



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

DATE: Tuesday 20 September 2011

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Town Hall, Southport

**Member**

Councillor  
Councillor Papworth (Chair)  
Councillor Jones (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Ashton  
Councillor K. Cluskey  
(Spokesperson)  
Councillor Fenton  
Councillor Hardy  
Councillor McKinley  
Councillor Robinson  
Councillor Weavers  
(Spokesperson)  
Councillor Welsh

**Substitute**

Councillor  
Councillor Griffiths  
Councillor McIvor  
Councillor Rimmer  
Councillor Kelly  
Councillor Hubbard  
Councillor Tweed  
Councillor Webster  
Councillor Bradshaw  
Councillor Blackburn  
Councillor McGuire

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

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# AGENDA

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest**

Members and Officers are requested to give notice of any personal or prejudicial interest and the nature of that interest, relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the relevant Code of Conduct.
3. **Minutes** (Pages 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held on 2 August 2011.
4. **Southport Arts and Cultural Centre - update**

Verbal Briefing from the Director of Built Environment.

(Members were invited to attend a site visit prior to the meeting).
5. **Public Health Annual Report 2011**

A representative from NHS Sefton, to make a presentation.

Hard copies of the Public Health Annual Report 2011 will be available at the meeting.

Members may wish to access the report via the Modgov library, using the following link:-

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD656&ID=656&RPID=3390564&sch=doc&cat=13058&path=13058>
6. **Parking Services - Enforcement Contract Tendering** (Pages 13 - 18)

Report of the Director of Built Environment.
7. **Incidents of Fly tipping in the Borough** (Pages 19 - 24)

Report of the Director of Built Environment.
8. **Surface Water Management Plan** (Pages 25 - 40)

Report of the Director of Built Environment.
9. **Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management - Forward Plan for 2011-12** (Pages 41 - 50)

Report of the Director of Built Environment.

10. **Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Development Plan Document: Council Approval of Publication Waste DPD** (Pages 51 - 62)  
Report of the Director of Built Environment
11. **Cabinet Member Reports** (Pages 63 - 90)  
Report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning.
12. **Work Programme Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 91 - 110)  
Report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning.

**THIS SET OF MINUTES IS NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL IN".**

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT  
ON TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2011

Overview  
& Scrutiny



PRESENT: Councillor Papworth (in the Chair)  
Councillor Jones (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Ashton, K. Cluskey, McKinley, Robinson,  
Weavers, Welsh and Hubbard.  
Also Present: Councillor Shaw – Cabinet Member, Environmental.

### 11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fenton and Hardy. An apology for absence was also received from the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Transportation, Councillor Fairclough.

### 12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

### 13. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2011 be confirmed as a correct record; and
- (2) in relation to Minute No. 5 – Floods and Water Management Act – Actions Update, this Committee welcomes Cabinet's response to the recommendations forwarded from this Committee and looks forward to receiving further update reports on progress.

### 14. JOINT MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND NEXT STAGES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment which reviewed recent progress in relation to the preparation of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan (Waste DPD) and set out the final stages of plan preparation and approval. The report also considered the implications for Sefton.

Members raised concern regarding the consultation process and in particular referred to the F0726 site, Acorn Way, Bootle. Members stated that there had been objections raised regarding that site relating to the issue of traffic management and the huge wagons and trucks using the

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main gateway into Bootle along Hawthorne Road. Councillor's Cluskey and Robinson requested that the issue be investigated further.

Councillor Welsh requested further information regarding the F2333 site, Crowland Street, Southport.

Mr Ian Loughlin, Senior Planner, undertook to circulate the criteria used to determine acceptable and unacceptable sites for waste disposal.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be accepted;
- (2) the Director of Built Environment provide both Councillor's Cluskey and Robinson with further information regarding the F0726 site at Acorn Way, Bootle;
- (3) the Director of Built Environment provide Councillor Welsh with further information regarding the F2333 site at Crowland Street, Southport;
- (4) the Director of Built Environment be requested to circulate the criteria used to determine acceptable and unacceptable uses of sites for waste disposal; and
- (5) the Waste Development Plan Document be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee (20.9.11) prior to publication.

