

MEETING: CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN'S SERVICES  
DATE: Tuesday 7 December 2010  
TIME: 9.30 am  
VENUE: Town Hall, Bootle (This meeting will also be video conferenced at the Town Hall, Southport)

DECISION MAKER: Councillor Moncur  
SUBSTITUTE: Councillor P. Dowd

SPOKESPERSONS: Councillor Cuthbertson Councillor Preece

SUBSTITUTES: Councillor Doran Councillor Howe

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Lyndzay Roberts  
Telephone: 0151 934 2033  
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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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# AGENDA

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 16 November 2010.		(Pages 5 - 6)
4.	<b>Petition - Proposal to Consult on Closure of St Wilfrid's High School, Bootle</b> To consider, in accordance with Rule 27 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules of the Constitution, a petition signed by 929 residents regarding the proposal to consult on closure of St Wilfrid's High School, Bootle and supporting the alternative proposal being developed by governors of St. Wilfrid's and St. George of England High School, to develop a merged school on one site, using the best practice and specialisms of each school and called upon Sefton Council to support the proposal in principle and work with partners to develop an excellent school offering parents a choice of school in the Bootle and Litherland area.		
5.	<b>2010 Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements within Sefton's Children's Service</b> Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families	All Wards;	(Pages 7 - 14)
6.	<b>Schools Access Initiative: Additional Schemes</b> Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families	Cambridge; Derby;	(Pages 15 - 20)

- |     |   |            |                 |
|-----|---|------------|-----------------|
| 7.  | <b>Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant: Quality and Access 2010/11: Update</b><br>Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families  | All Wards; | (Pages 21 - 24) |
| 8.  | <b>Sefton City Learning Centres: Capital Redevelopment Funding</b><br>Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families   | All Wards; | (Pages 25 - 30) |
| 9.  | <b>Outline Business Case for the Use of Thornton Site for Post 16 learners with Learning Difficulties and/or Disabilities</b><br>Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families                  | Manor;     | (Pages 31 - 36) |
| 10. | <b>Post 16 Annual Travel Passes - Policy Review</b><br>Report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families  | All Wards; | (Pages 37 - 50) |
| 11. | <b>Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/ European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Financed Provision.</b><br>Joint report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families and the Planning and Economic Development Director | All Wards; | (Pages 51 - 56) |

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2010. MINUTE NO. 61 IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN"

## CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN'S SERVICES

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON TUESDAY 16 NOVEMBER 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Moncur

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Cuthbertson and Preece

#### 57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Mr.R.Gregson, Sefton Governors Forum.

#### 58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

#### 59. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 60. APPOINTMENT OF LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES TO GOVERNING BODIES OF MAINTAINED SCHOOLS

Further to Minute No.46 of the meeting held on 5 October 2010, the Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director - Children, Schools and Families on vacancies on the governing bodies of a number of Community and Voluntary Aided schools.

RESOLVED:

That the undermentioned persons be appointed to serve on the Governing Bodies of the schools indicated for a period of four years:-

School	Governor(s)
<b>AINSDALE WARD</b>	
Ainsdale St John's CEP, Southport	Professor E. Hunter
<b>DERBY WARD</b>	
Springwell Park Primary School, Bootle	Mr. D.Hardy Cllr. P.Hardy Cllr. I. Maher

# Agenda Item 3

CABINET MEMBER - CHILDREN'S SERVICES- TUESDAY 16  
NOVEMBER 2010

## KEW WARD

Kew Woods Primary, Southport

Cllr.F.Weavers  
Ms.J. Hopkins

## MANOR WARD

Newfield, Crosby

Ms.L.Paterson

## MOLYNEUX WARD

Aintree Davenhill Primary, Aintree

Mrs.M.Atkinson

## NETHERTON AND ORRELL WARD

Holy Spirit Catholic Primary, Bootle

Cllr.S.Bradshaw

## PARK WARD

Lydiate Primary, Lydiate

Maghull High, Maghull  
St.Thomas' CEP, Lydiate

Mrs.A.James  
Mr.P.McKinley  
Pa Cllr. F.Woolridge

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

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families seeking approval for a proposed scheme at Presfield Special School.

The proposed scheme sought to provide a new sensory room, new doors and a security system around the Community Room to improve pupil safety and an accessible toilet.

£20,000 of sponsorship, raised by the school, would be used to provide an upgrade to the ICT system, refurbish the Community Room and provide laptops and electronic notebooks for pupil use.

The Governors had indicated that following designation the name of the school would be changed to Presfield High School and Specialist College

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Cabinet be recommended to include the proposed scheme relating to the Specialist School Status at Presfield Special School, detailed within the report, within the Children's Services Capital Programme 2010/11.

# Agenda Item 5

**REPORT TO:** Overview & Scrutiny - Children's Services  
Cabinet Member – Children's Services

**DATE:** 30<sup>th</sup> November 2010  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**SUBJECT:** 2010 Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral  
and Assessment Arrangements within Sefton's Children's  
Service

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Peter Morgan Strategic Director – Children, Schools &  
Families

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** Peter Morgan Strategic Director – Children, Schools &  
Families

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:** To provide the Committee with the outcome letter from Ofsted in relation to 2010 Annual Unannounced Inspection of Contact, Referral and Assessment Arrangements within Sefton's Children's Service.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

**RECOMMENDATION(S):** To note the contents of the letter and to request that the Safeguarding, Early Intervention and Prevention Director to finalise and implement the action plan to address urgently the areas of development set out in the letter.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** Not appropriate

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

# Agenda Item 5

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** N/A

**Financial:** N/A

<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:** N/A

**Risk Assessment:** N/A

**Asset Management:** N/A

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**



## 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

### Background:

Members will recall that Sefton had its first annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements in 2009. This second unannounced inspection took place on 19 and 20 October 2010 and in conducting the inspection, inspectors considered a range of evidence including:

- Electronic case records
- Supervision files and notes
- Observation of social workers and senior practitioners undertaking referral and assessment duties
- Other information provided by staff and managers
- Interviews with a range of staff including managers, social workers, other practitioners and administrative staff.

