certificate. The defendant entered a not guilty plea and the matter proceeded to a trial over 2 half days. The court found the Defendant guilty of both offences and ordered that he pay a fine of £6,000 in relation to the offence of failing to have a HMO licence, £2,000 for failing to produce electrical certificate and £2,000 costs.

Taxi Offence - this case concerned the offences of plying for hire and driving without insurance. Taxi driver caught on a test purchase operation. Entered a guilty plea, fined £100 re plying for hire, £150 no insurance and 6 penalty points.

## **FINANCE & INFORMATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

### **Finance / Budget**

Work is ongoing across the Department in support of the data gathering exercise in support of the drive to identify opportunities for budget savings. The Department is supporting the Chief Executive and Directorates throughout this process.

### **Client Unit**

#### **ICT**

A new simple email system for councillors has been designed and is due to be available by the end of November 2010. Councillors email addresses will change but they will not need council owned equipment to access it.

The conversion of the email system to Microsoft Outlook is nearing completion and has been mainly successful. The exception has been some technical faults in the week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> November which caused intermittent service interruptions.

A change in key personnel roles and responsibilities in arvato has resulted in Jan Wemmel concentrating more on his corporate arvato role and the development of transformation and change activities. David Davies has been promoted and is now the Head of ICT Operational Services.

**Customer Services** – ATM payment machines have been installed in each One Stop Shop, and are now fully operational.

**HR and Payroll** – The changes resulting from job evaluation were implemented as agreed for payday in October. Work has started on the rollout of MyView. This is an online module for the payroll system, it will eventually replace paper payslips for many, but not all employees. It will also allow the online submission of claims, reducing the need for paper forms.

### **Revenues & Benefits -**

The new Northgate Revenues & Benefits core processing system is forecast to be in live operation by 17<sup>th</sup> November go live. Following the closedown of the Pericles system on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2010, measures are being taken to ensure customers experience minimum disruption whilst a temporarily reduced service is in operation, There is currently no on-line processing facility and limited account information available. A press release has

been issued and information placed on Sefton's website which provides information. Customers who have any concerns during this period have been encouraged to contact the One Stop Shops or the Contact Centre.

### **Procurement**

The 'Procurement and Commissioning' review, under the umbrella of the Transformation programme, continues to progress. The project is targeted with making savings of £1,000,000 in financial year 2011/12. To date benefits realised across a number of category areas exceed £300,000. Information continues to be gathered within some of the key spend areas such as Childrens Schools and Families, and Health and Well Being (Adults). This is expected to lead to potential opportunities with regards to re-tendering in key areas, and collaborating with partner organisations where appropriate.

To compliment the ongoing review, it is recognised that relevant commissioning and procurement training needs to be delivered across the authority. In this respect a project team has been established to oversee the delivery of a comprehensive commissioning training programme. This is scheduled to take place through December/January, within the current financial year.

### **Insurance & Administration**

Following a successful tender exercise in conjunction with the Council's Insurance Brokers, Aon Limited, the Council's insurance policies were renewed on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2010 at a saving of £169,500. A more detailed report on the savings achieved will also be submitted to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services in November.2010 The staffing on the section has been reduced without detriment to the services provided.

In addition, the "Members' Allowances - Notes for Guidance" document was distributed to all Members at the end of September 2010.

### **Internal Audit**

The review and re-structure of Internal Audit is now complete, the Acting Chief Internal Auditor has now been appointed as permanent and all other posts have been filled from within existing resources. The Section has reduced its establishment from 16 to 12 posts, this has achieved a saving of circa £100,000 in this financial year. The reduction of posts has taken into account the removal of the requirement to undertake audit in those areas provided by the arvato and Capita Symonds contracts, however, the section still reserve the right to undertake work in these areas if requested by the Client Team.

The methodology for conducting and reporting audits, the reports to Audit & Governance and a move towards risk based auditing will now be developed.

## **DEMOCRATIC SERVICES DEPARTMENT – ACE**

### **COMMITTEE AND MEMBER SERVICES**

The Team has provided administrative support for various Cabinet / Committee / Working Group Meetings and general assistance to Members of the Council.

