

MEETING: CABINET MEMBER - LEISURE AND TOURISM  
DATE: Wednesday 23 March 2011  
TIME: 12.00 pm  
VENUE: Town Hall, Southport (this meeting will be video conferenced to the Town Hall, Bootle)

Councillor

DECISION MAKER: Booth  
SUBSTITUTE: Robertson

SPOKESPERSONS: Cummins Griffiths

SUBSTITUTES: Webster Jones

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Olaf Hansen  
Telephone: 0151 934 2067  
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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 23 February, 2011		(Pages 5 - 6)
4.	<b>Summary of Savings from Parks Budgets 2011/12</b> Report of the Leisure and Tourism Director	All Wards;	(Pages 7 - 16)
5.	<b>Reduction in Library Opening Hours</b> Report of the Leisure and Tourism Director	All Wards;	(Pages 17 - 44)
6.	<b>Pier Heating Repairs</b> Report of the Leisure and Tourism Director	Dukes;	(Pages 45 - 48)
* 7.	<b>The Creation of a Single Registration District for Births, Death and Marriages for Sefton</b> Report of the Leisure and Tourism Director	All Wards;	(Pages 49 - 58)
8.	<b>Ainsdale and Birkdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve - Environmental Higher Level Stewardship Agreement</b> Report of the Leisure and Tourism Director	Ainsdale; Birkdale; Dukes;	(Pages 59 - 68)
9.	<b>Playbuilder 2011 - Proposed Design and Procurement Arrangements</b> Report of the Leisure and Tourism Director	Meols; Ravenmeols; Victoria;	(Pages 69 - 78)

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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 2 MARCH, 2011.

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

### **MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2011**

PRESENT: Councillor Booth

ALSO PRESENT: Councillors Cummins, Griffiths and Papworth

#### **61. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

#### **62. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of interest were received.

#### **63. MINUTES**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the held on 9 February 2011 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### **64. AINSDALE LINK PATH**

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Leisure and Tourism Director that provided an update and sought approval to progress the Ainsdale Link Path of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme project.

RESOLVED:

That, subject to planning permission being granted, the Leisure and Tourism Director be authorised to progress the project for completion.

#### **65. SPORT AND RECREATION SERVICE**

The Cabinet Member considered the report of the Leisure and Tourism Director that advised of the likely impact on the operation of the borough's sport and leisure centres following the Council's decision on budget savings for 2011/12.

# Agenda Item 3

CABINET MEMBER - LEISURE AND TOURISM- WEDNESDAY 23  
FEBRUARY 2011

The report also sought Cabinet Member's approval for the introduction of a 'Be Active' programme to replace the current 'Free and Active' programme.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the impact the service reductions will have on the operation of sports and leisure centres be noted;
- (2) the introduction of the 'Active Leisure Card' be noted;
- (3) the Leisure and Tourism Director be authorised to replace the 'Free & Active' programme with the 'Be Active' programme, as detailed within the report; and
- (4) the Leisure and Tourism Director be requested to draft a report on the impact on the 'Be Active' programme on low income families.

# Agenda Item 4

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism

**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

**SUBJECT:** Summary of Savings from Parks Budgets 2011/12

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** G. Bayliss. Director of Leisure and Tourism

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Phil Esseen. Head of Landscape Development and Management. x2392

**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To inform the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism of the total savings in Parks budgets to be made in 2011/12, and to allow consideration of the effect on bowling green facilities in the borough.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

To achieve approved savings to the 2011/12 budget

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism: -

1. notes the savings which have been approved for parks budgets in 2011/12, and notes that a detailed report on their impact will be presented at a future Cabinet Member meeting;
2. approves the approach taken to reduce the costs of maintaining bowling greens, as detailed in the report.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following expiry of the call-in period

# Agenda Item 4

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial:

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources (S106)				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

Risk Assessment:

Asset Management:

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD704 – The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and her comments have been incorporated into this report.



# Agenda Item 4

## 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

Minutes and Agendas for:

Cabinet, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010, Transformation Programme and Further Options

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## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 As part of the Council-wide 'Tactical Savings' for 2011/12, Cabinet and Council have approved the following reductions in Parks-related budgets:

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Nursery budget	100K
Grounds maintenance	100K
Infrastructure Maintenance	50K
Floral Bedding in parks	40K
<b>Total</b>	<b>290K</b>

Whilst several different budgets are identified separately, they combine to provide a single, comprehensive Parks service, which manages the hard and soft landscape, people, user groups etc.

- 1.2 In addition, Leisure and Tourism receives funding from Highways to manage landscape elements in the highway which require specialist attention, such as floral roundabouts in key locations, and trees on the highway. These Highways budgets have been cut as follows:

<b>Budget</b>	<b>Saving</b>
Highways trees maintenance	40K
Floral roundabouts	35K

- 1.3 As these budgets are used for a variety of purposes, work is on-going to try and determine the best ways to achieve the savings and minimise the impact on the local community. This includes negotiations with the Grounds Maintenance and Arboriculture Contractors. However, there will unavoidably be some effects on service delivery, and full details of these will be presented at the next Cabinet Member meeting, when negotiations have been concluded.

## 2.0 Bowling Greens

- 2.1 A significant cost within the parks budgets is incurred by the management of bowling greens, and therefore it is necessary to include these when making savings from the wider budgets. The savings which were approved by Cabinet and Council (16<sup>th</sup> December 2010) therefore indicated a reduction in the number of bowling greens maintained by 6.
- 2.2 Due to the high profile of this area of service, it is considered appropriate to make Cabinet Member aware of how it is proposed to make these savings.
- 2.3 Leisure and Tourism currently maintain 23 bowling greens across Sefton, at a total cost of approximately £170,000; however, the income received from the facilities is only £7,000.

2.4 The bowling greens are located at the following sites:

<b>Site</b>	<b>Number of greens</b>
Crossens Community Park, Southport	1
Botanic Gardens, Southport	2
Crowland St, Southport	2
Bedford Park, Southport	1
Sandbrook Lane, Southport	1
Kings Gardens, Southport	2
Victoria park, Southport	3
Duke St Park, Formby	1
Hatton Hill Park, Litherland	1
Killen Green, Netherton	1
Moorside Park, Crosby	1
Coronation Park, Crosby	2
Victoria Park, Crosby	2
Derby Park, Bootle	1
Johnsons Bowling Club, Bootle	1
Crescent Bowling Club, Bootle	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>23</b>

### 3.0 Reduction in Number of Bowling Greens

3.1 In order to identify potential savings, a set of strategic criteria were developed against which all the bowling greens could be assessed. These criteria were:

- whether there is more than one green on the site
- level of usage of the green
- the proximity of other bowling facilities in the area
- whether its use contributes to the wider local community and park life (i.e. whether the club engages with other members of the local community).

3.2 Each of the Bowling Clubs and Bowling User Committees (which manage the allocation of greens at most sites) was informed of the need to make savings in this part of the service. They were asked for their views and feedback on how these savings could be achieved, and whether they would be willing and able to take on some of the maintenance themselves. 31 responses were received. A summary of responses is given in Appendix A.

3.3 The general response from the bowling community was that they understandably did not want to lose any greens, but some acknowledged that they understood why savings need to be made. Some suggestions were made about how savings could be achieved in the future.

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- 3.4 Using the strategic criteria, and where possible taking into account the views expressed by the bowling community, a number of greens were identified as being the most suitable for taking out of maintenance, whilst still trying to provide as broad a service as possible.

## **Sites with Multiple Greens**

- 3.5 The first approach was to look at those sites with more than one green, and to consider taking one out of maintenance. This would still enable bowling to continue at these sites, albeit on a reduced scale.
- 3.6 Of the six sites with multiple greens, it is therefore proposed to close one each at Crowland St in Southport, and Victoria Park and Coronation Park in Crosby.
- 3.7 It is proposed to retain the two greens at Botanic Gardens, as these have very high usage, and are located in the Borough's main 'tourist' park. It is also proposed to retain the two greens at Kings Gardens, as this is the subject of a major Heritage Lottery Fund project.
- 3.8 There are 3 bowling greens at Victoria Park, Southport, which are located on land leased to the Southport Flower Show Company, although the Council maintains them. Discussions with the Flower Show Company are on-going to explore future arrangements for this facility.
- 3.9 Also in Victoria Park, Southport (on land under the Council's direct control), is a croquet facility which is used by Southport Croquet Club. There are also high costs associated with maintenance of this facility, which covers a large area of land. This therefore corresponds to those bowling facilities which have multiple greens, and it is proposed to open discussions with the Club to reduce these costs significantly.

## **Usage**

- 3.10 The second approach was to look at the level of usage. The number of season tickets sold at each site gives some indication of this. The three sites with significantly lower usage are Victoria and Coronation Parks in Crosby (where it is proposed to remove one green, as described above), and Killen Green in Netherton.
- 3.11 It is therefore proposed to close the bowling facility at Killen Green.

## **Stand-Alone Greens**

- 3.12 In addition, those greens which 'stand-alone', and are not based within a wider park or open space were considered. These only provide facilities for a limited number of people and do not contribute towards a park's wider function; they do not provide opportunities for general park users, nor help to promote informal surveillance / contribute to the general success of a wider park.
- 3.13 The Crescent Bowling Green in Bootle was identified as a possibility for closure under this approach. Initially, one of the clubs which use it indicated they would be willing to take on the maintenance of the site themselves. However, they have since withdrawn their offer. Officers have arranged to meet with them to explore this issue further.

## **4.0 The Way Forward**

- 4.1 In order to achieve the immediate savings from the maintenance of bowling greens, it is suggested that the following approach be followed:
- Discontinue maintenance of one green at each of the following sites:
    - Crowland Street, Southport
    - Victoria Park, Crosby
    - Coronation Park, Crosby
    - Killen Green, Netherton
  - Continue discussions with user groups with a view to making further significant savings at the following sites:
    - Crescent Bowling Green, Bootle
    - Victoria Park, Southport
    - Southport Croquet Club

## **5.0 The Future of Bowling**

- 5.1 It is intended to thank the respondents from the bowling community for their contributions and to keep them updated on the current situation regarding savings.