The inspection outcome letter attached sets out the features of the service in respect of:

- Strengths
- Areas of practice meeting requirements
- Areas of development
- The letter indicates that there are no priority actions (areas of serious safeguarding concerns for Sefton)

# Agenda Item 5

With regard to the areas of development a draft action plan has been produced, involving partners and will be finalised after consultation and scrutiny by Sefton's Local Safeguarding Childrens Board.

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Direct T 03000 130570  
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17 November 2010

Mr Peter Morgan  
Strategic Director of Children, Schools and Families  
Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council  
Merton House  
Stanley Road  
Bootle  
L20 3JA

Dear Mr Morgan

**Annual unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council children's services**

This letter summarises the findings of the recent unannounced inspection of contact, referral and assessment arrangements within local authority children's services in Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council which was conducted on 19 and 20 October 2010. The inspection was carried out under section 138 of the Education and Inspections Act 2006. It will contribute to the annual review of the performance of the authority's children's services, for which Ofsted will award a rating later in the year. I would like to thank all of the staff we met for their assistance in undertaking this inspection.

The inspection sampled the quality and effectiveness of contact, referral and assessment arrangements and their impact on minimising any child abuse and neglect. Inspectors considered a range of evidence, including: electronic case records; supervision files and notes; observation of social workers and senior practitioners undertaking referral and assessment duties; and other information provided by staff and managers. Inspectors also spoke to a range of staff including managers, social workers, other practitioners and administrative staff.

The inspection identified areas of strength and areas of practice that met requirements, with some areas for development.

From the evidence gathered, the following features of the service were identified:

Strengths
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>There has been a significant increase in the use of the common assessment framework (CAF) across the borough. Inspectors saw evidence of good quality early intervention support being provided in a timely way to children, young people and families, including those with more complex needs. CAF is now fully embedded within a wide range of agencies, and is also systematically</li></ul>



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



used as an appropriate outcome following children's social care referrals and initial assessments.

**The service meets the requirements of statutory guidance in the following areas**

- All assessments are undertaken by appropriately qualified social workers with support from experienced family support workers.
- The council has been successful in securing workforce stability within the assessment teams through recruiting permanent social work staff and team managers. This has largely reduced the reliance on agency staff and has contributed to an improvement in staff morale.
- Inspectors saw evidence of children being seen alone during assessments, and their views had been appropriately sought and taken into account in most cases.
- A thorough policy for regular and comprehensive case file and thematic auditing has been implemented over the past year. This is undertaken by all tiers of management with a clear reporting mechanism to the Local Safeguarding Children Board. This provides an effective framework to regularly monitor the quality of services and to drive forward improvement.
- Newly qualified staff report that they receive satisfactory induction and good quality training and learning opportunities. Robust action has recently been taken to ensure that newly qualified staff do not hold child protection cases.
- The attachment of an assistant team manager to the contact centre provides appropriate screening for all children's social care contacts made to the council. This has contributed to the reduction in numbers of referrals despite increasing numbers of contacts.
- Domestic violence referrals from the police are now effectively screened through the attachment of an assistant team manager within the police family crime investigation unit. This ensures parents and children subject to domestic violence are appropriately signposted to services and that there is an early identification of risk.
- Weekly transfer meetings attended by a range of relevant children's services managers ensure a timely and appropriate transfer of cases. The process is supported by an effective file auditing tool.
- Swift action was taken following the first unannounced inspection to accommodate the two south assessment teams within more suitable accommodation. This has also provided opportunities for improved multi-agency working.



## Areas for development

- Inspectors found some evidence of contacts being prematurely closed, despite indication of potential risk to vulnerable children and young people. The council promptly ensured that appropriate action was taken in the cases identified to confirm that children and young people were safe and their needs were being met.
- Strategy meetings do not always take place in a timely manner following a child protection referral, due to poor preparation and planning. This can result in a delay in investigating child protection concerns and places children at potential risk of harm.
- The quality of initial and core assessments is variable. Analysis is not always sufficiently rigorous leading to poor identification of the needs of children and young people.
- Some caseloads within assessment teams are excessively high. This impacts on the worker's ability to complete work and delays some children receiving services in a timely way.
- Most staff report that supervision is regular, supportive and challenging. However, while case discussion and decision making is recorded within supervision files, this is not routinely added to children's electronic or paper case files, which is not compliant with the supervision policy.
- The council has a number of non-integrated electronic and paper recording systems which continue to be a barrier to management oversight and to efficient case management by staff at all levels.

Any areas for development identified above will be specifically considered in any future inspection of services to safeguard children within your area.

Yours sincerely

**David Asher**  
**Her Majesty's Inspector**

Copy: Margaret Carney, Chief Executive, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council  
Ian Rush, Chair of Sefton Safeguarding Children Board  
Ian Monkur, Lead Member for Children's Services, Sefton  
Metropolitan Borough Council  
Andrew Spencer, Department for Education

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# Agenda Item 6

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

**DATE:** 7 DECEMBER 2010  
16 DECEMBER 2010

**SUBJECT:** SCHOOLS ACCESS INITIATIVE: ADDITIONAL SCHEMES

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** DERBY AND CAMBRIDGE WARDS

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

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

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed schemes to be funded from the Schools Access Initiative Capital Allocation.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The Cabinet Member, Children, Schools & Families has delegated powers to approve the proposed schemes and to refer them to Cabinet for inclusion in the 2010/11 Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member, Children, Schools & Families is recommended to:-

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

**KEY DECISION:** No.

**FORWARD PLAN:** Not appropriate.

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

# Agenda Item 6

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not appropriate.

## IMPLICATIONS:

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None.