During the period from 17 September to 10 November 2010, the Section has also organised and clerked 4 School Admission appeal hearings, involving 30 applications in respect of 5 High Schools and 9 Primary Schools.

# Agenda Item 15c

**ELECTORAL SERVICES**

The Electoral Services team are entering the final stage of the annual canvass for the 2011 Register of Electors, which will be published on the 1 December 2010. Preparations are under way for the Local Government and Parish Council Elections next May. The elections will be combined with the Referendum on future voting arrangements at Parliamentary elections as required by the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill 2010-11.

The Bill provides for the next General Election to be held under the Alternative Vote system, provided this change is endorsed in a referendum on 5 May 2011 and boundary changes have been made to reduce the size of the House of Commons to 600. The Bill also creates new rules for the redistribution of seats which will require 600 constituencies in the Commons rather than the current 650. The rules will give priority to numerical equality as a principle, in that there will be a uniform electoral quota for the UK, and seats may not vary by more than 5 per cent from the quota, with some limited exceptions. Regular redistributions would take place every five years. The Parliamentary Boundary Commissions are to conduct a review by the end of September 2013 with subsequent reviews every five years.

## **OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY**

An action plan has been agreed by the Management Board, following the Away Day held in June 2010. This action plan has been circulated to all Members of the Council, and will be considered by all Overview and Scrutiny Committees. There are specific actions to strengthen the policy development role of Members, through the building of relationships with Cabinet Members and Departments. The Health Inequalities Working Group is nearing completion and a final report is expected by the end of December. This work has been part of a national project and has been publicised as a case study for the Centre for Public Scrutiny. Other Working Groups are ongoing, and the Performance and Corporate Services Committee have recently agreed to establish a 'Task and Finish Group' to focus on the Bribery Act and the implications for Members. The Committees are adopting varying methods of scrutiny and these have included Task and Finish Groups, mini-reviews, single item meetings as well as identifying detailed Working Group Reviews.

**REPORT TO CABINET – 25 NOVEMBER 2010**

**OPERATIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

<b>School Crossing Service</b>	<p>The School Crossing Service has contributed to the continued success of the Flower Show and the Air Show by providing staff to assist with parking arrangements at each of the events. Some 40 Patrol Staff helped to ensure that congestion was kept to a minimum and visitors were able to access designated parking areas whilst keeping traffic flowing in surrounding areas.</p> <p>With effect from September 2010, Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley, St Helens and Halton have implemented a standardised school year. All five authorities have agreed set holiday dates to allow for better work/life balance by enabling better forward planning by both parents and schools. This will have a positive effect on the School Crossing Patrol Service as all Patrol staff will now all work and all take leave at the same time. This will negate the need for additional payments to staff who cover more than one school where there has been a previous discrepancy in holiday dates</p>
<b>Building Cleaning</b>	<p>The Building Cleaning Service has been successful in retaining all School Cleaning Contracts for the academic year 2010/11. In addition, new business has been generated at a number of sites, including an additional school contract at All Saints High School. In an effort to further develop new business opportunities the Building Cleaning Service now offers a bespoke carpet cleaning operation which will be developed accordingly in the coming months.</p>
<b>Sefton Security</b>	<p>Following the recent demise of the construction company ROK, Sefton Security have provided an immediate manned security response at a number of sites at which ROK were operating. These include Lander Road School, Kew Woods School and Southport Market Hall. This procedure ensures that the site is secured and prevents the unauthorized removal of equipment, stock and materials from site until such time as the Council receives further advice from the appointed administrators.</p> <p>Sefton Security has generated substantial new business in recent weeks, including the installation of Electronic Access control systems at Freshfield Primary School and Cambridge Day Centre in Bootle and upgrades to the CCTV systems at Litherland High School and St.Oswalds School. We now also have the capability of viewing CCTV over a mobile telephone connection, known as 3G technology. We are confident that this application will prove invaluable in both residential and business monitoring functions. In addition, it allows us to easily move CCTV cameras to identified "Hot Spots" throughout the Borough on a temporary basis as and when required. The Service has also taken over all aspects of security provision at the "Old Gray Street School" in Bootle which has recently returned to the Councils property portfolio.</p>
<b>Catering Services</b>	<p>The future of the School Lunch Grant has now been finalised following the comprehensive spending review, and it has been agreed that funding will continue beyond the grant's expiry date of March 2011, as part of the expanded baseline budget for schools. However, the Grant will no longer be ring-fenced. In 2010/11, Sefton received £437,468, of which £260,802 was retained centrally to finance expenditure on healthy lunch provision. This central resource will now be distributed directly to schools. However, this is primarily a procedural change, as the schools will still need to fund the provision of the service, and with effect from 2011 they will now be invoiced directly for the full cost of the service.</p>