### **15. LOCAL FLOOD RISK STRATEGY - THE WAY FORWARD**

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Graham Lymbery, Project Leader, Coastal Defence a representative of the Director of Built Environment.

The presentation detailed the role of Overview and Scrutiny in progressing the Local Flood Risk Strategy as:-

- Receiving an update in relation to the Local Flood Risk Strategy at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) to include already identified concerns.
- That the Committee receive a formal annual report to Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services).

The presentation included the following information:-

Flood Risk:-

- That flood risk was the likelihood of a specified adverse consequence occurring.

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- That it was not possible to predict or prevent all flooding or coastal erosion, but there were actions that could be taken to manage the risks and reduce the impacts on the community.

Vision:-

Sefton Council by working with communities, individuals, voluntary groups and key partners, aim to:-

- Manage the risk to people, property and infrastructure;
- Facilitate decision-making at a local level to develop appropriate plans, actions and responses to flooding events; and
- Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Working towards the vision:-

In order to improve risk management in Sefton and work towards the vision Sefton must:-

- Understand risk;
- Adopt a risk based approach;
- Avoid inappropriate development;
- Prepare for emergencies; and
- Communicate the risk to all parties.

Sefton's Duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010:-

Sefton Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Sefton under its new duties from the above act have been tasked with producing, maintaining, applying and monitoring a strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Sefton.

The Strategy will set out how Sefton aim to:-

- Manage risk;
- Achieve Sefton's vision;
- Encourage the use of all available measures in a co-ordinated way that balances the needs of:-
  - Communities;
  - the economy; and
  - the environment of Sefton.

Sefton's Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy should include the following sections:-

Section 1. understanding the risk;  
Section 2. adopting a risk based approach;  
Section 3. roles and responsibilities;  
Section 4. legislation;

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Section 5. funding;  
Section 6. action plan;  
Section 7. review process.

The future plan for the way forward was presented as:-

- Commence developing strategy sections
- Finish draft strategy by June 2012
- Start internal consultation in June 2012
- Public consultation July 2012
- Report back to O&S in October 2012
- Report to Cabinet in November 2012
- Final Strategy document ready by December 2012
- Commence implementing measures
- Annual reporting of progress.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be accepted;
- (2) a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) updating Members and including already identified concerns; and
- (3) a formal annual report be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services).

### **16. CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION PROCESS**

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Ingrid Berry, Principal Planner which detailed the consultation process in relation to the Core Strategy.

The presentation outlined that the Council were consulting on the following 5 documents:-

- Core Strategy "Options" paper,
- Draft Green Belt Study,
- Draft Green Space Study,
- Draft Infrastructure Study,
- Sustainability Appraisal of Options paper.

It was reported that the consultation period had been ongoing from 23 May 2011 and would finish on 12 August 2011 (12 weeks).

Ms. Ingrid Berry explained that 15 drop in events had taken place across Sefton with presentations and discussions being held at the Council's Area Committee's, 10 Parish Council Meetings and to interested groups.



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Officers had also conducted a lesson in 4 schools and held meetings with local residents to discuss options for specific sites.

It was reported that the Council had initially received complaints that residents knew nothing about the consultation process despite adverts in the local press, posters and on the Council's website. The notification process was reviewed and letters sent direct to more than 7000 residents.

It was reported that the consultation process had included:-

- More than 1300 people attending drop in events
- 210 people attended Area Committee presentations
- 200 members of the business community attended the Sefton Economic Forum.

Ms. Ingrid Berry outlined the following next steps following consultation:-

- May – August: 12 week consultation on “Options” paper
- Report back to Planning Committee & Cabinet in late 2011
- Early 2012: consult on “preferred” option
- Summer 2012: publish draft plan
- Early 2013; examination by independent inspector
- Mid 2013 “adoption”.

The Chair, Councillor Peter Papworth requested that the Director of Built Environment should report back to this Committee before reporting back to the Planning Committee and Cabinet in late 2011. The Chair reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could reflect an independent assessment of the public's view in relation to the outcome of the consultation process.

RESOLVED:That

- (1) the report be accepted; and
- (2) a further report be submitted to this Committee in relation to the outcome of the consultation process prior to submission to the Planning Committee and Cabinet.