5.2 The cost of maintaining the bowling greens and facilities across the Borough is proportionately a very costly element within the parks maintenance budgets. In order to make the provision of bowling more sustainable, and to try to avoid having to close further greens in the future, it is proposed to continue working with Sefton's Bowling Clubs and Bowling User Committees to explore different

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options for reducing costs / increasing income. Meetings with representatives from the Bowling Community have been arranged to discuss this further in March 2011.

## **6. Recommendations**

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism: -

- 1 notes the savings which have been approved for parks budgets in 2011/12, and notes that a detailed report on their impact will be presented at a future Cabinet Member meeting;
- 2 approves the approach taken to reduce the costs of maintaining bowling greens, as detailed in the report.

**Summary of Responses from Bowling Clubs and Bowling User Committees**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Summary of Comments</b>
Formby Park Bowling Club	Details of membership and usage of green
Southport District Ladies Bowling green	Opposition to closure of greens
Crossens Bowling green	Wanted information on maintenance costs
Botanic Gardens Bowls Club	Opposition to closure: requested more information on costs,
Moorside Park	Details of previous investment by club. Unable to maintain green themselves. Willing to pay more green fees. Details of members and usage.
Sandbrook Park Bowls	Propose closure of winter greens and increase management fees. Details of usage
Crowlands Bowling club	Volunteer to maintain green, details of usage.
Hatton Hill Park	Suggested closure waits until October -.details of use, details of costs requested
Crescent Pensioners	Details of use; willing to pay a small increase for use of green.
Crescent Bowling club	Details of grants and volunteer work and offer to do maintenance by a volunteer at the club.
Botanic Gardens Bowls Club	Details of their lease regarding their buildings
Bedford Park Bowling Club	Details of use; unable to take on maintenance
Formby Park	Willing to take on some maintenance tasks.
Friends of Derby park	Support of Derby Park bowls club
Formby Park Bowling Club	Close greens where more than one exist. Willing to pay more green fees
Victoria Park Bowling Club Crosby	Details of only 6 members. Volunteered in the past for minor tasks
Crossens Bowling green	Details use and volunteer work done; willing to work with the Council to reduce costs
Bedford St Johns Bowls Club	Details of use and costs
Botanic Ladies Bowls Club	Opposition to closure of greens
Sorted Bowling Section	Opposition to closure and propose increasing number of greens
Burscough and Lathoms Bowls league	Opposition to closures
Promenade Bowling Club	Concerned
Southport LV Bowls League	Opposition to closures
Waterloo Excelsior Ladies bowls club	Details of use and opposition to closure
Botanic Ladies Bowls Club	Details of use and opposition to closure of Botanic
Hermitage Ladies bowls club	Details of use, willing to contribute more fees
NSRBL	Details of use
Southport Bowling Club	Details of use and volunteer work
Mr Lunt	Requested more details on number of greens and costs
Botanic Gardens Mens Society	Details of use and opposition to closure of Botanic
Southport LV Bowls League	Proposed deferring closure until end September

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# Agenda Item 5

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member – Leisure and Tourism

**DATE:** 23 March 2011

**SUBJECT:** Reduction in library opening hours

**WARDS  
AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Graham Bayliss, Director of Leisure and Tourism

**CONTACT  
OFFICER:** Christine Hall, Head of Library and Information Services

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The savings agreed by Council on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010 for the financial year 2011/2012 included the reduction in opening hours to the same level as in 2001, with a cost saving of £140,000. This report sets out how this saving can be made.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Full Council approved the reduction of opening hours on 16 December 2010. A decision about the pattern of opening hours is needed so that the necessary work and staff consultation can take place, enabling the revised opening hours to be implemented as of 1 July 2011.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That Cabinet Member approves the recommended pattern of opening hours as set out in Appendix E.

**KEY DECISION:** No. This report is not a key decision in itself but forms part of the process for setting the Council's budget.

**FORWARD PLAN:** Yes. Setting the Council's budget is included in the Forward Plan

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

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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: None – this was a budget decision made by Council**

## IMPLICATIONS:

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Council has agreed a reduction in budget of £140,000 for the reduction in opening hours

## 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?				

**Legal:** None  
**Risk Assessment:** None  
**Asset Management:** None

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Staff who work within the libraries.  
 Public consultation aimed at users of the libraries, to establish their preferred

pattern of opening hours. The proposed consultation was submitted to the Consultation Panel.  
 FD703 – The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and her 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 5

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Opening hours in libraries were increased from 2001-2003 as a result of additional funding from the Council to meet the Public Library Standards. The Public Library Standards were removed in 2008 and replaced with one National Indicator (NI9 – use of libraries). NI 9 was removed by the Coalition Government in June 2010.

In 2001 libraries were open for a total of 447 hours per week. The pattern of opening hours in 2001 meant that some of the larger libraries (at Bootle, Crosby, Formby, Maghull (now Meadows) and Southport) were closed at lunchtime, and were open for the same number of hours as the smaller ones.

- 1.2 Libraries are a customer facing frontline service and as a consequence staff costs account for the largest proportion of operating costs. Therefore the effect of reducing the number of opening hours will be a reduction in the number of staff delivering services to the public.
- 1.3 In addition to the opening hours saving the Council also agreed to reduce the number of library manager posts by 40%. This in turn has reduced the number of staff hours available to operate the new library hours. Therefore the revised hours identified in this report has taken this into account and a level of staffing established per hour in each library. The culmination is that the level of staffing per hour in all libraries will be lower than it is now.

## 2. PATTERN OF OPENING HOURS

- 2.1 In determining the pattern of hours it is proposed that the larger libraries needed to be open for longer hours than the smaller libraries. This results in the opening hours being 44 hours per week for the larger libraries and 30 hours for the smaller libraries. This provides a total of 460 hours per week.
- 2.2 The current library opening hours do not account for a geographical spread of hours. For example, all the smaller libraries plus Crosby library are closed on a Thursday afternoon; all libraries are open late on a Wednesday but no library is open late on a Tuesday. The current opening hours are attached at Appendix A.
- 2.3 A revised pattern of opening hours with 3 different options for smaller libraries and 2 options for larger libraries was devised. This took account of the need to spread out half or full day closures and late nights within local areas. All options included at least one late night during the week and Saturday morning openings for all libraries. All options also included opening on Monday, Wednesday and Fridays. This was to reduce the amount of time any library would be closed to a minimum. The options are attached at Appendix B.

## 3. PUBLIC CONSULTATION

- 3.1 Public consultation took place from 7 February 2011 to 18 February 2011. The proposed consultation methodology was agreed by the Consultation Panel on 28<sup>th</sup> January 2011.
- 3.2 The consultation was aimed at library users. A questionnaire was produced for each library, and each one gave the users the choice of options for that library. The survey was also published on the website. Each library was provided with information about the levels of business for different times of the day and different days of the week.
- 3.3 A total of 13,000 forms were distributed to libraries, and 9,556 of these were returned, and a further 224 surveys completed on-line. This is an excellent response rate within a short timescale, and limited advanced publicity.
- 3.4 There was a clear majority for a favoured option in most libraries. In these libraries there was also no significant difference according to age, disability, ethnicity and gender. A summary of the results are attached at Appendix C. However, the consultation results at Birkdale and Meadows were much closer, with differences between the age groups.
  - 3.4.1 At Birkdale, 38.8% preferred option 3 and 33 % preferred option 2. Option 3 was preferred by over 55s but option 2 was preferred by under 17s. Option 2 means opening at 10am and no additional half day closure. Option 3 means opening at 9.30am but with a further half day closure. Young people have limited access to the library during term time, and an afternoon closure would restrict this further. In general, over 55s have far more hours available when they can use the library. Also, Option 2 gives a better geographical spread between Ainsdale, Churchtown, and Birkdale libraries. The proposed hours included at Appendix E are option 2 with the retention of the late night as Wednesday, as in option 3
  - 3.4.2 At Meadows, 48.5% preferred option 1 and 43.2% preferred option 2. As with Birkdale, there was a difference between the age groups. Option 1 was preferred by over 55s and option 2 was preferred by under 17s. Option 1 means opening at 10am and closing at 6pm on weekdays, as the library does now. Option 2 means opening at 10.30am and closing at 6.30pm. Option 2 gives more opening hours that young people can use. However, it makes class visits and rhymetimes difficult to include. Also, the library has a self service area that is open when the library is closed. The proposed hours included at Appendix E are option 1.

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3.5 All forms had a space for comments. The majority of forms were returned without making any comments but a significant number of people did make comments. A sample of these is attached at Appendix D. Of those who did comment a large number did not agree with any reduction in opening hours, with some very strongly worded comments. A smaller but substantial number of respondents felt that a reduction in library opening hours was preferable to closure, and were pleased that their library was not closing. The other area of significant comment in the larger libraries was from people stating the need for late night and weekend opening, even though they might not need it themselves. There were two libraries where there were a number of the same comments, specific to that library:

3.5.1 At Birkdale, from the 1065 returns, 141 (13%) did not want Tuesday to be the day the library closes. This is because there are a number of activities that take place in the library on that day. This is a problem for all the smaller libraries that have to close for a whole day where they have built up community involvement on different days of the week. In most instances, it is easy to change the day of the week of the activities. There were two groups who would find this difficult but they have been consulted and alternative arrangements are being put in place.

3.5.2 At Meadows, from the 754 returns, 114 (15%) people want the Sunday opening retained. This is clearly a popular day for people to wish to have available although the actual use on Sunday is not high. At a time when savings are made, staffing on a Sunday is twice as expensive and this would require a further reduction elsewhere in the week. There are therefore no plans to open on a Sunday.

## **4. STAFF CONSULTATION**

4.1 Staff have been consulted as part of the staff consultation process and in line with the Council's procedures. Due to the number of vacancies and expressions of interest in Voluntary Redundancy/Very Early Retirement some libraries will have too many staff whilst some will have too few. As a result, there will need to be a reallocation of staff to other libraries. Staff have been asked to express their preferences of where they are located.

4.2 Staff were also consulted as part of the public consultation about their preferred pattern of opening hours. The results from staff were analysed separately. In all but one library, the staff agreed with the preferred option from the library users. In the library where this was not the case, it was a larger library where staff preferred one late night, instead of two. Although people want late nights, there is relatively low usage compared to during the day.