# Agenda Item 15d

<p><b>Specialist Transport Unit</b></p>	<p>Both the Policy &amp; Planning function and the southern operational depot have relocated to Hawthorne Road Depot during the half term school holiday period. All southern services are now operated from Hawthorne Road Depot, and the Policy &amp; Planning Team is now able to concentrate resources on the implementation of the new planning software, Cleric.</p> <p>Discussions with all client departments and service user groups are being undertaken to assess specific requirements and service development opportunities in the coming months. Initial savings in service provision costs, identified via a route optimisation process, are due to be implemented, and further discussions will be held with contractors and service providers in order to reduce costs prior to the both the full scale implementation of a revised transport schedule, and the commencement of the re-tendering exercise for bus and taxi provision which will commence in January 2011.</p>
<p><b>Vehicle Fleet Management &amp; Maintenance</b></p>	<p>The Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for monitoring 'Operator Licence Holders' on behalf of the Traffic Commissioner. As such, the vehicle maintenance services at Hawthorne Road Depot are regularly subjected to external assessment. The latest Assessment has produced an outstanding rating for the services we offer. The 'Operator Licence Risk Score' is based on a percentage score related to the risks associated with operating the service. In both 'Road Worthiness' and 'Overall Traffic Score' the service scored in the top percentile between 1-10%, which are the best scores which can be achieved. The VOSA have rated the service as "as an excellent operator demonstrating excellent history of roadworthiness, based on both MOT Test history and roadside checks". Such praise at a national level will greatly assist in further developing the services offered at the Depot in coming months to generate additional revenues from expanded services such as Pre HGV Test Inspections, including roller brake, smoke emission and headlight aim tests, and service and repairs of HGV Vehicles.</p> <p>Both Hawthorne Road Depot and Forest Road Depot have received EMAS accreditation and are now able to demonstrate quality environmental management systems.</p>
<p><b>Cleansing</b></p>	<p>The Waste Management Service is working in conjunction with One Vision Housing (OVH) to trial co-mingled collections at both Irlam and Oxford Houses (high rise flats) for recyclable items. Irlam House is to have two 1100 euro bins secured in a bin gate located in the main car park area. Oxford House is also to have 2 1100 euro bins, but it has been agreed to have the bins sited in the bin room.</p> <p>Residents are to place the usual recyclable items into the bins, with the inclusion of cardboard (including food and cereal boxes), and plastic bottles. This trial will operate alongside the normal bin collections for the blocks, and it is hoped that if the uptake is good enough, the number of bins for residual waste will be reduced. This may then in turn lead to a planned reduction in the number collections required at the blocks. The co-mingled waste will be collected by a dedicated vehicle and transported to Bidston.</p> <p>From week commencing 17<sup>th</sup> January 2011 the current waste collection routes across the Borough are being amended to allow for the introduction of new 'Zoned Collection Routes'. The collection fleets will be consolidated in specific areas, or 'zones', on a particular day, with there being eight zones across the Borough. Further details regarding the 'Zoned Collection Service', together with new collection calendars for 2011/2012, will be sent to all residents in the New Year. Members will receive advance notification of all information, once finalised, and prior to distribution.</p>

## ENVIRONMENTAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

<b>Award and prize for Low Emission Zones</b>	<p>Sefton Council has won a Northwest Climate Leaders Award for Tackling Transport and Travel Emissions. The award was for the work that has been done to include Low Emissions Strategies principles into the developing Local Transportation Plan 3. This work has been undertaken as part of the Low Emissions Regional Groups Initiative, which is championed by Sefton. The entry was in the name of the Merseyside Transport Partnership, of which Sefton is a member, to reflect the pan Merseyside aspects of the work. The judges praised the broad nature of the partnership that was involved, the innovative nature of the work and the fact that it was supported by senior sub regional bodies, Merseyside Strategic Transportation Environment Group and the Local Transportation Plan Coordination group. As winners we were awarded £2000 to be spent on pursuing the initiative, developing work on securing alternative funding for low emissions technologies and disseminating what we have learnt.</p>
<b>Award and prize for Eco Centre</b>	<p>Sefton Council's Energy Team won a 'NW Climate Leaders Award' for the Eco Centre - Eco Educational Services. The judges were particularly impressed with the quality and range of educational support provided to schools and community and particularly that staff with limited resources have been able to keep developing the environmental educational programme. For example this year towards broader climate change adaptation and new displays for the visiting public. As well as the traditional certificate, the award also provides a £2000 grant, which is earmarked to underpin/augment the services offered.</p>
<b>Climate Change Funding</b>	<p>The UK Government has set a target to reduce CO2 emissions by 80% by 2050. Sefton Council via MEAS is to deliver a £100,000 externally funded capacity building programme for Merseyside to assist the development of skills to tackle climate change. The fund is to be spent or committed by June 2011. The funding from the North West Improvement and Efficiency Fund, part of a £9.75m coalition Government National allocation, will be used to build skills and capacity across a range of local authority responsibilities to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate the delivery of increased renewable energy supply through the activities of local authority planning departments</li> <li>• Help local authorities more broadly, including training for members, officers and other stakeholder on adaptation and other key areas of impact on climate change</li> <li>• Allow planning departments to promote better community engagement in the planning process, including on renewables.</li> </ul> <p>Resulting in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An increase in the number of appropriate renewable energy schemes that receive planning permission in the North West</li> <li>• An increase in the percentage CO2 reduction from Local Authority operations</li> <li>• A reduction in the per capita CO2 emissions from local areas</li> <li>• An increase in the resilience of local areas and their readiness to respond to climate change</li> </ul>

**Councillor D Tattersall**  
**Cabinet Member Environmental**

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## Cabinet – 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

### HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE CABINET MEMBER REPORT

#### Dementia Strategy in Sefton

In November the Adult Social Care Department met with domiciliary and residential sector providers in Sefton to establish a 'Provider Forum'.

This is to promote, develop and delivery quality services to the residents of Sefton who are diagnosed with dementia.

The Forum will be chaired by a representative from the sector.

The Forum will also include the training and development requirements of the sector to ensure that training schemes are in place to provide quality care.

#### Personalisation

In August 2010 all new service users who require and meet the criteria for care provision are offered self directed support or a direct payment to purchase a package of care that suits their needs.

#### Parkhaven Trust Extra Care Facility

The residents of Bartlett House (a residential provision) will be in residence at their new extra care flats by Christmas 2010 and subsequent lettings will commence in January 2011. There will be a joint allocations panel to rent the remaining units.

This is the second extra care facility in the borough.

The third development will be at the Kew Development. This scheme has yet to be finalised with Planning but meetings are progressing well. This facility will be approximately 100 units and will facilitate users with low to high dementia needs.

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## **CABINET BRIEFING – 25 NOVEMBER 2010**

### **CABINET MEMBER LEISURE AND TOURISM**

#### **SPORT AND RECREATION**

##### **Halloween and Bonfire Events**

Three successful firework displays were held, at Bootle, Netherton and Maghull. These displays, which were hosted by Leisure and Tourism, were funded by the areas' respective Area Committees, Merseyside Police, the Safer Stronger Communities Partnership and Maghull Parish Council. Around 15,000 Sefton residents attended the three displays.

Overall there was a 38% reduction in firework related anti-social behaviour from 2009 to 2010. As a partnership we have succeeded in making this year's Halloween and Bonfire period the safest there has been on record.

##### **Active Lifestyles**

The Active Lifestyles Programme, commissioned by NHS Sefton, incorporates a number of services designed to work with residents in need of weight management support or suffering with/at risk of developing heart disease, through a combination of physical activity, dietary support and behaviour change. The programme has been awarded the prestigious 2010 North West Public Health Award.