### **17. CROSBY VILLAGE REGENERATION**

The Chair, Councillor Peter Papworth, introduced Mr Jamie Scott who had been invited to attend the meeting as a representative of “ABetterCrosby”.

Mr Jamie Scott thanked the Committee for the invitation to attend the meeting and highlighted that he had already had positive communications with representatives from Sefton Council.

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It was reported that “ABetterCrosby” had been established to attempt to address the issues regarding the declining state of Crosby Village. It was further reported that there were two main issues:-

1. The vacant shop units; and
2. the site earmarked for the supermarket.

It was highlighted that the group had already carried out an immense amount of work in setting up a public consultation event and responding to the Core Strategy document.

Mr Jamie Scott stated that he looked forward to working with Sefton Council on the issue in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update from Mr Jamie Scott be accepted.

### **18. OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL LICENSING ACT NOTIFICATION SCHEME**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment, which detailed the outcomes of the trial Licensing Act Notification Scheme.

Members were reminded that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) had set up a Working Group to investigate the Licensing Act back in 2009. It was reported that the trial notification scheme was a recommendation from the Licensing Act Working Group

Members welcomed the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be accepted.

### **19. SEFTON LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Build Environment, which updated members on the Local Economic Assessment (LEA) for Sefton and detailed the way in which partners were to be consulted.

It was reported that the LEA document had been prepared by SQW consultants who had worked closely with a Steering Group at Sefton MBC. It was deemed to be a detailed, mature and reflective analysis, which provided a solid evidence base for future policy and practice.

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RESOLVED: That:

1. the Local Economic Assessment for Sefton be supported;
2. the consultation responses and the Economic Strategy be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) in due course; and
3. Officers proceed with the preparation of an Economic Strategy for Sefton.

### **20. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning submitting the most recent Cabinet Member reports for May – June 2011 for the following portfolio's which fall within the remit of this Committee:-

Cabinet Member – Environmental;  
Cabinet Member – Leisure, Culture and Tourism;  
Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Housing; and  
Cabinet Member – Street Scene and Transportation.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Director of Street Scene be requested to provide additional information in relation to the Procurement of Highway Maintenance Contracts which was referred to within the Cabinet Member Report for Street Scene and Transportation; and
2. the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the above portfolio's be accepted.

### **21. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN - 1 AUGUST TO 30 NOVEMBER 2011**

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning in relation to the Committee's programme of work. A number of Key Decision's within the latest Key Decision Forward Plan fell under this Committee's remit

The Scrutiny Support Officer advised Members that the Rimrose Valley Working Group at it's meeting held on 16 March 2011 would propose to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) that the Working Group would continue the review during 2011/12. Following on from that Members were advised that Councillor Cluskey (Lead Member) and Councillor Papworth were Members of the Working Group and further nominations were requested. Councillor Welsh requested to sit on the Working Group.

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RESOLVED: That:

1. the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for period 1 July – 31 October 2011 be accepted; and
2. the Rimrose Valley Working Group be re-instated and the following Members be appointed to sit on the Working Group:-
  - Councillor Cluskey (Lead Member)
  - Councillor Papworth; and
  - Councillor Welsh.

# Agenda Item 6

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**Report to:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee - Regeneration & Environmental Services      **Date of Meeting:** 20 September 2011

**Subject:** Parking Service – Enforcement Contract Tendering

**Report of:** Director of Built Environment

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

**Exempt/Confidential** No

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## **Purpose/Summary**

To seek Members views on the tendering of the above contract.

## **Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that Members note the report and offer their views on the proposed contract

## **How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

	<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	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	
4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy		√	

## **Reasons for the Recommendation:**

The current tender for the enforcement operation of Parking Services terminates on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012. Members views are sought on the proposed new contract

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## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue costs as a direct result of this report. The current cost of the contract is approx £1.1m per annum. There is a budget target to make a saving of £100,000 on the new contract.

### (B) Capital Costs

None

### Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

### Impact on Service Delivery:

The contract is vital in ensuring that efficient enforcement of parking restrictions in the Borough is carried out.