## **5. CONCLUSION**

- 5.1 The public consultation exercise was a worthwhile exercise, raising people's awareness of the impact of reduced opening hours on their library. The response was very good, and gave an indication of the depth of support from the people using the libraries.
- 5.2 The results from the consultation, with the exception of one library mean that the preferred option from the majority of users in any one library will be implemented. There will be a variation in the times that libraries open throughout Sefton but this was the case in 2001. There will be an improved geographic spread of opening hours within a local area. The proposed opening hours are attached at Appendix E.
- 5.3 The proposed hours will be implemented from 1 July 2011. They will be monitored to assess usage and reviewed where appropriate. Both Netherpton and Southport libraries hours have been determined for their current locations. Both of these will need to be reviewed as part of the joint facilities when they open, partly dependent on availability of self service facilities when the library is closed.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- 6.1 That Cabinet Member approves the recommended pattern of opening hours, as set out in Appendix E.

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### Current Opening Hours

#### Larger Libraries

##### Bootle library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-6		8.5
Tues	9.30-6		8.5
Wed	9.30-8		10.5
Thurs	9.30-6		8.5
Fri	9.30-6		8.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

##### Meadows

Day		hrs
Mon	10-6	8
Tues	10-6	8
Wed	10-6	8
Thurs	10-6	8
Fri	10-6	8
Sat	9.30-4.00	6.5
Sun	10-2	4

##### Crosby library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-8		10.5
Tues	9.30-5		7.5
Wed	9.30-8		10.5
Thurs	9.30-1		3.5
Fri	9.30-8		10.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

##### Southport library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-5		7.5
Tues	9.30-5		7.5
Wed	9.30-8		10.5
Thurs	9.30-8		10.5
Fri	9.30-5		7.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

##### Formby library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-8		10.5
Tues	9.30-5		7.5
Wed	9.30-8		10.5
Thurs	9.30-5		7.5
Fri	9.30-5		7.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

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## APPENDIX A

### Smaller Libraries

#### Ainsdale library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1		3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Churchtown library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1		3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Aintree library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1		3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### College Road library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Birkdale library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1		3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Litherland library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

# Agenda Item 5

## APPENDIX A

### Netherton library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

### Orrell library

Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1		3.5
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

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**Options for Pattern of Library Opening Hours**

Larger libraries (except Meadows)

Option 1 = Open at 9.30. 1 late night opening

Option 2 – Open at 10.00. 2 late night openings

Meadows options as below due to existing opening times, and self service available when library closed.

Smaller libraries

Option 1 = Open at 9.30. Close 1 full day plus half day (morning)

Option 2 = Open at 10.00. Close 1 full day. Late night closing = 7.30pm

Option 3 = Open at 9.30. Close 1 full day plus half day (afternoon)

**Larger Libraries**

Bootle library

Option 1			Option 2				
Day	am pm	Hrs	Day	am	pm	Hrs	
Mon	9.30-5	7.5	Mon	10.00-5		7	
Tues	9.30-5	7.5	Tues	10.00-5		7	
Wed	9.30-8	10.5	Wed	10.00-8		10	
Thurs	9.30-5	7.5	Thurs	10.00-7.30		9.5	
Fri	9.30-5	7.5	Fri	10.00-5		7	
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		Sun	Closed			

Crosby library

Option 1				Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-8		10.5	Mon	10-8		10
Tues	9.30-5		7.5	Tues	10-5		7
Wed	9.30-5		7.5	Wed	10- 7.30		9.5
Thurs	9.30-5		7.5	Thurs	10-5		7
Fri	9.30-5		7.5	Fri	10-5		7
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

Formby library

Option 1				Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-5		7.5	Mon	10.00-5		7
Tues	9.30-8		10.5	Tues	10.00-7.30		9.5
Wed	9.30-5		7.5	Wed	10.00-5		7
Thurs	9.30-5		7.5	Thurs	10.00-8		10
Fri	9.30-5		7.5	Fri	10.00-5		7
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

Meadows

Option 1			Option 2		
Day		Hrs	Day		Hrs
Mon	10-6	8	Mon	10.30-6.30	8
Tues	10-6	8	Tues	10.30-6.30	8
Wed	10-6	8	Wed	10.30-6.30	8
Thurs	10-6	8	Thurs	10.30-6.30	8
Fri	10-6	8	Fri	10.30-6.30	8
Sat	9.30-1.30	4	Sat	9.30-1.30	4
Sun	Closed		Sun	Closed	

Southport library

Option 1			Option 2				
Day	am	pm	Hrs	Day	am	pm	Hrs
Mon	9.30	5	7.5	Mon	10.00	5	7
Tues	9.30	5	7.5	Tues	10.00	8	10
Wed	9.30	5	7.5	Wed	10.00	5	7
Thurs	9.30	8	10.5	Thurs	10.00	5	7
Fri	9.30	5	7.5	Fri	10.00	7.30	9.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

**Smaller Libraries**Ainsdale library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Mon	10-1	2-5	6	Mon	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Tues	Closed	1-8	7	Tues	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Tues	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

Aintree library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Mon	10-1	2-5	6	Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed	1-8	7	Tues	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Tues	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		



Birkdale library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Mon	10-1	2-5	6	Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	Closed	1-8	7	Thurs	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Thurs	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

Churchtown library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-8	9.5	Mon	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Mon	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Tues	Closed	1-5	4	Tues	10-1	2-5	6	Tues	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

College Road library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Mon	10-1	2-5	6	Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	Closed	1-8	7	Thurs	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Thurs	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

Litherland library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-8	9.5	Mon	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Mon	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Thurs	Closed	1-5	4	Thurs	10-1	2-5	6	Thurs	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

Netherton library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Mon	10-1	2-5	6	Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0	Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	Closed	1-8	7	Thurs	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Thurs	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

Orrell library

Option 1				Option 2				Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs	Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Mon	10-1	2-5	6	Mon	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed	1-8	7	Tues	10-1	2-7.30	8.5	Tues	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Wed	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Wed	10-1	2-5	6	Wed	9.30-1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0	Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5	Fri	10-1	2-5	6	Fri	9.30-1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5	Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed			Sun	Closed		

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## APPENDIX C

### Opening Hours Survey Summary

The survey was completed over 2 weeks from 7<sup>th</sup> February – 19<sup>th</sup> February 2011.

9556 survey forms were completed in libraries  
224 completed the survey online

**Total = 9780**

<u>Library</u>	<u>Number of returns</u>	<u>Preferred option</u>	<u>% rate for preferred option</u>
<b>Larger libraries</b>			
Bootle	749	1	58.6%
Crosby	1456	2	63.6%
Formby	1075	2	55.6%
Meadows	754	1	48.5%
Southport	905	1	65%
<b>Smaller libraries</b>			
Ainsdale	548	2	64.2%
Aintree	377	2	45.7%
Birkdale	1065	3	38.8%
Churchtown	592	2	60%
College Rd	1048	3	41.4%
Litherland	437	3	67%
Netherton	281	3	44.7%
Orrell	493	3	72%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9780</b>		

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### **Sample of comments from the public consultation re: opening hours**

#### Summary

From the comments received there were some that were specific to that library with alternative suggestions for opening hours, or opposition to closure on a particular day. However, with the exception of Birkdale, these were not of sufficient numbers to impact on the decisions made.

From the other comments, a large number did not agree with any reduction in opening hours, with some very strongly worded comments. A smaller but substantial number of respondents felt that a reduction in library opening hours was preferable to closure, and were pleased that their library was not closing. Other comments were praising the service and the staff. The other area of significant comment in the larger libraries was from people stating the need for late night and weekend opening, even though they might not need it themselves.

A sample of the comments are:

- “This library makes a significant contribution to the village and to all ages of the population.”
- “If the proposed hours will keep our library open then I will be very happy as this library is the lifeline for people like myself who cannot travel far and meet people.”
- “Can’t believe a frontline service that is so important to the community is being hit like this”
- “This library is a vital part of our family life. The children’s activities and story times have formed a very important part of my children’s learning and social development”
- “This library is my life-line. Please keep it open.”
- “I am relieved that this library will remain open – it’s convenient and the staff are efficient, helpful and welcoming...”
- “Acceptable in the current economic climate”
- “Our school has been coming to the library for many years and it is an invaluable experience for the reception children, especially those who do not access the library with their families. Since bringing them, we have noticed a big improvement in their literacy skills.”

# Agenda Item 5

## APPENDIX D

- “I do schoolwork here and use the computers as I don’t have one at home.”
- “I am currently unemployed and the library is of great use to me, staff are brilliant and really good resources to help me get back to work.”
- “Do not agree with reduced hours as libraries are very important to children’s and adult education.”
- “I hope this is not the beginning of a slippery slope. I don’t know what I would do if the library was to close.”
- “Please remember that for many people, especially older people, libraries are a lifeline, not just providing books, but a social outing too. Sometimes that visit is the only connection with other people all day.”