**Financial:** There are no financial implications for the Council's general resources as all funding is from specific resources (Schools Access Initiative allocation 2010/11). The total cost of the schemes detailed in this report is estimated at £17,000 which, if approved, will leave a balance of £38,946 to support further schemes.

<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:** Not appropriate.

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

**Asset Management:** The proposed allocation of funding is in line with the Children, Schools & Families Asset Management Plan.

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 555 - The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report.



# Agenda Item 6

## 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	✓		

## LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

The proposed schemes will contribute towards the inclusion agenda by improving access for pupils with physical disabilities and/or mobility problems.

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

The proposed scheme will have a positive impact on the following LAA targets.

- ❖ Educational achievement and training.
- ❖ The health of children and young people.
- ❖ Changing perceptions.
- ❖ Statutory Education Targets.

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

Report to Cabinet – 2 September 2010 – Capital Programme Review

# Agenda Item 6

## **SCHOOLS ACCESS INITIATIVE: ADDITIONAL SCHEMES**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Sefton MBC has received a Schools Access Initiative (SAI) capital allocation in 2010/11 of £400,790. Taking into account schemes already approved there remains a balance of £90,277.
- 1.2 The SAI funding provides support for capital projects to improve access to education in schools for pupils with disabilities and special educational needs.
- 1.3 Cabinet confirmed, on 2 September 2010, that schemes funded from uncommitted SAI capital could be progressed.

### **2. Proposed Scheme**

- 2.1 Stanley High School is one of Sefton's secondary schools that is designated for pupils with physical disabilities or mobility problems and serves the Southport area of the Borough.
- 2.2 All areas of the school are accessible to pupils in wheelchairs with the exception of the stage within the main hall. Pupils with physical disabilities cannot access the stage during drama or for presentations and award events. The proposal is to provide a mobile lifting device which will allow access from the rear of the stage when required. The cost of the device is £8,000.
- 2.3 A second proposal is to improve accessibility from four classrooms to the external play area at Christ Church CE Primary School in Bootle. This will involve resurfacing an area of playground to bring it level with the classroom doors at an estimated cost of £9,000. This will ensure that pupils, already attending the school, will have greater access to external play areas.
- 2.4 Maghull High School, Maghull is designated as a school for pupils with physical disabilities and caters for a number of pupils in wheelchairs. The first floor areas of the school have evacuation chairs so that pupils in wheelchairs can be safely escorted from the building in case of fire. However, the four storey science block presents a problem simply because of the number of stairs and the difficulty of evacuating secondary age pupils over such a distance. It is therefore proposed to convert the existing lift to an evacuation lift which could be used in an emergency. The lift would have its own power supply and intercom system. The estimated cost is £34,331.
- 2.5 The total cost of proposals detailed above is £51,331 which, if approved, would leave a balance of £38,946 to support further schemes.

## **3. Recommendations**

3.1 The Cabinet Member, Children, Schools & Families is recommended to:-

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

CD – November 2010

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# Agenda Item 7

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

**DATE:** 7 DECEMBER 2010  
16 DECEMBER 2010

**SUBJECT:** SURE START EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE GRANT:  
QUALITY AND ACCESS 2010/11: UPDATE

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** ALL WARDS

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

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

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to update Members on the approved schemes and to seek approval for additional schemes.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The Cabinet Member, Children, Schools & Families has delegated powers to approve the proposed additional schemes and to refer them to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

- i). note the update on previously approved schemes;
- ii). approve the proposed additional schemes;
- iii). 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.

# Agenda Item 7

## 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. Proposals will be funded from the Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant 2010/11.

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

**Asset Management:** Not appropriate.

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD564 - The Head of Corporate Finance and Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on the 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	✓		

## LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

The proposals will contribute to the Extended Schools agenda, which integrates the five elements of the Every Child Matters agenda. The proposals will also link to the following CYPP priorities:

- ❖ Create and maintain an environment where people feel safe;
- ❖ Create highly effective, inclusive learning environments for all age groups where learners can enjoy and achieve;
- ❖ Create a culture and an environment where people can make a positive contribution to their community.

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

The proposals will have a positive impact on and contribute to the five CYPP targets and the following LAA targets.

- ❖ Educational achievement and training;
- ❖ Health of children and young people;
- ❖ Making a positive contribution;
- ❖ Community involvement;
- ❖ Statutory education targets.

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

- ❖ Report to Cabinet Member and Cabinet – 1/10 June 2010 – Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant: Quality and Access 2010/11.
- ❖ Report to Cabinet Member and Cabinet – 13/15 April 2010 – Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant: Quality and Access 2010/11.

# Agenda Item 7

## **SURE START EARLY YEARS AND CHILDCARE GRANT: QUALITY AND ACCESS 2010/11: UPDATE**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Members will recall that Sefton MBC received a £960,958 Sure Start Early Years and Childcare Grant (EYCG): Quality and Access in 2010/11.
- 1.2 All funding was allocated to provide improvements in 20 Private, Voluntary and Independent (PVI) settings. The majority of these schemes are progressing well with some already completed.
- 1.3 This is a ring-fenced grant.

### **2. Additional Proposals**

- 2.1 Savings have been made on some of the schemes due either to favourable market prices or slight modifications to original approved schemes.
- 2.2 This has resulted in savings of approximately £105,000. It is proposed to reconsider the scheme put forward by JETS Out of School Club which will provide much improved accommodation for pupils, aged 3 to 14, using this facility at the start and end of the school day. The rooms will be renovated with accessible provision for children with physical disabilities which is not currently available and the opportunities for physical play will be extended.
- 2.3 The JETS proposal is estimated at £90,000 leaving a balance of £15,000. It is proposed to provide external play equipment at a number of PVI settings and any further savings as approved schemes will also be used in this way. The Sefton Early Years Childcare Quality and Inclusion Service will work with the PVI settings to ensure that equipment will help to develop creative learning spaces and have a direct impact on outcomes, achievements and attainments.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-
  - i). note the update on previously approved schemes;
  - ii). approve the proposed additional schemes;
  - iii). refer the funding to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

CD – November 2010

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# Agenda Item 8

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

**DATE:** 7 DECEMBER 2010  
16 DECEMBER 2010  
16 DECEMBER 2010

**SUBJECT:** SEFTON CITY LEARNING CENTRES: CAPITAL  
REDEVELOPMENT FUNDING

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** ALL WARDS

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

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

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of this report is to seek approval for the proposed expenditure of this grant.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The Cabinet Member, Children, Schools & Families, has delegated powers to approve the proposed expenditure and to refer this to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-

- i). approve the proposed expenditure, to be funded entirely from specific resources, and
- ii). refer the expenditure 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.