The Active Lifestyles Service was also one of only five interventions nationally to be 'highly commended' by the National Obesity Forum and is also being showcased as a best practice model by the British Heart Foundation within its 'Sharing Practice: Raising the profile of physical activity across the UK' publication, which is being launched at their 10th Annual Conference.

##### **Positive Futures**

Throughout the October holiday, 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 October included blokarting, wheels for all activities and caring for ponies as well as family based activities, day trips and activity days with transport provided for the first time from some areas of the borough.

The Sefton Positive Futures football programme has successfully been assessed by the FA to achieve Chartered Standard status a benchmark of high quality football sessions.

##### **Free Holiday Activities**

Free & Active providing Places To Go, Things To Do has been running throughout the October half term 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.

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Throughout the October half term the Free & Active section of the programme continued to witness rising participation figures in both wet and dry activities with a 17.3% increase on dry side sports and 13.1% increase in wet sports. Out of the range of activities on offer, athletics, water sports and adventurous activities and football were the most popular choices for young people, receiving more than 700 visits alone.

## **Coach Education**

The Inspire Accredited Coach Education programme run by the Sefton Sports Council offers young people aged between 14-19 the opportunity to gain a nationally recognised coaching qualification. 200 places have been made available for students and over six weeks the programme has been open 140 individuals have already registered at the time of going to print.

## **Netherton Activity Centre**

Construction works have commenced on the development of the Netherton Activity Centre. The new development will witness the leisure centre, library and arts centre undergo extensive reconstruction to be housed in the new leisure centre and library as well as a sensory unit for disabled children and young people in the form of Jake's Sensory Centre.

## **LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **Fulfilling their Potential**

The three year Fulfilling Their Potential project, which completed in March 2010, was intended to improve the library offer to young people across the North West. In Sefton Libraries the aim was to introduce teenage reading groups, and encourage staff to be more confident working with teenagers. In the Final Report, produced by the Reading Agency, Sefton libraries are referred to as the 'reading group champions of the North West'. Reading groups have been set up in six libraries, plus imaginative author events have attracted hundreds of young people to the libraries.

### **Summer Reading Challenge 2010**

The annual summer reading challenge took place across Sefton libraries, encouraging children to read six books during the holidays. It was publicised in all primary schools, and almost 5,000 children signed up and read a number of books, with almost 4,000 completing the challenge, and receiving a certificate and medal as a reward. An awards ceremony took place for children in the Maghull area at Maghull High School, at which the Mayor presented children with their rewards.

### **Get On-Line Week**

The national Get On-Line Week took place 18-23 October 2010. Sefton libraries took part in this campaign by giving people unfamiliar with IT the change to get on-line. Sessions ran at most libraries, and over 100 people were helped to get started with IT. Comments received included 'The computer lessons are very welcome especially to older persons. "Please continue" and "Now I know what I 'm doing" . "It's nice to learn" were among comments received.

## **LANDSCAPE DEVELOPMENT AND MANAGEMENT**

### **Awards for Parks and Greenspaces**

Landscape Development and Management have won several prestigious awards in recent months for their management of Sefton's parks and greenspaces.

Firstly, the service has again been awarded the prestigious Green Apple Award for environmental best practice. The Green Apple Awards are the leading environmental awards in the UK, and are organised by The Green Organisation. The awards began in 1994 and attracted more than 500 nominations this year.

Secondly, the Service has been re-accredited by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) for the way it manages Sefton's play areas. It has achieved a Bronze award, a higher level than previously. Only one other local authority in the North West has achieved this status, and the judges commented that Sefton Council have, 'continued to show a high standard of effectiveness.'

Thirdly, the Service won a number of awards in the Southport Flower Show, including the 'Best in Show' award for its garden.

### **North-West in Bloom**

Further successes have been achieved in this year's Regional 'In-Bloom Awards'. Leisure and Tourism have worked with many local partners to secure Silver Gilt awards for both Southport (in the Best Large Coastal Resort category) and Crosby and Waterloo (in the Small Coastal Resort category). Both these awards were higher than the previous year's awards.

Among the many other 'In Bloom' awards in Sefton this year were 14 'Neighbourhood' Awards, in the 'Developing', 'Thriving', or 'Outstanding' categories.