### Proposed Opening Hours

#### Larger Libraries

##### Bootle library

Option 1			
Day	am pm		hrs
Mon	9.30-5		7.5
Tues	9.30-5		7.5
Wed	9.30-8		10.5
Thurs	9.30-5		7.5
Fri	9.30-5		7.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

##### Crosby library

Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	10-8		10
Tues	10-5		7
Wed	10- 7.30		9.5
Thurs	10-5		7
Fri	10-5		7
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

##### Formby library

Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	10.00-5		7
Tues	10.00-7.30		9.5
Wed	10.00-5		7
Thurs	10.00-8		10
Fri	10.00-5		7
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

##### Meadows

Option 1		
Day		hrs
Mon	10-6	8
Tues	10-6	8
Wed	10-6	8
Thurs	10-6	8
Fri	10-6	8
Sat	9.30-1.30	4
Sun	Closed	

##### Southport library

Option 1			
Day	am pm		hrs
Mon	9.30-5		7.5
Tues	9.30-5		7.5
Wed	9.30-5		7.5
Thurs	9.30-8		10.5
Fri	9.30-5		7.5
Sat	9.30-1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

# Agenda Item 5

## APPENDIX E

### Smaller Libraries

#### Ainsdale library

Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	10-1	2-5	6
Tues	10-1	2-7.30	8.5
Wed	10-1	2-5	6
Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	10-1	2-5	6
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Churchtown library

Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	10-1	2-7.30	8.5
Tues	10-1	2-5	6
Wed	10-1	2-5	6
Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	10-1	2-5	6
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Aintree library

Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	10-1	2-5	6
Tues	10-1	2-7.30	8.5
Wed	10-1	2-5	6
Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	10-1	2-5	6
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### College Road library

Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30 - 1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Fri	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30 - 1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Birkdale library

Option 2			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	10-1	2-5	6
Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	10-1	2-7.30	8.5
Thurs	10-1	2-5	6
Fri	10-1	2-5	6
Sat	9.30-1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

#### Litherland library

Option 3			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30 - 1	2-8	9.5
Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Thurs	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Fri	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30 - 1	Closed	3.5
Sun	Closed		

# Agenda Item 5

## APPENDIX E

### Netherton library

<b>Option 3</b>			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Tues	Closed all day		0
Wed	9.30 - 1	2-8	9.5
Thurs	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Fri	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30 -1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

### Orrell library

<b>Option 3</b>			
Day	am	pm	hrs
Mon	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Tues	9.30-1.30	Closed	4
Wed	9.30 - 1	2- 8	9.5
Thurs	Closed all day		0
Fri	9.30 - 1	2-5	6.5
Sat	9.30 -1		3.5
Sun	Closed		

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# Agenda Item 6

**REPORT TO:** Leisure and Tourism Cabinet Member  
**DATE:** 23/03/11  
**SUBJECT:** Pier heating repairs  
**WARDS AFFECTED:** Dukes  
**REPORT OF:** Graham Bayliss,  
Leisure and Tourism Director  
0151 934 2371  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Tony Corfield  
Asst Dir Leisure and Tourism  
0151 934 315  
Steve Irwin Operations Manager Tourism  
Tel 0151 934 2446

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:**

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To inform Members of the required repairs to the heating and ventilation system within the Pier Pavilion

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

The existing system has deteriorated to the point that it is no longer functioning.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That the sum of up to £43,000 be vired from the Southport Pier Sinking Fund to the Pier maintenance revenue budget in order to undertake the necessary repair works to the Pier Pavilion Heating and Ventilation system.

**KEY DECISION:** N/A

**FORWARD PLAN:** N/A

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

# Agenda Item 6

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:** The other options are to either not have any functioning heating or cooling system in the Pier Pavilion or delay this work to a later date. This is likely to be considered unacceptable to users and the concessionaires who pay annual rent to operate from the Pavilion building.

Additionally it is a requirement of the HLF funding that part funded the refurbishment of the Pier that it be appropriately maintained. If this were not to be adhered to the Council could be liable to claw back of funding.

## IMPLICATIONS:

**Budget/Policy Framework:** Due to its role as a major visitor attraction the works are consistent with a variety of accepted and approved strategies.

**Financial:** SAMG have proposed that the works be funded by use of the established Pier sinking fund which was set up specifically as a requirement of the funding received for the refurbishment of the Pier with the intention of ensuring that the Pier would always be maintained to an appropriate and acceptable standard.

The Pier sinking fund cannot be used for any other purpose than major maintenance or improvement works to the Pier.

<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			43,000	
Funded by: Pier sinking fund			43,000	
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources		N/A		
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? No	When? N/A			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

# Agenda Item 6

**Legal:** The Pier received HLF grant funding and one of the conditions of that funding was that the Pier is maintained to an acceptable standard. To not do the works is a breach of that condition which could lead to claw back of funding.

**Risk Assessment:** N/A

**Asset Management:** The Pier is owned by the Council and as such constitutes a major asset. Timely maintenance is entirely appropriate for the long term protection of the asset.

## CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

The Interim Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and has no comments on this report. **FD685 /2011**

CAPITA SYMONDS BUILDING MAINTENANCE

## 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 6

## **1.0 BACKGROUND:**

- 1.1 Southport Pier was reopened in 2002 following a complete restoration which was funded from a variety of sources including HLF.
- 1.2 As a consequence Sefton were required to set up a sinking fund to provide an appropriate reserve of available funding in order to address future maintenance requirements of the Pier. This was to prevent it lapsing back to an unacceptable condition as it had prior to the refurbishment works. The Pier sinking fund cannot be used for any other purpose than major maintenance or improvement works to the Pier.
- 1.3 The fund currently contains £517,295, although Cabinet at its meeting on 28th October 2010 approved the expenditure of £20,000 of this for a structural survey and option appraisal for works to combat corrosion that is emerging as a serious issue.
- 1.4 The Pier structure is subject to extreme weather and environmental conditions and the heating system within the Pier Pavilion has deteriorated to the point that it is no longer working. This is having a detrimental effect on visitors and staff working within the Pavilion building which is in turn impacting both users and concessionaires.
- 1.5 It is therefore considered necessary to carry out a comprehensive repair and partial replacement of the heating system including new heat pumps and air heaters in a manner which will be more resistant to the prevailing environmental conditions.
- 1.6 Capita Symonds has produced a specification for the necessary replacement work and tenders have been sought against that specification.
- 1.7 Capita Symonds advise that the total scheme cost is presently tendered in the sum of £42738.35 including a provisional cost sum within that of £4200 for electrical controls.
- 1.8 Officers therefore request that the Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism approve spend on this work up to £43000

## **2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S):**

1. That the sum of up to £43,000 be vired from the Southport Pier Sinking Fund to the Pier maintenance revenue budget in order to undertake the necessary repair works to the Pier Pavilion Heating & Ventilation system.



# Agenda Item 7

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism

**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

**SUBJECT:** THE CREATION OF A SINGLE REGISTRATION DISTRICT FOR BIRTHS DEATH AND MARRIAGES FOR SEFTON

**WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL WARDS

**REPORT OF:** G BAYLISS - LEISURE AND TOURISM DIRECTOR

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Rajan Paul Assistant Leisure and Tourism Director  
(Proper Officer) 0151 934 2377  
John Proffitt, Head of Cemeteries and Crematoria,  
Registrars and Coroner - 0151 934 2357

**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To seek approval for the introduction of a Single Registration Service of Births Deaths and Marriages for Sefton

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

This is a policy decision which requires the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism's approval

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

It is recommended that:

(i) Subject to receiving formal approval from the Registrar General, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism agrees to the creation of a single registration district for Sefton and the adoption of New Governance from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

**KEY DECISION:** Yes

**FORWARD PLAN:** Yes

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following the Call in period

# Agenda Item 7

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

To retain the two districts operating under an archaic and restrictive scheme of governance

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:**

**Financial:** There are no direct financial implications of the proposal.

<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? N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

**Legal:** This is a statutory Service

**Risk Assessment:** None

**Asset Management:** None

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and has no comments on this report.  
FD 702/11

**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		✓	

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

# Agenda Item 7

## 1.0 **BACKGROUND**

1.1 As the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism will recall, a report was presented to him and Cabinet to create a single registration district for Sefton and adopt a scheme of New Governance ( Copy attached).

1.2 On the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010 Cabinet resolved that:

- (1) approval, in principle, be given to the introduction of a single registration service for Sefton;
- (2) approval, in principle, be given to the adoption of 'New Governance', a General Register Office initiative in order to facilitate the single registration district and reduce regulation;
- (3) it be noted that due to Government regulation, the introduction of a single registration district and adoption of 'New Governance' are subject to final approval by the Registrar General; and
- (4) the Cabinet Member - Leisure and Tourism and Sefton's Proper Officer for the Registration Service be authorised to progress matters with the General Register Office in order to bring the proposals into effect.

## 2.0 **UPDATE**

2.1 Work has progressed on this, with a draft proposal being presented to the Registrar General in February 2011.

2.2 The process has included:

<b>Task</b>	<b>Target Date</b>
Preliminary discussions with GRO	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Implementing a system for the Control of Certificate Stock	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Production of a Service Delivery Plan	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Incorporate Performance Management and GRO Performance Indicators	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Members agreement to the principle of a single registration district	Dec 2010 ( Completed)
Formal Commitment to by the Proper Officer to The GRO new Governance Code Of Practice and Submission of GRO questionnaire	Dec 2010 ( Completed)
Discussions with staff	Jan 2011 (Completed)
Detailed discussions with GRO	Feb 2011 (Completed)
Public Consultation	Jan/Feb 2011 (Completed)
Submission of the new scheme to Registrar General for approval	April 2011 (draft submitted Feb 2011)
Formal Approval by the Registrar General	April 2011
Introduction of new Births Deaths and Marriages District and New Governance	Scheduled for 1 <sup>st</sup> July 2011

# Agenda Item 7

- 2.3 The Registrar General is currently reviewing the draft submission but has indicated that the submission (subject to the provision of some minor additional details) is acceptable, and the operational date has been agreed as 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.
- 2.4 The additional information requested will be supplied and the formal submission to 'create a single registration district for Sefton' and 'the adoption of a scheme of new governance' will be made shortly.
- 2.5 It is envisaged that formal approval from the Registrar General of this submission will be received in April 2011.

## 3.0 **CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 At its December meeting, Cabinet noted that the final approval to a single district and new governance is a matter for the Registrar General and authorised the Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism and Sefton's Proper Officer to progress to bring this into effect.
- 3.2 The matter has now been progressed to the stage where only formal approval from the Registrar General remains.
- 3.3 It is therefore recommended that:-
  - i. Subject to receiving formal approval from the Registrar General, the Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism agrees to the creation of a single registration district for Sefton and the adoption of New Governance from the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2011.

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**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member Leisure and Tourism  
Cabinet

**DATE:** 1<sup>st</sup> December 2010  
16<sup>th</sup> December 2010

**SUBJECT:** PROPOSALS FOR THE CREATION OF A SINGLE  
REGISTRATION SERVICE FOR BIRTHS DEATH AND  
MARRIAGES FOR SEFTON

**WARDS AFFECTED:** ALL WARDS

**REPORT OF:** LEISURE AND TOURISM DIRECTOR - G BAYLISS

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Rajan Paul Assistant Leisure and Tourism Director  
(Proper Officer) 0151 934 2377  
John Proffitt, Head of Cemeteries and Crematoria,  
Registrars and Coroners - 0151 934 2357

**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To seek approval for the introduction of a Single Registration Service of Births Deaths and Marriages for Sefton

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

This is a policy decision which requires Cabinet Member and Cabinet approval

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism recommends to Cabinet that they :**

- i. Approve, in principle, the introduction of a single registration service for Sefton
- ii. Approve, in principle, the adoption of 'New Governance' a General Registry Office initiative in order to facilitate the single registration district and reduce regulation.