# Agenda Item 8

## ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Not appropriate.

## IMPLICATIONS:

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None.

**Financial:** There are no financial implications for the Council's general capital resources and all proposals will be funded from the City Learning Centres (CLCs) capital grant 2010/11 as detailed below and from the same grant in 2009/10.

<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	150,000	150,000		
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
CLC Capital Redevelopment Funding	150,000	150,000		
<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:** None arising from this report.

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

**Asset Management:** Not appropriate.

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD566 - The Head of Corporate Finance and Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on the 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	✓		

## LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

The proposals will contribute towards creating highly effective, inclusive learning environments for all age groups.

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

The proposals will have a positive impact on the following targets:-

- Educational achievement and training;
- Making a positive contribution;
- Statutory education targets;

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

Report to Cabinet Member and Cabinet – 4/20 May 2010: Sefton CLC: Capital Redevelopment Funding.

# Agenda Item 8

## **SEFTON CITY LEARNING CENTRES: CAPITAL REDEVELOPMENT FUNDING**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Members will recall that Sefton MBC was allocated a Capital Redevelopment Grant of £300,000 in 2009/10 and again in 2010/11 to allow for the continued development of the two City Learning Centres (CLCs) based at Ainsdale Hope CE High School and Savio Salesian College.
- 1.2 Although a report in May 2010 detailed proposed expenditure of the 2009/10 allocation this was never fully actioned due to the uncertain future of the CLCs which will cease to function in December 2010. A total of £261,081 from the 2009/10 allocation remains unspent.
- 1.3 Representations were made to Partnerships for Schools (PfS) to request that this funding be carried forward into the current financial year and a response to this request was received on 24 November 2010. PfS have confirmed that the £261,081 can be carried forward into 2010/11 but must be expended by 31 March 2011. The total funding available in 2010/11 is therefore £561,081.
- 1.4 The 2010/11 capital redevelopment grant of £300,000 was released to the local authority by Becta (British Education, Communication, Technology Agency) following submission and approval of an Annual Performance Agreement (APA), which detailed the local priorities for supporting the use of technology in teaching and learning.
- 1.5 The Annual Performance Agreement (APA) focussed on the effective use of technology to promote equality, aspiration, motivation and achievement through enhancing the quality of teaching and learning in a range of settings and in response to the Every Child Matters agenda.
- 1.6 The CLC capital redevelopment grant is limited to structural changes to the building, computer hardware and related software and training bought as a single package and software, including upgrades, (but not subscriptions). It must not be used to pay for consumables, staffing or other non-CLC purposes. In addition, this money must not be shared out amongst partner schools. The 2010/11 funding, which is ring-fenced must be expended by 31 August 2011.

### **2. Proposal**

- 2.1 Following dialogue with Becta, it is agreed that the local authority can spend CLC capital redevelopment funding on portable or semi-portable ICT equipment which is used to support outreach work in schools but not to provide static equipment or infrastructure upgrades for the school which could not conceivably be returned to the local authority at some future

# Agenda Item 8

date. Ownership of this hardware or software would remain with the Local Authority and not the target schools.

- 2.2 It is proposed that the CLC Capital Redevelopment funding is used to purchase a range of innovative ICT equipment that can be used to support schools in transforming teaching and learning across all national curriculum stages.
- 2.3 It is anticipated that the proposed investment will encourage wider access and use of technology for Sefton schools delivering Foundation Stage, Primary and Secondary curriculum and Further Education.
- 2.4 The Local Authority will engage with schools through SASH (Sefton Association of Secondary Heads) and SAPH (Sefton Association of Primary Heads) groups to agree an appropriate portfolio of ICT equipment that will support all schools to improve their use of technology.
- 2.5 The Local Authority will also engage with schools through SASH (Sefton Association of Secondary Heads) and SAPH (Sefton Association of Primary Heads) groups to agree a mechanism for allocation of ICT equipment.

### **3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 The Cabinet Member is recommended to:-
  - i). approve the proposed expenditure, to be funded entirely from specific resources, and
  - ii). refer the expenditure to Cabinet for inclusion in the Children, Schools & Families Capital Programme 2010/11.

CD – November 2010

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# Agenda Item 9

**Meeting:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services)  
Cabinet Member - Children Schools and Families

**Date of Meeting:** 30 November 2010  
7<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**Title of Report:** Outline Business Case for the use of Thornton Site for Post  
16 Learners with Learning  
Difficulties and/or Disabilities

**Report of:**  
Peter Morgan  
Strategic Director Children’s Services  
(Telephone No. 0151 934 3706)

**Contact Officer:**  
Colin Oxley  
Assistant Director Inclusion  
(Telephone No. 0151 934 3128)

This report contains	Yes	No
<b>CONFIDENTIAL</b> Information/		√
<b>EXEMPT</b> information by virtue of paragraph(s).....of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972 (If information <u>is</u> marked exempt, the Public Interest Test must be applied and favour the exclusion of the information from the press and public).		√
Is the decision on this report <b>DELEGATED?</b>		

## **Recommendation(s)**

1. Members are asked to accept this outline business case.

## **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	√		

# Agenda Item 9

## Financial Implications

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2006/ 2007 £</b>	<b>2007/ 2008 £</b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</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?				