### What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT (FD973) comments that there are no costs arising as a result of this report.

Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD327/11)

### Are there any other options available for consideration?

No

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the date of the meeting

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**Contact Officer:** Dave Marrin  
**Tel:** 0151 934 4295  
**Email:** dave.marrin@sefton.gov.uk

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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## **1.0 Current Contract**

- 1.1 The current contract for the enforcement element of the parking services operation terminates on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2012.
- 1.2 The contract was awarded to Legion Parking Services (LPS) in 2006.
- 1.3 The contract is based on the Council purchasing a number of hours per week from LPS. The hours purchased include on-street and off-street enforcement, cash collection, manning static sites (Park & Ride), maintenance and cleansing of the parking infrastructure, provision of staff for special events and all management duties associated with the above.
- 1.4 The current contract is based on the Council purchasing 2120 hours per week from LPS. In practice this does fluctuate both due to demand and the contractors holiday / sickness levels. A significant proportion of the number of hours and consequently the cost of the contract is taken up by back office functions such as management, supervision and radio operation rather than for officers deployed on-street. Drilling down further into the contract shows that the actual hours spent on enforcement duties accounts for some 1200 hours a week.

## **2.0 Proposed Contract**

- 2.1 In considering the structure of the new contract, the Council has employed the services of Consultants who have provided expert advice on the current industry best practice when carrying out tendering exercises. As a result of the advice given it is proposed that the new contract will be structured differently to the existing contract. This will enable the Council to introduce new improved working practices and will also give better value for money
- 2.2 The key difference in the proposed contract is that tenderers are being asked to provide an hourly cost for a Civil Enforcement Officer (CEO) deployed on-street. Separate costs will be sought for the provision of the maintenance, cleansing, cash collection and the manning of static sites. Consequently, tenderers will have to include all their management costs within the new hourly rate. It is felt that structuring the contract in this way will give significantly reduced overheads and contribute directly to the savings target.
- 2.3 None of the above will significantly change the way that the contract is managed by parking services in that the Council will still control how, when and where enforcement staff are deployed to meet the traffic management aims of the Council.
- 2.4 As part of the Pre Qualifying Questionnaire (PQQ) stage of the tender process, potential bidders are also being asked to provide evidence of additional benefits that they could bring to the contract in terms of innovation, service development and service improvement.
- 2.5 In order to give immediate service improvements and to allow for future enhancements other new elements will also be built into the new contract. These will include:



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- 2.5.1 Provision of head cameras / body cameras for all staff deployed on enforcement duties. This will assist in situations where staff feel at risk or where there is the potential for a confrontation to develop. Not only will this provide a deterrent to any potential aggressors but it will also allow the Council to better deal with any complaints which are made against CEO's
- 2.5.2 Provision of GPS enable Hand Held computer terminals (HHct). The current HHct's which are used to issue Penalty Charge Notices are stand alone devices which are uploaded at the start of duty and downloaded at the end of duty. They are not capable of receiving or sending real-time information and cannot be updated once a CEO has commenced their duty.

The Council is currently investigating the introduction of a pay-by-phone system for paying for parking charges. This enables the customer, once they have registered as a user, to pay for their parking stay by mobile phone. This payment can either be for the initial parking period or to pay for additional "top-up" parking periods. The details of the car registration number and payment made are then sent out to the CEO's. In order for this system to work, it is necessary to be able to relay this information in real-time to the CEO's whilst out on duty. Hence the need for the new HHct's.

## **3.0 The Way Forward**

- 3.1 The tendering exercise has begun and is currently at the Pre Qualifying Questionnaire stage.
- 3.2 The results of this stage of the process will be reported to Cabinet Member at the end of September with a view to seeking permission to invite the shortlisted bidders to submit a tender for the service.
- 3.3 The contract will be awarded on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2012 with the successful bidder commencing operation on the 1<sup>st</sup> April 2012
- 3.4 Officers would welcome Members views on any specific additional items that they would like to see included in the contract.