## **TOURISM**

### **Marketing**

PR – British Musical Fireworks Championship received substantial coverage by way of editorial, reader offers (for tickets) and competitions. 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). Christmas Festival PR to begin shortly via articles and reader offers in regional newspapers.

Website / new media – The move to the new 'enterprise' web platform for visitsouthport.com has taken place, the online shop is now live. 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. October newsletter included several special offers for both residents and visitors.

Travel Trade – Familiarisation visit for 23 coach operators and group travel organisers hosted 10-12 October. Positive reviews from the group with some business being placed already.

STBN – Southport Tourism Business Network paying membership now stands at 106. Next Alliance meeting 17 November. Southport Restaurateurs Association

# Agenda Item 15f

(SRA) recruiting for 2011, 4 new members agreed and 1 elected to leave, membership now stands at 29.

## Events

Southport Air Show 18 & 19 September – Saturday was well attended with approximately 35,000 people, feedback from customers was positive. Weather deteriorated during the Saturday pm and continued to rain overnight leaving organisers with no option apart from cancelling the Sunday event, decision made early am and message was communicated immediately via website, radio stations etc.

British Musical Fireworks Championships – 1 - 3 October, successful three evenings, great standard of displays, winners were Pyrotex who fired first on Saturday, presentations made by Mayor of Sefton, attendance 13,000.

Southport Comedy Week – passed off successfully, headline gigs by Sean Lock, Dara O’Brain, Rich Hall and Jimmy Carr all sold out.

Christmas Lights Switch on and Parade – Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> November – New route for Parade, Entertainment centred around Lord Street Bandstand whilst Arts Centre work taking place.

Christmas Retail Campaign, Chapel Street will host a Christmas Market on the 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> & 19<sup>th</sup> December, this will include local retailers plus traders, entertainers and traditional fairground in Town Hall Gardens.

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 12<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

Southport International Jazz Festival – 26 – 29 May 2011, starting to secure headline acts, working with Southport Melodic Jazz Club for one evening headliner, currently approaching fringe venues to participate.

Southport Air Show – de-brief meeting taking place on 19<sup>th</sup> November, schedule of planning meetings being circulated for 2011, event will take place on 23/24 July 2011.

## Business Tourism

At the end of the second quarter of the 2010/2011 financial year there was a total of 22 confirmed conferences worth an estimated £12.5m in economic impact. With an annual target of 31 conferences and estimated revenue of £20m the team is well on target with two quarters remaining.

The destination exhibited at Event UK in Birmingham in September, alongside Liverpool Convention Bureau and ACC Liverpool – and it was the best attended Event UK exhibition for a number of years. Several strong leads were made and are being progressed. The Autumn/Winter issue of Conference Times has been launched and the team is currently putting together a second edition of the popular Delegate Passport.

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The team has increased efforts to attract Agents to the resort as increasingly, the association and not-for-profit organisation market are using conference organisers and a dedicated Agent Familiarisation Visit is planned in November.

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## CABINET MEMBER - PERFORMANCE AND GOVERNANCE

### REPORT TO CABINET – 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010

#### 1. PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT & INTELLIGENCE

##### Intelligence – Core Evidence Base and Area Profiles

The development of area profiles for the 22 different wards is underway and these will be used to assist with the creation of the refreshed Core Evidence Base and support neighbourhood management. Additionally work is ongoing to identify data sets for inclusion in the refreshed Core Evidence Base. The current content of the draft ward profiles is a combination of datasets and information sources contained within the Core Evidence Base and submissions from Council departments and/or partners.

Once the content of ward profiles have been agreed it is intended to aggregate this information up to higher geographies such as Area Committee and Borough level as part of the refresh of the Core Evidence Base.

Arising from discussion at the last meeting of Cabinet Member Performance and Governance, it was suggested that it would be useful for the development of ward profiles to be broken down even further to polling districts which were greatly different in a number of wards. The ward profiles and evidence base will be updated biannually to ensure they are current.

##### Quarter Two 2010/11 Performance Reporting

Quarter Two monitoring has been completed, including updates against Priorities in Departmental Service Plans and National Indicators. Using Sefton's latest performance, officers can compare our performance with that published regionally and nationally to determine Sefton's direction of travel. Monitoring reports have been published on the Intranet and have been sent to departments for presentation to Cabinet Members.