## Links to ensuring integration

As set out in report

## Impact upon Children's Services targets and priorities

As set out in report

## Departments consulted in the preparation of this Report

As set out in report

## List of background papers relied upon in the preparation of this Report

N/A

**SEFTON M.B.C.**

## Purpose of Report

### **Rationale**

1.1. Nearly three years ago Sefton was provided with Targeted Capital Funding because it was not involved in the early rounds of Building Schools for the Future. Of the £8m made available, £3m was secured to make improvements to provision for pupils with SEN (LLDD). Through discussion with Special School Headteachers it



was agreed that the bulk of this funding should be used to sponsor a major project rather than smaller projects in each of the schools.

1.2. Headteachers and Officers recognised a number of pressures in the system;

- The need to change the designation of Presfield School from Moderate Learning Difficulties (MLD) to Autistic Spectrum Disorders requires moving of post 16 MLD provision from Presfield to another site.
- Most of our special schools are at or above their designated recognised accommodation creating internal space pressures and the need for additional teaching spaces.
- The range of needs of pupils in the Post 16 provision at Rowan Park and Merefield makes it difficult for staff to provide an appropriate curriculum, particularly to stretch more able students.

1.3. Changes related to the dissolution of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) were also anticipated. In April 2010 Sefton Council became responsible for commissioning provision for all 16 -19 year olds and those aged 19 or over but under 25, subject to a learning difficulty assessment. The council duty is to secure enough suitable education and training to meet the reasonable needs of these students.

1.4. Historically, Sefton has had a small but significant number of students accessing Independent Sector Providers (ISP) at Post 19 – there are over 30 such learners in this provision each year (spread across a two or three year programme i.e. about 10 learners in each year cohort). Provision at these colleges is of variable quality. The majority of Sefton learners progress to one college and in summer 2010 this was deemed only satisfactory when inspected by Ofsted, with management deemed to be inadequate. The Independent Sector Provider costs are high when compared to the cost of Local Authority Special School Places. Each place costs about £35k for a day place to in excess of £65k for a residential placement. A day place at a Sefton special school is about £14k.

1.5. Nine learners completed their education in Independent Sector College placements in summer 2010. Of these 6 were day students and 3 residential. The cost of college provision for these 9 learners totalled £996,507 (£436,326 in day fees, £560,181 in residential fees). 5 learners have now progressed to either Hugh Baird or Southport College, with 3 moving into the care of Adult Social Services. The destination of the 9<sup>th</sup> student is currently not known.

1.6. There is a need then to develop the market for this group of learners to improve quality and reduce costs.

1.7. Finally, there is a plan to integrate Children, Schools and Families with Adult Social Care and Well Being, with an integrated management structure in place by April 2011. A key target for adult services is to ensure more young people and adults with LLDD are in paid employment for more than 16 hours per week. Improving progression routes for learners with LLDD will support better outcomes against this target.

## **The Proposal**

# Agenda Item 9

2.1. Thornton Primary School closed for pupils on 31<sup>st</sup> August 2010. The former junior school building has been identified as a suitable Post 16 centre for youngsters with LLDD. Two million pounds of the Targeted Capital Funding has been made available by the council to refurbish and develop the building for this purpose.

2.2. The target group for this provision has been very clearly identified – there are potentially four groups of learners who may require this provision;

1. Young people who have been attending either Presfield (as an MLD placement) or Crosby High (designated MLD) who at age 16 are felt by staff and parents / carers not yet ready to access local sector colleges – this is the group of students who in the past have attended the P16 provision at Presfield. Funding for this group of learners would come from the Dedicated Schools Grant.
2. Those young people aged 19 leaving Rowan Park or Merefield who in the past may have been referred to an ISP (the thirty or so learners at any time referred to above – initially Thornton would replace day places at ISP's). Funding for these learners would be drawn down from the Young Person's Learning Agency by a Sefton College.
3. Students from Rowan Park and Merefield who may benefit from a more advanced course than is currently on offer at either school. Other students from our special schools, aged 14 – 16 requiring a sheltered opportunity to access a more adult environment may also benefit from taster sessions. These students would be supported by staff from their existing placement and so additional costs would be minimal.
4. There are relatively high numbers in our Not Engaged in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) cohort described as having LLDD. This is not a homogeneous group – for some there are suitable courses in existence, for some adult services are needed but there is a group for whom appropriate provision does not exist – the Thornton Centre would aim to provide for these learners. A funding source has yet to be identified for this group.

2.3. As noted above the funding for this provision will come from either the Dedicated schools Grant for Learners aged 16 – 19 or from the Young Persons Learning Agency for those aged over 19. There would be no financial implications for the council.

2.4. The Thornton Centre would **not be designed** to meet the needs of young people who;

- ***Can access local colleges of Further Education and make progress through the offer available in those institutions***
- ***Require adult care and attention throughout their lives***

2.5. It is anticipated that over time the numbers at The Thornton Centre may increase to a maximum capacity of 70 learners. By keeping numbers low it will be possible to provide a personalised offer that enables young people to progress either to local college, supported or open employment.

# Agenda Item 9

2.6. The Courses available will be at Entry Level or working towards this level with the expectation that the learner will achieve at least Entry Level 1 by the end of their course. Courses will be time limited though the offer will be personalised to ensure that the learner has the best possible chance of success at the next stage of their progression route.

2.7. This provision will complement provision at local sector colleges, Hugh Baird and Southport, and provide more effective links to these institutions. By creating flexible pathways students will be able to progress to the next stage of their career at the right time rather than at the end of a fixed period as happens now with ISP placements. So some students may attend Thornton for 1 year, whilst others may need up to 3 years to be ready to move on.