**It is recommended that Cabinet**

- i. Approve, in principle, the introduction of a single registration service for Sefton
- ii. Approve, in principle, the adoption of 'New Governance' a General Registry Office initiative in order to facilitate the single registration district and reduce regulation.
- iii. Notes that due to Government regulation the introduction of a single registration district and adoption of 'New Governance' are subject to final approval by the Registrar General.
- iv. Authorises the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism and Sefton's Proper Officer for the Registration Service to progress matters with the General Registry Office in order to bring these proposals into effect.

**KEY DECISION:**

Yes

**FORWARD PLAN:**

Yes

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:**

Following the Call in period

# Agenda Item 7

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**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

- To retain the two districts

**IMPLICATIONS:**

**Budget/Policy Framework:**

<b>Financial:</b> <b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	0	0	0	0
Funded by:	0			
Sefton Capital Resources	0		0	0
Specific Capital Resources	0			
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	0			
Funded by:	0			
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? N			When?	
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

**Legal:** This is a statutory Service

**Risk Assessment:** None

**Asset Management:** None

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

**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		✓	

<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT</b>
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### 1.0 **Background**

- 1.3 Sefton Births Deaths and Marriages Registration Service is a statutory function which is regulated by the Government via the General Registry Office (GRO) but provided and funded by the Local Authority.
- 1.4 Legislation places a duty on the Local Authority to provide the service and specifies minimum standards in terms of its provision. Details of how each individual Authority will meet these have to be proposed, in a document known as a 'Scheme', to the Registrar General (RG) for their approval.
- 1.5 Sefton's current scheme, which dates back to 1989, identifies two independent registration districts and offices, based on the ward boundaries. As far as legislative requirements and the GRO are concerned these are two completely separate districts and have to be staffed and managed accordingly.

Sefton North Registration district based at Southport Town Hall covers Cambridge, Meols, Dukes, Norwood, Kew, Birkdale, Ainsdale, Harington, Ravenmeols

Sefton South Registration district based at Waterloo Town hall covers Manor, Blundellsands, Victoria, Church, Linacre, Derby, Litherland, Ford, St Oswald Netherton and Orrell, Molyneux, Sudell, Park

- 1.6 The difficulties with this type of scheme is its inflexibility, even a minor change e.g. amending opening hours requires RG approval. This restricts our service provision and means that it is difficult to adapt if service users needs change.
- 1.7 GRO have recognised the difficulties that this level of regulation can cause for local registration services and over the past two years have introduced an alternative to the Scheme known as New Governance.
- 1.8 This initiative allows greater flexibility and reduced regulation, passing more of the regulatory responsibility down to the local level and away from the GRO. It also permits changes to the service without the need to have RG approval first.
- 1.9 At least 100 of the 174 local authorities in England have already adopted New Governance and are already seeing the benefits of reduced regulation.
- 1.10 One of the other issues with Sefton's current scheme are the two independent districts which can cause difficulties for residents; details are highlighted below.

### 2.0 **Difficulties Created by the Current Two District Setup**

- 2.1 Having two independent registration districts in Sefton creates difficulties for residents. The reason for this is that births deaths and marriages must, by law, be registered in the registration district where the person lives. As Sefton is split into two districts, north and south, based on ward boundaries, certain residents have to travel further than necessary.
- 2.2 This can also create difficulties, depending upon where people work e.g a person living in Southport but working in Bootle would have to register in Southport despite the south office at Waterloo being closer.
- 2.3 Both districts operate an appointment system for registrations, at certain times of the year. Due to the volume of work, the offices have difficulty providing sufficient registration appointment slots. But as mentioned above due to the districts being independent a resident can't use another office as it is outside of the district. e.g. if the north office is fully booked on a particular day, but the south office has free appointment times, it is not possible for resident to

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attend the south office (as it is outside the area) and the person would have to wait for another day.

- 2.4 The current set up also means that staffing both offices can be difficult. It is a statutory requirement to have an appointed Superintendent Registrar and a Registrar for Births Deaths and Marriages for each district. This means that there is no possibility of moving or adjusting staffing levels and if not fully utilised they still need to be provided.

### 2.0 Service Improvements

#### 3.1 **Adopting New Governance**

- 3.11 As mentioned previously the GRO recommends the adoption of New Governance as an alternative to the current schemes. Adopting this initiative will have a number of advantages for Sefton and its residents including;

- Regulation by the GRO is reduced
- Greater freedom and flexibility to tailor the delivery of the local Registration Service
- The Proper Officer ( Currently the Assistant Leisure and Tourism Director) is given more responsibility and accountability for the delivery of the service
- A 'Light Touch' inspection regime by the GRO is introduced
- Ability to amend the Registration Service, including changes to staffing and offices without the need to refer to the GRO for approval
- The Registration Service is brought into line with other Council services, meaning that members and officers can decide how the service is provided and not the GRO.

#### 3.2 **Creating a Single Registration District**

- 3.21 The GRO recommend that where local authorities have more than one registration district, as part of adopting New Governance, they consider creating a single registration district.

- 3.22 In Sefton's case there would be a number of advantages for residents in doing this including;

- Ward boundary restrictions would be removed
- Residents would be able to chose which office to register at
- Increased availability of appointment times as they could use both offices
- Staff could be transferred between offices if required
- Only one main office will be needed, giving greater flexibility in terms of 'outstation' delivery e.g. at a different venue on different days
- There would only be a need to provide two statutory officers - Superintendent and Registrar of Births Deaths and Marriages - instead of the four currently required which gives greater flexibility for future staff provision

### 3.0 The Process

- 3.1 The creation of a single registration district and adoption of New Governance has a number of key requirements. Work has already commenced on some of these as part of the general management of the service these include.

3.2

Task	Target Date
Preliminary discussions with GRO	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Implementing a system for the Control of Certificate Stock	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Production of a Service Delivery Plan	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Incorporate Performance Management and GRO Performance Indicators	Nov 2010 ( completed)
Members agreement to the principle of a single registration District	Dec 2010



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Formal Commitment to by the Proper Officer to The GRO new Governance Code Of Practice and Submission of GRO questionnaire	Dec 2010
Discussions with staff	Jan 2011
Detailed discussions with GRO	Feb 2011
Proper Officer Submission to GRO for approval	April 2011
Introduction of new Births Deaths and Marriages District and New Governance	July 2011

### 5.0 Final Approval of the Proposals

- 5.1 The Cabinet Member and Cabinet should note that that this report seeks approval in principle, for the adoption of New Governance and the Creation of a Single Registration District.
- 5.2 Due to the statutory nature of the service, Members should note that final approval for implementation of these initiatives falls to the Registrar General.
- 5.3 If the principle is approved by Members, the final submission will be made by Sefton's Proper Officer for Registration Service, after approval by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism.

### 6.0 Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no financial implications and in fact allowing greater flexibility of staffing and sites may mean that some efficiencies and savings can be identified.

### 7.0 Conclusions

- 7.1 Introduction of a single Registration Service will have a number of advantages for Sefton residents and the Council as a whole and will result in greater flexibility, reduced regulation by the GRO and an ability to tailor the Registration Service to the Council's particular needs.

### 8.0 Recommendations

**It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism recommends to Cabinet that they :**

1. Approve, in principle, the introduction of a single registration service for Sefton
2. Approve, in principle, the adoption of 'New Governance' a General Registry Office initiative in order to facilitate the single registration district and reduce regulation.

**It is recommended that Cabinet**

1. Approve, in principle, the introduction of a single registration service for Sefton.
2. Approve, in principle, the adoption of 'New Governance' a General Registry Office initiative in order to facilitate the single registration district and reduce regulation.
3. Note that due to Government regulation the introduction of a single registration district and adoption of 'New Governance' are subject to final approval by the Registrar General.
4. Authorises the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism and Sefton's Proper Officer for the Registration Service to progress matters with the General Registry Office in order to bring these proposals into effect.

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# Agenda Item 8

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism

**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

**SUBJECT:** Ainsdale & Birkdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve  
Environmental Higher Level Stewardship Agreement

**WARDS AFFECTED:** Ainsdale, Birkdale, Dukes

**REPORT OF:** Graham Bayliss, Leisure and Tourism Director

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Dave McAleavy, Head of Coast and Countryside  
Rachel Northover, Principal Coast and Countryside Officer  
0151 934 2967

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To advise the Cabinet Member on the detail of the offer of grant from Natural England for Higher Level Stewardship funding for the Ainsdale & Birkdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

Authorisation is required for the Council to enter into the agreement with Natural England.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

The Cabinet Member resolves:-

- (i) That the Council enters into the Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England.
- (ii) The inclusion of the capital element of the scheme in the capital programme at a cost of £118,000, funded from £103,575 capital grant and £14,425 revenue resources.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

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

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

There are no alternative options offering a similar long-term financial agreement to assist the Council in meeting its Biodiversity Duty.

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## IMPLICATIONS:

### Budget/Policy Framework:

### Financial:

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>	<b>2013/ 2014 £</b>	<b>2014/ 2015 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure	39,333	39,333	39,334	
Funded by:				
Sefton Revenue Resources	4,808	4,808	4,809	
Specific Capital Resources	34,525	34,525	34,525	
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	54,878	54,878	54,878	54,878
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources	54,878	54,878	54,878	54,878
Does the External Funding have an expiry date	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

### Legal:

The Council as accountable body for the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme has entered into a legally binding contract with the Heritage Lottery to deliver a number of schemes including scrub clearance and habitat restoration on the Local Nature Reserve – this HLS agreement is the Council's commitment to a sustainable management and maintenance regime relating to works carried out through Lottery funding.