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**Report to:** Regeneration and Environmental Services Overview & Scrutiny Committee

**Date of Meeting:** 20 September 2011

**Subject:** Incidents of Fly tipping in the Borough

**Report of:** Director of Built Environment

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No                      **Is it included in the Forward Plan**  
No

**Exempt/Confidential**    No

**Purpose/Summary**

In response to a request from Crosby Area Committee for the matter to be referred to this committee, this report reviews the level of reported fly tipping incidents across the Borough and considers the impact of the introduction of the van permit scheme by Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority.

**Recommendation(s)**

To note the report

**How does the decision contribute to the Council’s Corporate Objectives?**

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

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## Reasons for the Recommendation:

Report requested by Overview and scrutiny members

## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

### (A) Revenue Costs

None

### (B) Capital Costs

None

## Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b> None
<b>Human Resources</b> None
<b>Equality</b> 1. No Equality Implication <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated <input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains <input type="checkbox"/>

## Impact on Service Delivery:

An increase in levels of fly tipping will impact upon the Councils resources to remove tipped waste and the capacity required to investigate and enforce against offenders.

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

**FD 976** – The Corporate Head of Finance and ICT has no comments to make, as there are no direct costs as a result of this report.

**LD 334/11** – the Head of Legal Services has been consulted and has no comment to make.

## Are there any other options available for consideration?

N/A

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

**Contact Officer:** Steve Smith Section Manager Environmental Public Health

**Tel:** 0151 934 4025

**Email:** steve.smith@sefton.gov.uk

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 Fly tipping can present a significant impact upon the environment. This includes statutory nuisance, odour and harm from the potentially hazardous materials dumped, harbourage for and encouragement of rodent activity and the overall impact upon the visual amenity of a neighbourhood. It is clearly shown that environmental conditions affect peoples feeling of well-being and health. The Council has a duty to maintain the cleanliness of public areas and is empowered to investigate and prosecute the illegal deposit of waste under the provisions of the Environmental Protection Act 1990.
- 1.2 In 2009/10 approximately 947,000 fly tipping incidents were reported nationally and over 63 % of these involved household waste. The outcome of fly tipping across the Borough results in significant financial costs both to the Council, who are required to remove fly tipping from the highway, rear entry, council land etc and private land / property owners. The latter often as a result of statutory enforcement action by Officers from the Environmental Public Health section of the Built Environment Department.
- 1.3 In July 2010 the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority (MWDA) introduced a Household Waste Recycling Centre (HWRC) permit scheme. This scheme restricts the owners of commercial-type vehicle accessing HWRC's unless for the deposit of their own household waste. Commercial businesses and traders have previously attempted to use household waste recycling centres for free rather than pay commercial tipping charges, pushing the bill for commercial waste disposal onto council tax payers and frustrating attempts to meet higher municipal waste recycling targets. Householders who wish to access the centres using a van /flat back pick up / large trailer or similar for their own household waste are now required to get a permit.

### **2 Potential impact**

- 2.1 It has been suggested that introduction of this scheme may have resulted in an increase in the incidents of fly tipping in the Borough particularly from either businesses / traders keen to avoid the expense of legal disposal, or householders not willing to get a permit or those turned away from the recycling centres for not having the appropriate permit. Crosby Area Committee has highlighted two areas;

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Hightown and “Sefton Village” were there is a perception that incidents have increased.

2.2 Table 1 below show a breakdown of reported incidents by area for the period July 2009 – June 2010 and July 2010- June 2011. In addition it highlights the year on year difference and the percentage difference comparative to the previous period.

**Table 1**

Town	01/07/2009 to 30/06/2010	01/07/2010 to 30/06/2011	Total	Year on year difference	% year on year difference
Ainsdale	33	46	79	13	39%
Aintree	15	21	36	6	40%
Birkdale	86	62	148	-24	-28%
Blundellsands	3	2	5	-1	-33%
Bootle	726	917	1643	191	26%
Brighton Le Sands	23	13	36	-10	-43%
Crosby	173	155	328	-18	-10%
Formby	59	48	107	-11	-19%
Hightown	5	4	9	-1	-20%
Ince Blundell	15	24	39	9	60%
Litherland	310	341	651	31	10%
Little Crosby	4	10	14	6	150%
Lydiate	32	21	53	-11	-34%
Maghull	85	68	153	-17	-20%
Melling	83	33	116	-50	-60%
Netherton	188	218	406	30	16%
Seaforth	148	145	293	-3	-2%
Sefton	13	9	22	-4	-31%
Southport	417	421	838	4	1%
Thornton	29	45	74	16	55%
Waterloo	281	250	531	-31	-11%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2728</b>	<b>2853</b>	<b>5581</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>5%</b>