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# Agenda Item 10

**REPORT TO:** CABINET MEMBER CHILDRENS SERVICES  
**DATE:** 7 DECEMBER 2010  
**SUBJECT:** POST 16 ANNUAL TRAVEL PASSES – POLICY REVIEW  
**WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL  
**REPORT OF:** STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** MIKE MCSORLEY, EXT. 3428  
**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To refer comments from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services) to the Cabinet Member in relation to the Post 16 Annual Travel Passes – Policy Review.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families requested the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children’s Services) to pre-scrutinise the item.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The resolution of Overview and Scrutiny be noted and Officers be asked to consider these views and their implications when a detailed report on the revised policy is presented in January 2011

**KEY DECISION:** No  
**FORWARD PLAN:** Not appropriate  
**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the “Call-In” period for the Minutes arising from this meeting.

# Agenda Item 10

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Reflected within the original report.

**Financial:**

<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?				

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

**Legal:** Reflected within the original report.

**Risk Assessment:** Reflected within the original report.

**Asset Management:** N/A

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

N/A

# Agenda Item 10

**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 10

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 At its meeting on 26 October 2010, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) considered a report submitted by the Strategic Director of Children's Services in relation to Post 16 Annual Travel Passes (Report attached as Appendix A)
- 1.2 Appendix B sets out a revised recommendation circulated at the Meeting, which had been agreed by the Cabinet Member, Children, Schools and Families at his Meeting held on 26 October 2010.
- 1.3 Overview and Scrutiny Committee resolved the following:

That the Cabinet Member, Children, Schools and Families be recommended that the Policy for Post 16 Annual Travel Passes should stipulate that if the same course is available within a 3 mile radius of that Student's fixed abode (home) then the Student should attend that Further Education Institution.

(In accordance with Rule 18.5 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, Councillors Bradshaw and Byrom requested that their vote against the resolution above be recorded).

## 2.0 Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 There are a number of factors which will need to be considered if this requirement is to form part of a revised policy including:
  - Definitions of 'the same course' as most courses have differences in some aspects
  - Complexity and subjectivity involved in determining course content
  - Complexity of the Appeals process which would be part of the policy
  - Impact on the agenda for encouraging choice of provision
  - Complexity and cost of the administrative process
- 2.2 It is recommended that Officers investigate the above issues and report back as part of the report requested by the Cabinet Member at the meeting on 28<sup>th</sup> October, 2010.

## 3.0 Recommendation

- 3.1 It is recommended that:
  - 1 The contents of the report be noted.
  - 2 The resolution of Overview and Scrutiny be noted and Officers be asked to consider these views when a detailed report on the revised policy is presented in January 2011



# Agenda Item 10

## Appendix A

**REPORT TO:** CABINET MEMBER CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES AND CHILDREN SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

**DATE** 26<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2010

**SUBJECT:** POST-16 ANNUAL TRAVEL PASSES – POLICY REVIEW

**WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL WARDS

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

**CONTACT OFFICER:** EDDIE SLOAN AND JANE CLARK

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

In the context of a likely requirement to make a significant budget reduction in the Post 16 travel budget, this report provides the Cabinet Member and Overview and Scrutiny Committee with relevant information relating to the current Sefton Post 16 Travel Pass and Transport policy. It then recommends a revision of the policy to take into account the revision to the budget.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Review of current Transport Policy for Post 16 students in Sefton is required to ensure most effective use of available resources.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that:

1. The report be noted
2. That the Children's Schools and Families Cabinet Member:
  - a) Approves the recommended option, which continues to support lower income households
  - b) Requests that Officers consult on the proposals with Colleges, Sixth Forms, Connexions Service and Merseytravel.
  - c) Requests a further report, following consultation for final approval by 31<sup>st</sup> January 2011 in order to ensure that students can be made aware of the revised policy when considering their options.
3. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:
  - a) Endorses the recommended option.

# Agenda Item 10

**KEY DECISION:** No.

**FORWARD PLAN:** Not appropriate.

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

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

Various options are outlined and discussed in the body of the report

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None

**Financial:** The Post 16 Travel budget is £440,000, in 2010/11. The recommended option in the report will reduce this requirement by £140,000 in 2011/12 and will be subject to further review as the Council looks to make the required budget reductions over the next MTFP period.

<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?				

# Agenda Item 10

**Legal:** None

**Risk Assessment:** Provision of Mainstream Post 16 Travel and transport provision is not a statutory requirement

**Asset Management:** Not appropriate.

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 541 The Interim Head of Corporate Finance and Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into the 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			✓

## LINKS TO ENSURING INTEGRATION:

## IMPACT UPON CHILDREN'S SERVICES TARGETS AND PRIORITIES:

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

Comparison of current post 16 transport policies for Merseyside Authorities- Appendix A

# Agenda Item 10

## **POST-16 TRAVEL PASSES (MAINSTREAM SCHOOLS SIXTH FORMS AND FE COLLEGES)**

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 At their 8th July 2010 meeting Cabinet received a report entitled “Strategic Budget Review and Budget 2010/11” that outlined the impact of Government’s intention to reduce public expenditure by an average 25% over the next 3 years. The overall impact of these measures was to increase the predicted 3 year MTFP budget gap from ~£30m to ~£53m.
- 1.2 A number of savings options are being considered as the Council works towards ensuring a balanced budget position. One of these is a reduction of £200,000 in the Post 16 Mainstream Travel Allowance budget for next financial year. This budget is subject to further review during the next MTFP period.
- 1.3 In order to take account of the Cabinet budget changes and to ensure the available resource is appropriately targeted a review of the existing policy will be carried out.

### **2.0 Existing Policy**

- 2.1 Sefton Council has historically operated a discretionary transport policy, which allows assistance with travelling expenses for post-16 students residing within Sefton. The existing policy for post-16 students travelling to either a school sixth form, Sixth Form College or a Further Education College stipulates that an annual travel pass will be issued to eligible students. Eligible students are Sefton residents living more than 3 miles away from an Institution that are attending. The Institution can be inside or outside of Sefton.
- 2.2 In Sefton, there are approx 8000 post- 16 students (aged 16-19). Annually, about 1500 of those students are assessed as eligible students for transport and issued with a travel pass. This is broadly 20% of the Sefton student population

The existing policy allows students to use public transport (bus and train) to attend a full time course at their choice of Sixth Form or FE Institution.