##### National Indicator Set Revoked – Governments new data requirements

The National Indicator set was revoked by the Secretary of State on the 13<sup>th</sup> October 2010. The letter stated that the National Indicator set will be replaced by a single comprehensive list of data that the Coalition wishes every Local Authority to produce commencing April 2011.

On the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 all government departments published their business plans that set out in detail the work of Government for the next four years. The plans include departmental priorities, financial information (service costs), Structural Reform Plans and input and impact indicators plus other data requirements. Within the plans of some departments there are lists of input and impact indicators with details around :

- when publication will start – already published, January, April, July, October 2011
- how often we should publish – monthly, quarterly or annually
- by whom – government department, local authority or school

The transparency sections of the Plans are being published in draft to allow wider consultation which ends 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 <http://transparency.number10.gov.uk/data.php>

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## **Openness and Transparency Agenda**

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government wrote to local authorities in June 2010, committing them to publishing items of spending over £500 including tenders, contracts and actual payments by January 2011. The Government had also committed local authorities to publishing certain information on salaries and contracts by this date. Work is underway to meet the requirements by the deadline.

## **2. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS**

In September and October around £460,000 of press coverage has been generated. Notable successes have included the promotion of a major fostering campaign for Children's Services, PR around the decision to move forward with the Thornton-Switch Island Link Road, the current programme of meetings around the Greenbelt and Southport Airshow.

Internal communication is a key focus through the *Informing Sefton* section of the Intranet informing of progress on the Transformation Programme and the challenges facing the Council in terms of meeting the savings requirements.

## **COUNCILLOR IAIN BRODIE-BROWN**

<b>CABINET MEMBER'S REPORT</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Date</b>
Ian Maher	Cabinet Member - Regeneration	25 November 2010

## **Planning & Economic Regeneration update**

### Local Enterprise Partnership

In August, Liverpool City Region signed off a proposal for a Local Enterprise Partnership to create strong private sector leadership for Merseyside and lead it out of recession.

On 29 October, Vince Cable (Business Secretary) announced that the Liverpool City Region LEP had been approved.

Asked in the Commons about Liverpool's LEP bid, Mr Cable said: "Several of the best bids came from the North West, including Greater Manchester and Liverpool city region."

The private sector-led Board of the LEP will include Leaders of the six LCR councils.

### Regional Growth Fund

Also on 29 October, a new White Paper "Local growth: realising every place's potential" was published with details of the new Regional Growth Fund.

The RGF has two main objectives:

- (a) To encourage private sector enterprise by providing support for projects with significant potential for economic growth and create additional sustainable private sector employment; and
- (b) To support in particular those areas and communities that are currently dependent on the public sector make the transition to sustainable private sector led growth and prosperity.

Bids can be made through the LCR Local Enterprise Partnership or direct to Government. A total of £1.42 billion is available in three bidding rounds over the period 2011-14, and the first round closes on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2011.

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## Local Economic Assessment

On receiving all necessary approvals from CM Regeneration and Establishment Control Panel, SQW have been appointed to deliver a Local Economic Assessment for Sefton.

The work will include a survey of 800 businesses to get a clear idea of business priorities during the recession, and to identify named contacts for the delivery of the most appropriate support, whether by email, a skilled business advisor, a business network, or a special BusinessplusSefton event.

The Assessment is a new statutory duty, paid for by a one-off allocation of Area Based Grant, and will feed into the Sefton Sustainable Economic Development Strategy due to be out for consultation in March 2011.

### HMRI

The Queens / Bedford, Klondyke CPO Inquiry into the acquisition of a small number of homes required to allow the continued comprehensive redevelopment of these areas started this week on 9 November.

**REPORT TO CABINET - 25<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2010**

**1. Thornton Switch Island Link**

Following its review of the transport major scheme programme, the Government announced on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2010, that the proposals for the Thornton Switch Island Link would receive funding support. The Council will be asked to review the costs of the scheme and provide the Department for Transport with an updated cost estimate for the scheme in December 2010. The revised cost estimate will be submitted to Cabinet on the 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 for approval and if the revised costs proposals are accepted by the Department, funding would be confirmed in January 2011.