2.3 Overall the total number of incident saw an increase of 5% from 2728 to 2853 during this period. Several areas showed significant percentage increase for example Little Crosby however this can be misleading when the total reported number of incidents are scrutinised. Little Crosby shows an increase from 4 to 14.

2.4 A more representative approach would be to view the total number of reports per area. In this case Bootle stands out as an area that shows an increase of 191 on the previous year from 726 to 917 (40%).

2.5 Between July 2010 & June 2011 the areas with the highest reported incidents were Bootle - 917, Southport – 421, Litherland- 341, Waterloo – 250 and Netherton – 218.

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2.6 Particular concerns have been raised regarding the areas of Hightown & “Sefton Village”, Table 2 below shows the number of reported incidents for the periods and their locations. Neighbouring areas are included within the table for comparison.

**Table 2**

<b>Little Crosby</b>	01/07/2009 to 30/06/2010	01/07/2010 to 30/06/2011	Grand total
Back Lane	3	8	11
DIBB LANE	0	1	1
LITTLE CROSBY ROAD	1	1	2
Grand Total	4	10	14

<b>Ince Blundell</b>	01/07/2009 to 30/06/2010	01/07/2010 to 30/06/2011	Grand total
CARR HOUSE LANE	1	0	1
CROSS BARN LANE	2	2	4
EAST LANE	1	7	8
FORMBY BYPASS	1	0	1
GRANGE ROAD	2	0	2
LADY GREEN LANE	1	0	1
PARK WALL ROAD	7	15	22
Grand Total	15	24	39

<b>Hightown</b>	01/07/2009 to 30/06/2010	01/07/2010 to 30/06/2011	Grand total
BLUNDELL ROAD	1	0	1
GORSEY LANE	1	1	2
MAYFAIR CLOSE	1	0	1
MOSS LANE	0	1	1
SANDY LANE	1	2	3
THORNBECK AVENUE	1	0	1
Grand Total	5	4	9

<b>Sefton</b>	01/07/2009 to 30/06/2010	01/07/2010 to 30/06/2011	Grand total
Brickwall Lane	7	3	10
Buckley Hill Lane	0	1	1
GLEBE END	2	0	2
LONGDALE LANE	4	5	9
Grand Total	13	9	22

<b>Thornton</b>	01/07/2009 to 30/06/2010	01/07/2010 to 30/06/2011	Grand total
Back Lane	6	11	17
Green Lane	1	0	1
HALIFAX CRESCENT	0	1	1
HARTDALE ROAD	0	1	1
HEATHER WAY	0	1	1
HOLGATE	8	20	28
HOLGATE PARK	2	1	3
INCE ROAD	1	1	2
LONG LANE	1	1	2
LYDIATE LANE	1	0	1
LYDIATE PARK	3	0	3
PHILLIPS CLOSE	1	2	3
ROTHWELLS LANE	3	3	6

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THORNFIELD ROAD	0	1	1
VIRGINS LANE	2	2	4
Grand Total	29	45	74

2.7 Some of these areas are associated with “narrow country lanes” which may present an increased opportunity for fly tippers especially at night. However Hightown and Sefton show a decrease on reported incidents and the numbers within these areas are comparable to two thirds of the Borough, as shown in table 1. Two locations do stand out; Park Wall Road and Holgate as requiring further investigation.

### 3 Conclusion

- 3.1 There has been a modest increase in reported fly tipping incidents. However the year on year comparisons show considerable variation across the Borough.
- 3.2 Several Areas show a significant number of fly tipping incidents, a proportion of which continue to show an increase.
- 3.3 Many factors may account for the increase in fly tipping reports. The increase and location of the reports cannot be specifically associated with the introduction of the HWRC permit scheme.
- 3.4 The Head of Corporate Finance comments that there are no financial implications as a direct result of this report.