As the costs to the Authority for individual travel passes ranges from £200 up to £500 each per student depending on student age (plus number of zones, bus or train and distance etc.)

An annual compulsory contribution to the cost of a travel pass is also charged (£30 per student) for all eligible students. This equates to approx £45,000 annual income to the Authority, which is offset against the annual costs.

In addition to this the current policy also allows a panel of Senior Officers (who act as an appeals process/panel) to issue travel passes under exceptional circumstances.) Approximately 40 post 16 applications are

considered through this appeals process per annum.

### **3. Review options/Alternatives ( Academic Years)**

#### **3.1 Retain existing /current policy**

**2011/12 Budget Required : £440,000**

**2012/13 Budget Required: £440,000**

**Risks:** Budget may become inadequate in light of increased purchase costs of passes from travel operators.

#### **3.2 Retain the current policy, but with an increase in the annual contribution from £30 to £60 per student**

**2011/12 Budget Required :£395,000**

**2012/13 Budget Required: £395,000**

The net cost of providing passes to eligible students would be reduced by an estimated £45,000 (generated by extra income of £30 per student from 1500 students).

**Risks:** Impact on low income households with increased contribution.

#### **3.3 Retain current eligibility criterion with policy adjustment to allow travel passes for Sefton Post- 16 Students attending Sefton Institutions only**

Approx 20% of the 1500 post 16 students eligible for a travel pass currently travel to FE provision (including School Sixth Forms) outside of Sefton. Although the percentage is not exceptionally high, the travel passes for students travelling outside of Sefton are more expensive to issue.

**2011/12 Budget Required : £390,000 ( 2<sup>nd</sup> yr students continuing)**

**2012/13 Budget Required : £340,000 ( Full policy implementation)**

**Risks—**Less Choice for students plus many of the students studying outside of Sefton may revert back to a Sefton Institution and still be eligible for a travel pass therefore increase the budget requirements significantly

#### **3.4 Adjust eligibility to include Sefton students from low- income households accessing provision only within Sefton (allowing 2<sup>nd</sup> year students to complete existing courses under old eligibility)**

Education Maintenance Allowance is the national benchmark used to assess low income households for post -16 students.

# Agenda Item 10

32% of the 8000 Sefton student population are eligible to receive the Education Maintenance Allowance.

This benchmark would be used to assess eligibility for a travel pass for Sefton Students.

This would allow students eligible for any level of Education Maintenance Allowance, (EMA) where the household income is under £30,800 that are travelling more than 3 miles to their Sixth Form or College within Sefton to be provided with a travel pass.

Using this formula, 32% of Sefton students that are currently eligible to receive a travel pass via distance would therefore be eligible students using a revised policy of low income households.

If we based the average price of a travel pass as £400 and use the 500 eligible students as a cohort then the full annual budget requirements from September 2012 would be £200,000. There would be no standard appeals process with this option.

**Budget Required for 2011/12 £300,000**

**Budget Required for 2012/13: £200,000**

Based on £200,000 (2<sup>nd</sup> and some third year students completing existing courses) and £100,000 for 1<sup>st</sup> Year revised policy eligible low income household students.

Taking in to account the new policy would only allow students to attend Sefton Institutions; the assumed eligible number of 500 eligible students may be reduced further.

**Risks.** Eligibility checks may delay application processing slightly

## 3.5 **Remove current policy and provision completely.**

**Option 1-** Phased Implementation

2011-12 Provision for Second Years / returning students only.

2012-13 no provision

This would allow those students access to a travel pass (in order to complete 2 yr courses such as A level and Diploma courses already commenced in 2010-11 under existing policy.)

**Budget Required : 2011/12 £220,000**

**Budget Required : 2012/13 £ Nil, unless a small budget is retained for appeals**

**Risks** ---Learner choice will be restricted by financial constraint and consequently achievement could suffer

Most of the vocational offer is at each northerly and southerly end of the

borough

**Option 2** Provision removed completely in September 2011  
2011/12 No provision at all for new or existing students

**2011/12 Budget Required : £ Nil unless small budget is retained for exceptional cases e.g. LAC**  
**2012/13 Budget Required £ Nil**

**Risks**---- 2<sup>nd</sup> year and returning students unable to complete existing courses unless they pay full costs of travel  
Many reasons why transfers to more local institutions cannot lead to course completion

3.6 **Reduce Budget by 50% and distribute the remaining allocated budget amount to School Sixth forms and Colleges within Sefton.**

An allocated amount could be given to each Institution. This would allow each Institution to add the Local Authority budget allocation to their existing Learner Support Funds which support students with financial hardship. The fund would be distributed directly to students directly ( those most in need)

**2011/12 Budget Required £200,000**

**2012/13 Budget Required £ 200,000**

**Risks**---Budget not controlled centrally, no Local Authority audit for use of funds by individual Institutions

Favours institutions with greater cash flexibility to provide transport subsidies

4. **Resources within Service Area.**

Due to the current economic climate there has been a significant increase in applications for free school meals, travel passes and clothing allowances over the last 12 /24 Months. Additional resources have been used to administer the increase in applications

The adjustment or removal of the post 16 travel pass policy will reduce the workload sufficiently to allow means testing to be administered if it is considered.

5.0 **Recommended Way Forward**

5.1 In order to continue to support students from low income households and align policy with other Merseyside Authorities that currently provide any support (means testing); it is recommended that the option outlined in 3.4 above be adopted for September 2011 onwards. This will provide a policy for Post 16 Mainstream Travel which will allow the Authority to support

# Agenda Item 10

students from Sep 2011 with a reduced budget, and from Sep 2012 fully within the budget available. This policy will focus the available resource on those with most need.