The planning application will be considered at the meeting of the Planning Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> December 2010.

If the planning application is approved and subject to the need for a Planning Inquiry when referred to Government Office, the construction of the scheme could commence in Spring/Summer 2012 and take 12 months to complete.

**2. LTP capital Programmes**

Progress on the 2010/11 programme of integrated transport, maintenance, bridges and street lighting programmes and make good progress.

Work has recently been completed on a traffic calming scheme on Lambshear Lane/Kenyons Lane, Maghull and safety improvements to Ledsons Canal Bridge, Maghull should commence in December 2010 and take 6-8 weeks to complete.

**3. The walking and cycling development officers within the Council's Travel Awareness and Road Safety Team have delivered an expanded range of programmes throughout this year which has resulted in an increasing number of Sefton residents taking part in the projects.**

The Active Walk programme now has 17 regular walks which over the last few months has included evening walks as well as weekend ones. The evening walks have been particularly popular with over 50 people registering for them and have included exploration of the local rights of way network. The led walks are only possible as a result of the dedication of over 60 volunteer walk leaders who regularly lead the weekly and fortnightly walks. They are recruited, trained and supervised by Stephanie Boote, Sefton's Active Walks co-ordinator. Approximately 400 people regularly participate in the walks.

The cycling development officers have worked with over half the schools in the borough (both high schools and primary schools) and a number of community groups and workplaces to deliver cycling sessions. The sessions have included 'Bike it' breakfasts for parents/carers and children (a reward for cycling into school) in which over 6000 children and 600 adults have taken part. 550 children have been taught to ride without stabilisers. Approximately 1900 children and 100 adults have received bike maintenance training. Around 500 year 6 children have taken part in 'transition projects' to equip with the skills to safely and confidently cycle to their new high school. 690 high school pupils have used our Computrainer (cycling simulator) and over 450 people of all ages and abilities have taken part in our family cycle rides. Almost 300 children have taken part in competitive training sessions in preparation for the inter school races (Tour Series).

The delivery of these programmes is only possible because of the strong partnerships we have with NHS Sefton, Sustrans, CTC and British **Page 14** and the walking and cycling development posts

# Agenda Item 15i

and the help from the Section Council's road safety staff. Volunteers from the local cycling clubs have on occasions also assisted with the sessions.

## 4. SMBC/Capita Symonds Technical Services Partnership

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

The programmes of supplementary schemes are progressing as follows

- Pre-patching ahead of application of treatments 100% complete.
- Surface dressing ( Tar spray and chip) 95% complete
- Micro-Asphalt thin surface treatment 15% complete

Colas the micro-asphalt contractor has once again failed to commence work for the third time and have indicated a further revised date of the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2010 to commence the works. This date even with double the number of gangs will require 3 to 4 weeks and weekend working to complete as the autumn period also brings with it shorter working daylight hours and low temperatures. This remaining 60% of the micro-asphalt programme is now at risk of failure as this is a weather sensitive treatment which should have been completed by the end of September 2010 when ambient temperatures are higher to be as effective as was intended. If the treatment is not applied prior to the onset of the icy cold winter weather there is a risk of severe surface breakdown on these roads which this process was designed to prevent.

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 some complaints regarding cutting frequencies which are sometimes affected by weather conditions. The trial utilising a growth retardant on the Formby Bypass is reaching its conclusion and a report of its effectiveness will be prepared upon completion of this years programme.

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

The Children's Services sponsored programme of works providing accommodation for the new 14-19 World of Work Diploma is complete, the facilities all commencing operation at the commencement of the September term.

The Primary Capital programme providing funding to primary schools, which would not benefit from the BSF programme, is now ostensibly complete although works at Lander Road Primary School will continue through to June 2011.

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 the Netherton Activity Centre replacement and Southport Market refurbishment contracts have now commenced on site. These projects will both be concluded in the autumn of 2011.

The Balliol House demolition contract has also commenced with a target completion date of May 2011.

The Capita Symonds **Building Maintenance team** continue to provide a comprehensive day-to-day responsive and planned maintenance service. Particular focus is currently been placed upon statutory testing and inspection requirements and Capita Symonds have invested in new software to monitor adherence to these requirements.