### Risk Assessment:

The Corporate risk of not meeting favourable condition for the SSSI was recognised in the Leisure and Tourism Service Plan in recent years – accepting this grant will remove any potential challenge as this risk will be reduced.

### Asset Management:

Entering in to the agreement will improve the quality of the Councils landholdings

### CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD701 – The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT has been consulted and her comments have been incorporated into this report.

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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	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**

Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy 2007-2015

Cabinet 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2009 Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy

Cabinet 20<sup>th</sup> May 2010 Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS)

Cabinet Member for Leisure 21<sup>st</sup> April 2010 Sefton Coast LPS

# Agenda Item 8

## 1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Sefton Council is the major landowner on the Sefton Coast. The Council is responsible for the management of a large proportion of the Sefton Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and Special Area of Conservation (SAC). The SSSI is split into management units which are assessed (Conservation Assessment) on a 6 year cycle against the SSSI criteria for which they are designated. A set of conservation objectives are then developed to guide landowners in respect of suitable management.
- 1.2 Of the units under Council ownership nearly all are now in 'Unfavourable Recovering' condition with two continuing to be in 'Unfavourable Declining' condition. This latter condition description has been reported in the Leisure and Tourism Department Service Plan as a 'risk' in the last 5 years, because it was unlikely that the Council could meet its responsibility to achieve 'Recovering Condition' for the areas of SSSI in its ownership. To not attempt to deal with this 'declining condition' could result in the Council being seen as not fulfilling the Biodiversity Duty placed upon it through the provisions of various environmental legislation.
- 1.3 In order to fulfil its 'biodiversity duty' the Council identified scrub management and grazing as a key project in the Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Strategy 2007 – 2015, which set out these threats and future management options. Once adopted by the Council and its partners on the coast, the Sefton Council successfully attracted funding to carry out this work. Being fully aware of its biodiversity duty the Council worked to develop a package of funding identifying Heritage Lottery funding through the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme and also through Natural England for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) – the latter is specific funding to landowners with special habitats to manage.
- 1.4 Sand dune habitat on the Sefton Coast is under threat from a variety of factors. Of concern are over-stabilisation and scrub encroachment leading to a loss of diversity and in particular of the rare and specialised plants and animals for which the dunes are renowned, if this trend continues.
- 1.5 Evidence from the National Vegetation Survey, carried out every 10 years, and from aerial photography and other sources suggests a significant alteration in the vegetation with a loss of bare sand and a tendency towards domination by commoner 'course' grasses and invasion by non-native and native scrub species. This may be linked to increased nitrogen input from atmospheric deposition and is believed to be contributing to the loss of some features and the degradation of the SSSI.

- 1.6 Funding to help owners of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) meet targets to achieve Favourable Condition has been available in different forms over the years. In the mid 1990's and 2003 Sefton Council has been able to draw down money from Species Recovery Programme and Wildlife Enhancement Schemes to assist with habitat restoration works. These grants were used for scrub clearance and an initial grazing project on the Ainsdale and Birkdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve within the Sefton Coast SSSI, Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Ramsar site.
- 1.7 Most recently, a considerable sum has been awarded through the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme (LPS) to control scrub levels on the 'Birkdale Hills' section of the Ainsdale & Birkdale Sandhills LNR and to restore wet slacks across the Coast.
- 1.8 The LPS is a coast wide scheme of nineteen projects managed through Leisure & Tourism on behalf of the Sefton Coast Partnership and supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The LPS outcomes refer to longer term sustainable management solutions for managing this habitat and landscape.
- 1.9 A number of Agri-environment grants, aimed at encouraging landowners to manage for wildlife have also been available to landowners for some years although not all were available to Local Authorities.
- 1.10 To apply for agri-environment grants (and forestry grants), land has first to be registered on the Rural Land Register. Previously Local Authorities were excluded from HLS but were able to claim Single Farm Payment (which Sefton Council, through this Department's Coast and Countryside Service have done for part of the landholding since 2005). However, when this position changed, the Coast and Countryside Service were encouraged by its partners on the coast, through the partnership Nature Conservation Task Group, to put forward an application to Natural England for HLS for the Ainsdale & Birkdale Sandhills LNR.
- 1.11 Acceptance of the Agreement will change the status of these declining units of the SSSI units to 'Unfavourable Recovering' condition, therefore fulfilling the Council's duty and responsibility for the SSSI.

## **2. The Proposal (Including Financial Implications)**

- 2.1 Sand dune systems contain a range of valuable habitats that support many specialised plant and animals. Maintaining sand dunes will help conserve and strengthen the distinctive local character of coastal landscapes including any important archaeological sites found under the dunes.
- 2.2 Consequently, Natural England have offered a Higher Level Stewardship Agreement for Ainsdale and Birkdale Local Nature Reserve, effective from the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2011 to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021.

# Agenda Item 8

- 2.3 The HLS proposal/agreement being offered by Natural England is the extension of conservation grazing on this LNR - the fixed dunes of the Ainsdale and Birkdale sandhills, the areas cleared on scrub in the 90's, 2003 and the ongoing scrub clearance project as part of the Lottery project described in this report. The agreement offers Sefton Council an annual revenue grant of £54,878.60 for 10 years up to April 2021 and a capital grant of £103,575.08 to use by April 2014. The cost of the fencing based on quotations is £118,000. Any additional cost is available from monies set aside as part of the planning for the project over the last five years. It is likely, however that the fencing construction will be a mix of contractor and the in-house Biodiversity and Access Project; therefore the costs will be as the grant offer.
- 2.4 The agreement covers 406ha of land and comprises annual payments for the maintenance of Coastal Sand Dunes, which at the current rate amounts to the annual figure above.
- 2.5 The agreement prescribes general management for Coastal Sand Dunes Priority BAP Habitat, which may include light grazing, scrub management, management of visitor access and control of water levels. These prescriptions have all been previously identified in the Management Plan for the LNR and described in the Nature Conservation Strategy; they are also recognised in the SSSI Conservation Assessment. Operations such as scrub control, mowing of slacks, creation of new slacks and limited grazing are ongoing.
- 2.6 The Agreement sets out Success Indicators which need to be met by the end of the 10 years: all SSSI land must be in favourable or recovering condition; full range of zonation and succession of habitats should be maintained; dune slacks should be retained; specific desirable species should be present at desired levels.
- 2.7 In addition, the Agreement requires that winter livestock grazing be extended across the LNR as a supplementary management tool. The Coast and Countryside Service have proposed that a further 87ha of the 406ha should be grazed with sheep, probably Herdwick or Hebridean, which are hardy and easily manageable. For the past 10 years, 7.2ha of the LNR has been grazed over winter with Herdwick sheep under a grazing licence with a farmer from Cumbria.
- 2.8 Conservation Grazing is a well-used management tool on a range of habitats across the UK and Europe, including coastal dunes. Different breeds, timing and stocking densities are used to achieve different outcomes and need to be fine-tuned for each individual site. Low level sheep grazing will help to maintain a species rich low sward and have a positive impact on controlling the spread of scrub species to the benefit of dune plants, invertebrates and herptiles in particular.
- 2.9 The HLS Agreement includes a capital sum for the erection of stock-proof fencing, stock handling facilities and access points (vehicle and pedestrian gates). Fencing is essential to contain the livestock and to allow rotation of stock across the dune grassland.



- 2.10 This sum for fencing etc is based on 3 estimates given by local contractors against the proposed grazing enclosures (see attached map). All the funding for the grazing project is in place including monies set aside as part of planning for the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme. Costs are likely to be reduced due to part of the works being carried out by the Biodiversity and Access Project, which members will recall is an inclusion and training project based at the Ainsdale Discovery Centre complex.
- 2.11 Site users have expressed concern that fencing will restrict their recreational activities and be detrimental to the landscape. It must be stressed that the fencing is there to contain the livestock, not to keep people out. The site has always been open access and will continue to be so. However, it must be remembered that the site is a Local Nature Reserve and SSSI and that users and land managers have a responsibility to ensure that wildlife and habitat is not deliberately disturbed. For example dogs should be kept under close control at all times.
- 2.12 There will be restrictions in place when livestock are on site: dogs must be kept on a lead within enclosures when livestock are present and gates must be kept closed.
- 2.13 To cause the least disruption to users, the following measures will be taken: the location of gates will take into account desire lines and site users will be asked to contribute to their siting; all gates will be left open when stock are not present; advance warning will be given for when livestock will be arriving. These measures are already in place on the current enclosure and have worked well for the past 10 years.

### **3. Consultation**

- 3.1 Consultation for this scheme was undertaken as part of the process of developing a Nature Conservation Strategy for the Sefton Coast commencing in 2005 (adopted by Sefton – Cabinet January 2009) and also through the Heritage Lottery, Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Scheme commencing in 2007 (approved – Cabinet May 2010). Later, the information on the full nineteen projects in the Landscape Partnership Scheme was made available for public viewing at the Ainsdale Discovery Centre in 2010.
- 3.2 The project was a key element of the development of the Landscape Partnership Scheme over the last three years and presented at numerous annual Sefton Coast forums, including workshops and site visits. The proposals were also displayed in the Ainsdale Discovery Centre and at consultation events linked to the ‘Birkdale Cycle Route’ project. It has also been discussed at two Sefton Coast Nature Conservation Forums and the Beach Consultation Group.
- 3.3 Both the consultations for the Nature Conservation Strategy and Landscape Partnership Scheme were extensive and vigorous, reporting to the Sefton Coast Partnership Working Groups and Board & Sefton Council.

# Agenda Item 8

## **4. Consents and Permissions**

- 4.1 Sefton Council formerly notified Natural England in 2009 who then made an assessment of the project under the Habitat Regulations 1994 and Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). A Consent Notice was issued by Natural England for the scrub clearance and grazing project.
- 4.2 The agreement, if signed, also constitutes a permission and consent to carry out the prescribed works. Natural England has formally offered the agreement as described above.
- 4.3 A request for screening of the fencing element of the project has been submitted to Natural England and this is being carried out under the provisions of the EIA (Agriculture) Regulations 2006. In discussions with Natural England it is not clear if an EIA is required or not and at the time of writing this report, debate is ongoing – indeed it seems this the first time such a request has been considered. If an EIA is required, it is unlikely that it will be an onerous piece of work and some external funding made available to prepare the application could be utilised. However, it is anticipated that this work can be carried out in-house with the support of the Councils' partners on the coast.