- 5.2 This policy option will therefore not generate the full required budget saving until 2012 because of the transition from the old policy.
- 5.3 An Equality Impact Assessment has been carried out in relation to the proposed policy. The initial findings are that the policy should not disproportionately impact on any target category within the Equality Act. 2010
- 5.4 If Overview and Scrutiny approve this way forward Officers will undertake a consultation with stakeholders and submit a detailed report to the Sefton Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the preferred option and the results of this process. A final decision is required by January 2011 as this information needs to be publicly available for those making choices about post 16 education for the next academic year.



# Agenda Item 10

## Appendix B

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Strategic Director Children, Schools and Families providing information relating to the current Sefton Post 16 Travel Pass and Transport Policy and the possible revision of the Policy to take into account the revision to the budget.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the recommended option which aligns Sefton with other Local Authorities and continues to support lower income households, be approved in principle and referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) for their observations and recommendations;
- (2) officers be requested to consult on the proposals with colleges, sixth form, Connexions Services and Merseytravel; and
- (3) a further report be submitted for final Policy approval by 31 January 2011 in order to ensure students can be made aware of the revised policy when considering their options.

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# Agenda Item 11

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member (Children's Services)  
Cabinet Member (Regeneration)

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> December 2010  
15<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**SUBJECT:** Skills Funding Agency (SFA)/ European Social Fund (ESF) Co-Financed Provision

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Peter Morgan  
Strategic Director Children's Services  
Andy Wallis  
Planning and Economic Development Director

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Mo. Kundi 3447  
Eddie Sloan 3410

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To inform Members of the progress of two Skills Funding Agency and the ESF Co-financed funded projects.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Cabinet approval is required for Sefton Council to:-

- Enter into a contract that would extend the life of the two projects to March 2011, and to accept additional £78,025.50 funding,

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that Cabinet:-

1. Agree that Contracts be entered into with SFA for Learning & Support during KS4 and Retention in Post 16 Learning projects until 31 March 2011

Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Children's Services

2. Note the report
3. Request further progress reports.

**KEY DECISION:** None

**FORWARD PLAN:** None

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** After the expiry of "Call in Period"

# Agenda Item 11

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:** Any proposals not to support and continue with the provision of such services risks future provision becoming unsustainable, and loss of pre matched funding for this purpose.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:** None

**Financial:**

The two projects initially attracted a combined funding package of £1,274,168 from the then Learning and Skills Council (LSC), now SFA, and the European Social Fund (ESF). The Post 16 project has now been allocated an additional £78,025.50 while both projects have been granted a time extension until 31 March 2011.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2011 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
Specific Capital Resources	0	0	0	0
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources	0	0	0	0
Funded from External Resources	0	0	0	0
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N No	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	.			

**Legal:** A legal agreement will be drawn up between the provision delivery agents and Sefton Council.

**Risk Assessment:** NA

**Asset Management:** NA

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

# Agenda Item 11

FD 557B – The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

Legal Dept, Finance Dept, and Children's 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

Report to Cabinet Member for Children's Services (28<sup>th</sup> October 2008), and Cabinet Member for Regeneration (29<sup>th</sup> October 2008), entitled LSC ESF Co-Financed Provision.

# Agenda Item 11

## **1.0 Background**

- 1.1 Cabinet Members for Children's Services (28<sup>th</sup> October 2008) Regeneration (29<sup>th</sup> October 2008) considered a report entitled LSC ESF Co-financed Provision which provided information on Learning & Supporting during KS4 (Contract value (£699,999), and Retention in Post 16 Learning (Contract Value £574,169) projects. Members noted the success in attracting £1,274,168 of external grant and approved the delivery arrangements as set out in that report.
- 1.4 These projects are currently being delivered successfully and an opportunity arose in September 2010 for Sefton Council to submit a proposal to the SFA to extend both projects until 31 March 2011, with a request for an additional amount of £78,025.50.
- 1.5 In October 2010, Sefton Council received an amendment to contract notification from the SFA confirming that both projects had been extended until 31 March 2011 and that the requested additional amount had been agreed.

## **2.0 Current Projects**

### **Project 1: Learning & Support during KS4**

- 2.2 The aim of this project has been to identify those young people who, during Key Stage 4, are disengaged or particularly at risk of disengaging from learning, and provide them with additional specialist support and personalised learning programmes including work related learning; and to strengthen the transition into post-16 learning for young people who, for a variety of reasons, may find this a particularly difficult challenge.

### **Project 2: Retention in Post 16 Learning**

- 2.3 The aim of this project has been to ensure that all young people who join post 16 learning move through a clear and successful pathway of education, training or employment to the age of 19.

## **3.0 Current Project Delivery Arrangements**

- 3.1 Service Level Agreements were agreed at the onset of the project with delivery partners named in the applications. These clearly defined roles, responsibilities, the nature of activities and what was expected from the provider and all partners, together with financial and monitoring details
- 3.2 The Authority has managed and monitored performance of the programme and its beneficiaries ensuring that delivery partners have met identified targets. The projects are currently on target to achieve or exceed the original targets.
- 3.3 These arrangements will remain in place until the revised end date of 31<sup>st</sup> March 2011, consequently existing contracts with delivery partners will need to be amended.

## **4.0 Management Arrangements**

**4.1** The overall management responsibility for the delivery of two existing projects has rested with Children's Services. This will continue with regards to any new project. Planning and Economic Development officers will continue to assist in ensuring that all contractual, monitoring and compliance procedures are met.

## **5.0 Risk Assessment**

**5.1** As indicated above there is no call on Sefton resources, other than some officer time being spent to co-ordinate and manage the two projects.

## **6.0 Summary**

**6.1** Children's Services and Planning and Economic Development officers have worked together with other partners, both internal and external to deliver two successful applications for SFA/ ESF funding.

**6.2** The SFA have approved the extension of both projects until 31 March 2011, with an increase of £78,025.50.

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