## **5. Summary**

- 5.1 The offer of Stewardship is permission or consent from Natural England to undertake these works on a SSSI under section 28E of the Wildlife and Countryside Act.
- 5.2 The agreement will provide financial support and stability to enable the Council to carry out its statutory duty to the conservation and management of this part of the Sefton Coast SSSI. Members will be fully aware of the extreme budgetary difficulties facing the Council and will note that the Coast and Countryside Service like all other Councils services has had to reduce operational/controllable budgets. The HLS is secure funding for a considerable period that will ensure that the Ainsdale and Birkdale Sandhills Local Nature reserve has resources for management in the next decade.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

- i) That the Council enter into the Higher Level Stewardship agreement with Natural England.
- ii). The inclusion of the capital element of the scheme in the capital programme at a cost of £118,000, funded from £103,575 capital grant and £14,425 revenue resources.



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# Agenda Item 9

**REPORT TO:** CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE AND TOURISM

**DATE:** 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2011

**SUBJECT:** PLAYBUILDER 2011 - PROPOSED DESIGN AND PROCUREMENT ARRANGEMENTS

**WARDS AFFECTED:** Meols, Ravenmeols, Victoria

**REPORT OF:** G. BAYLISS. DIRECTOR OF LEISURE AND TOURISM  
0151 934 2371

**CONTACT OFFICER:** MARK SHAW, PARKS AND GREEN SPACES MANAGER  
0151 934 2393

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** NO

## PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism of proposals to deliver improvements to play facilities that form part of the 2010/11 Playbuilder Phase 3 Programme at Crossens Community Park, Southport, Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, Formby, and Moorside Park, Crosby.

## REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED

Cabinet Member's approval is required to accept the funding from Children's Services and to deliver the three schemes on Council-owned land.

## RECOMMENDATION(S):

The Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism:-

- i.) accepts the funding from Childrens Services for the selected sites;
- ii.) approves the proposed design and procurement strategy for the third phase of the Playbuilder programme;
- iii.) authorises the Leisure and Tourism Director to seek competitive tenders for the works;
- iv.) notes that the Leisure and Tourism Director will accept the lowest/highest quality tenders in accordance with the delegated powers identified in the Council's Constitution;
- v.) authorises the Leisure and Tourism Director to include additional maintenance obligations as part of the next grounds maintenance re-tendering process.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Following expiry of the call-in period

# Agenda Item 9

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

Do nothing or implement a significantly reduced scheme

**IMPLICATIONS:**

Budget/Policy Framework:           None

Financial:                                   Sefton has a grant allocation of £275,041.25 in 2010/11 for Play Builder schemes. Three Leisure Service sites have been approved as part of this programme at a total cost of £99,255

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by: Children's Services				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources (S106)				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal:

Risk Assessment:

Asset Management:                       The department is already managing the play areas in line within existing parks and open space policy.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

FD 700 - The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT has been consulted and has no comments on the report

# Agenda Item 9

## 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

Minutes and Agendas for:

Crosby Area Committee, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
 Formby Area Committee, 17<sup>th</sup> March 2011  
 Southport Area Committee, 30<sup>th</sup> March 2011

Cabinet Member – Childrens Services, 22<sup>nd</sup> Jun 2010, Playbuilder Capital Grant: 2010/11

Cabinet, 8<sup>th</sup> July 2010, Playbuilder Capital Grant: 2010/11

Cabinet, 16<sup>th</sup> December 2010, Playbuilder Capital Grant 2010/11

Parks and Greenspace Asset Management Strategy

# Agenda Item 9

## 1.0 Background

- 1.1 Following a successful application to the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) for Fair Play 'Play builder' status, Children's Services, working with the Leisure Department, submitted a Play builder Project Plan to the DCSF in July 2008.
- 1.2 The plan sets out how Sefton would provide innovative and stimulating play equipment and landscaping, which would facilitate physically active play opportunities for all children, but with a particular focus on 8-13 year-olds. The Plan was approved, and the Council was awarded a grant over the three year Play Builder programme. To date some 13 natural style play areas and improvements have been made across the parks and greenspaces in Sefton
- 1.3 Although initially Phase 3 projects of the programme were not progressed due to the Council's current financial situation, at its meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> December 2010, Cabinet considered several options for use of the monies. Cabinet agreed to approve three reduced schemes to move forward and these schemes have now been placed in the Capital Programme
- 1.4 Leisure Services' Parks and Greenspace Service have been requested by Children's Services to design and procure the three projects approved by the Play Partnership in 2010/11, that are located on Council owned Leisure sites, namely
- Crossens Community Park, Southport
  - Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, Formby
  - Moorside Park, Crosby

Plans showing the proposed locations of the facilities within the parks are shown in Annexe 1.

- 1.5 A sum of £33,085 has been approved and budgeted towards the capital cost of each of the projects.

## 2.0 Proposed Scheme

### 2.1 Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, Formby – Proposed Woodland Sculpture Trail

A vision plan was developed for the site in 2008 with the Friends of Deansgate Lane Playing Fields, following extensive discussions. This included a proposal to create a sculpture trail through the site.

This would include circa 12 woodland sculptures placed around the site to form a trail which visitors, school children and other groups could follow. Interpretation panels can be created at the start and at each piece to explain its relevance.



This proposal has now been discussed further with the Friends Group and has evolved to include the introduction of some play value (in line with the criteria of Playbuilder), and to be thematically based around a children's story (to be developed with the adjacent school).

## 2.2 **Crossens Community Park, Southport – Football Kickabout Area**

A vision plan for this site was adopted by Cabinet Member in 2003 following extensive discussions with the wider community over several months. This vision included provision of better informal football/ kickabout facilities.

This proposal, together with the provision of more tree planting and longer grass areas to give the park more of a 'park' feel, has been discussed with the Crossens Community Association and has evolved to include two new goal mouths, improved grass matting surfacing, and (if the budget permits) low fencing to the side to contain the ball.

## 2.3 **Moorside Park, Crosby – Play Area Improvements**

A vision plan for this site is currently being developed with the Friends of Moorside Park. This will include provision of improved play facilities.

The proposal at this stage is to replace the existing traditional style equipment, (which has come to the end of its useful life), with new equipment (to include two sets of swings, a slide, and a roundabout) and also to provide an informal willow planted area to create a sense of place and a feature to play within.

## 3.0 **Community Involvement**

3.1 As described above, the proposals are contained within existing vision plans for Crossens and Deansgate Lane, and will form part of the evolving plan for Moorside Park. Detailed discussions have been undertaken with the friends groups associated with each of these parks, and all are fully supportive of the proposals.

3.2 Resident newsletters have also been distributed to nearby residents, schools, and businesses etc in the vicinity of the sites. The feedback from this will be reported at the meeting. This is in line with a generic consultation methodology for parks and green spaces as presented to Sefton's Consultation Panel.

3.3 Area committee reports have been drafted and will be presented to each relevant committee. The feedback from this will be reported at the meeting (due to the tight timescales for delivery, it has been necessary to report to Cabinet Member earlier than usual in the process).

# Agenda Item 9

## **4.0 Financial Considerations**

- 4.1 There is £99,255 approved within the Children's Services 2010/11 Capital Programme to fund these proposed works. Given the tight timescale for delivery, an extension into the first quarter of 2011/12 has been approved by Childrens Services

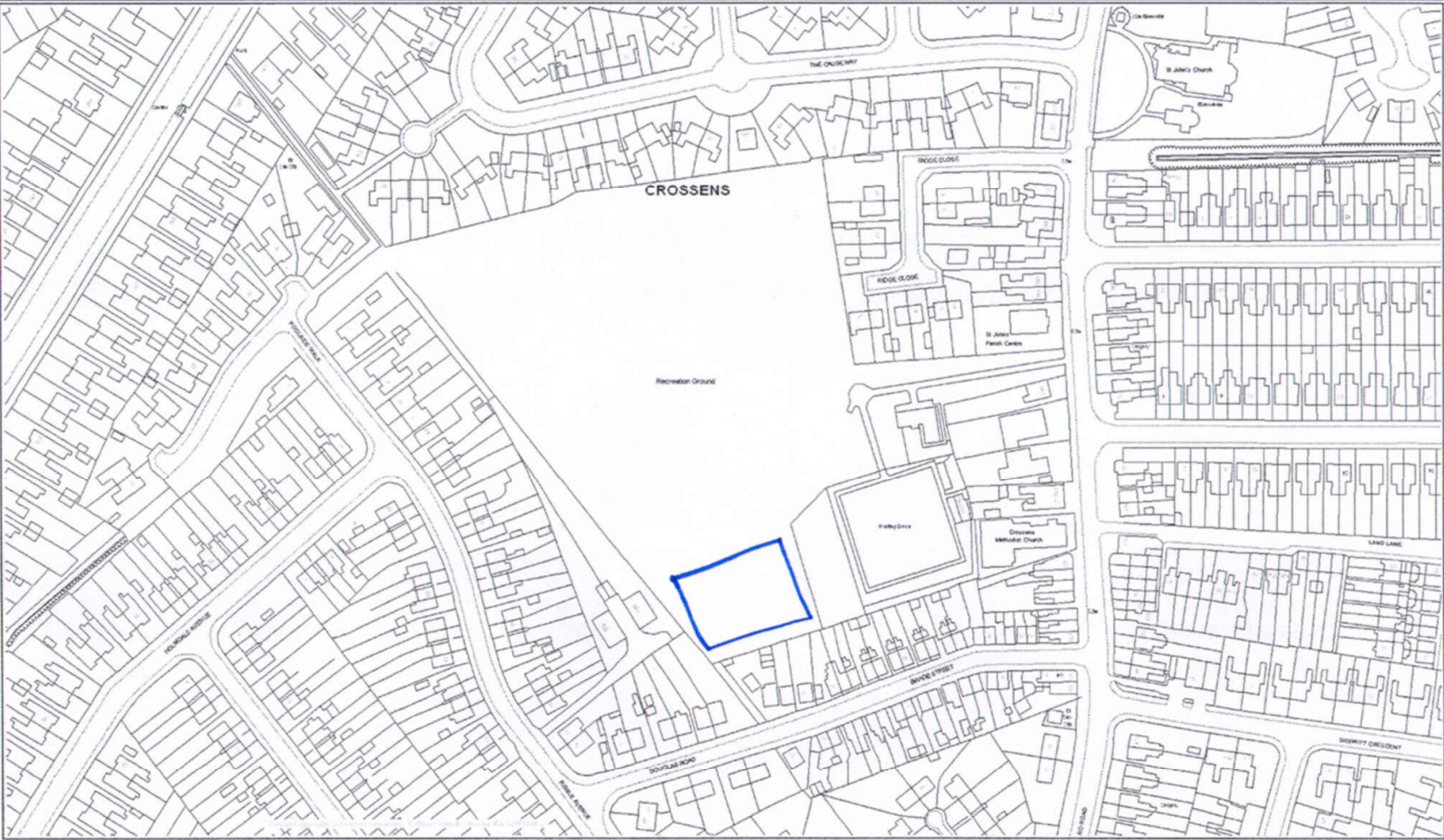
## **5.0 Tendering Process and Timescale**

- 5.1 Subject to Cabinet Member approval, competitive tenders will be sought for each package of works. For Crossens Community Park and Moorside Park, competitive tenders will be sought based on lowest price. For Deansgate Lane, quality based tenders will be sought based on a fixed-cost design brief, and assessed by a panel of officers and Friends of Deansgate Lane.
- 5.2 Works should be complete on site by end of May 2011.

## **6.0 Revenue Implications**

- 6.1 The schemes have, of course, been designed to minimise future maintenance implications by replacing existing play facilities with new, and providing simple and robust football facilities etc. However, as with previous phases of the Playbuilder programme, there will be additional revenue implications from the creation of new facilities (likely to be in the region of 3-5% of the capital cost to account for additional grounds maintenance, repairs and maintenance etc).
- 6.2 Additional revenue resources have been requested for previous phases from Cabinet, but these resources have not been forthcoming.
- 6.3 Should the revenue funding for maintenance and management of the new play facilities not be approved within the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan, any damage incurred to a piece of equipment by vandalism or wear and tear may result in the equipment being decommissioned and a loss of long term benefit of capital investment. The Play Partnership and Children's Services have been made aware of this.

Crossens Community Park



Sefton Council

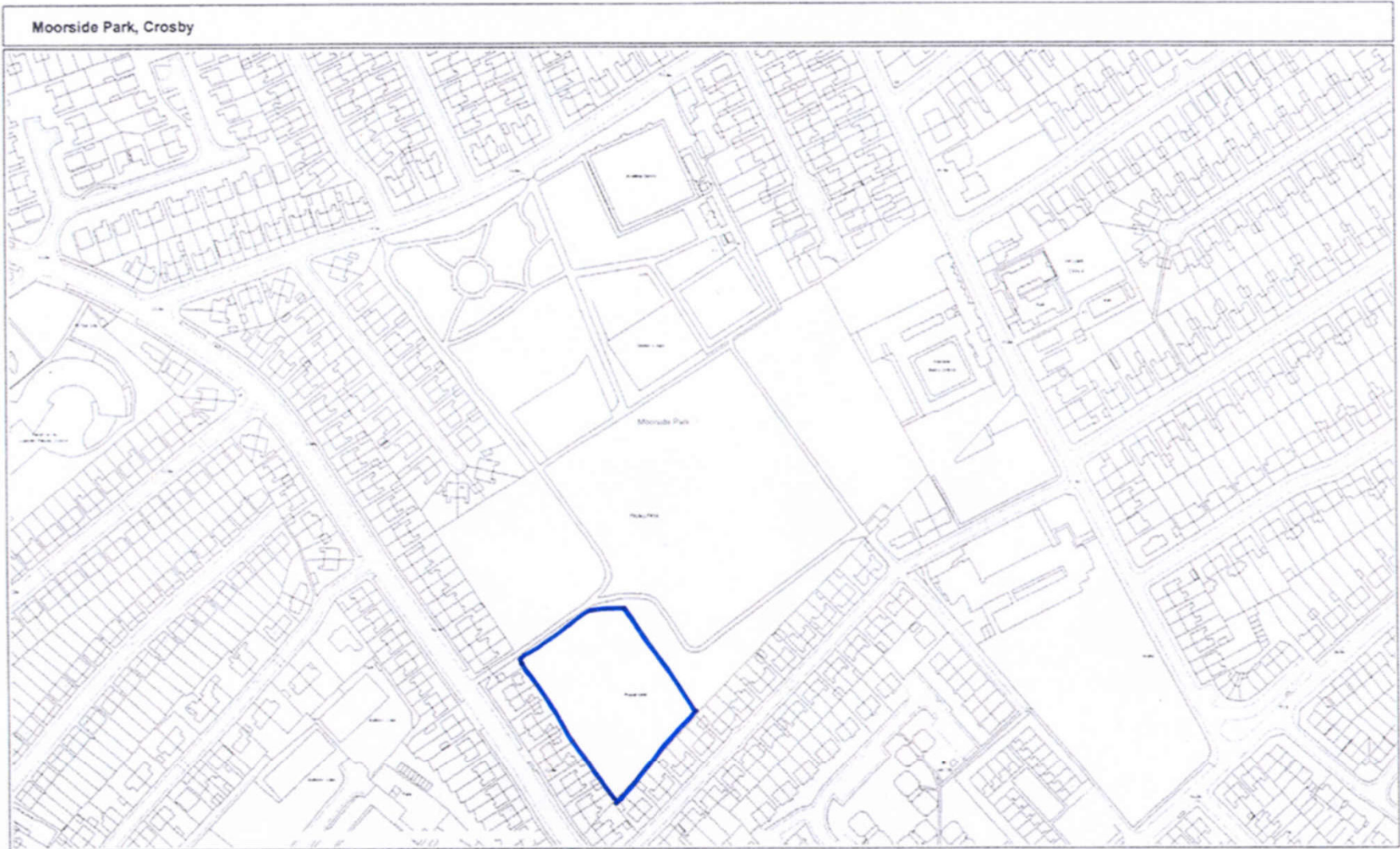
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Moorside Park, Crosby

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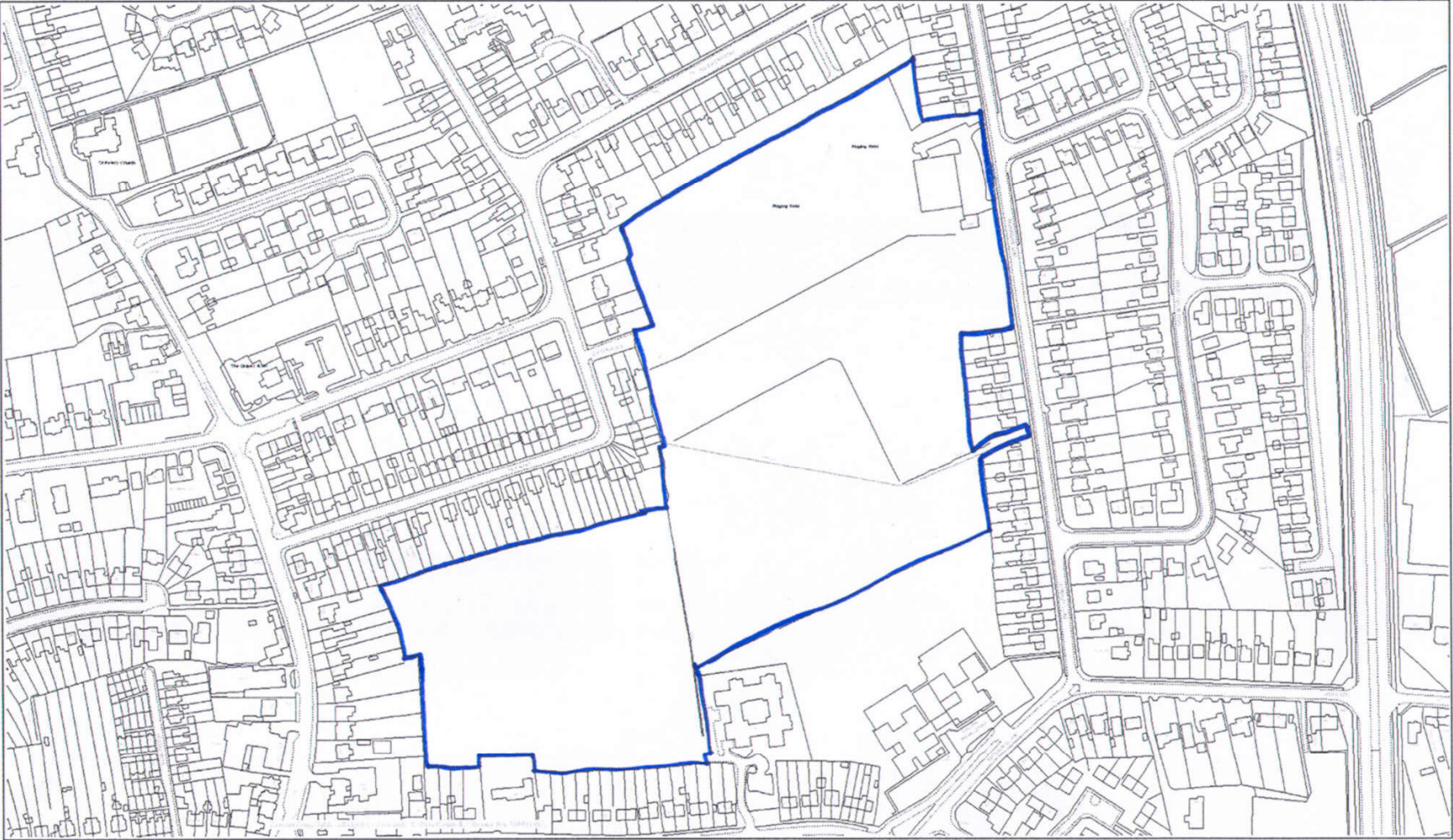
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Deansgate Lane Playing Fields



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