# Agenda Item 8

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny  
(Regeneration and Environmental Services)

**Date of Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Subject:** Surface Water Management Plan

**Report of:** Alan Lunt – Director of Built Environment

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?**  
No

**Exempt/Confidential**

No

## Purpose/Summary

To request Members to recommend for approval the Surface Water Management Plan.

## Recommendation(s)

That Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services recommend the Surface Water Management Plan for approval by the Cabinet Member for Environment.

## How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

## Reasons for the Recommendation:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee have a role in relation to Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management to review and scrutinises the way in which the service is provided. Because of the significance of this plan it is appropriate to seek their recommendation prior to formal approval by Cabinet Member for Environment.

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## What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There is no direct financial implication with this report.

## Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal:</b> None	
<b>Human Resources</b> None	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Impact on Service Delivery:

An improvement due to improved understanding of risk and potential approaches to addressing this risk.

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

This plan was presented to this committee at an earlier meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2011.

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no financial implications. **FD 956 /2011**

The Head of Legal Services has no comments on this report. **LD316/11**

## Are there any other options available for consideration?

The committee may choose to recommend amendments to the report.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet/Cabinet Member Meeting

**Contact Officer:** Graham Lymbery  
**Tel:** 0151 934 2960  
**Email:** graham.lymbery@sefton.gov.uk

## **Background Papers:**

None

### **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1. The Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is a plan which outlines the preferred management strategies in Sefton for surface water flooding.
- 1.2. Surface water flooding describes flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater, and runoff from land, small water courses and ditches that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall.
- 1.3. The SWMP has involved the input from key partners and stakeholders including United Utilities and the Environment Agency.
- 1.4. Under the Floods and Water Management Bill (2010) and Flood Risk Regulations (2009), Sefton Council has new responsibilities for a leadership role in local flood risk management, of which the production of SWMP will form a key part.
- 1.5. The non-technical summary and the main report is available for Members to download and review.

### **2. Reporting**

- 2.1. Following on from reporting to Overview and Scrutiny the Surface Water Management Plan will be reported to the Cabinet Member for Environment for approval.

### **3.0 Next step**

- 3.1 Following approval the recommendations will be reviewed and prioritised for action and will be reflected in the action plan for the Local Flood Risk Strategy.

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# SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN

## Non-Technical Summary



Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council  
August 2011



# Agenda Item 8

## 1.1 Introduction

- 1.1.1 Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Sefton MBC), with support from key partners, United Utilities (UU) and the Environment Agency (EA), has developed a Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) to understand the causes and effects of surface water flooding in Sefton and to address the gaps in understanding of these local flood sources. In this context, surface water flooding describes flooding from sewers, drains, groundwater, and runoff from land, small water courses and ditches that occurs as a result of heavy rainfall.
- 1.1.2 A Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) is the document that outlines the preferred surface water management strategy in a given location. It establishes a long-term action plan to manage surface water and will influence future capital investment, maintenance, public engagement, land-use planning, emergency planning and future developments. The Sefton SWMP covers the whole of the borough but focuses on key urban areas in which the risks are more acute and which have a greater vulnerability to flooding.
- 1.1.3 The SWMP provides a tool for spatial planners to incorporate surface water flood risk into planning policy and development control. Sefton's Civil Contingencies, Highways and Estates departments will also use the information provided to review emergency response plans and to assist in the planning and delivery of adaptation measures for the effects of climate change on flood risk. The Council will also be able to use the information generated to assist and support its Partners and other stakeholders to increase the resilience of critical infrastructure to flood risk.

## 1.2 Plan Area

- 1.2.1 The SWMP covers the area within the administrative boundary of Sefton MBC (See Figure 1). It covers an area of 155 square kilometres within which there is a diverse mixture of industrial, commercial and urban development coupled with rural green belt divides. There are 36 kilometres of coastline and extensive areas of sand dunes and coastal salt marsh. Sefton has a major port and extensive commuter travel into Liverpool from the key urban areas of Southport, Formby, Crosby, Litherland, Maghull and Bootle.
- 1.2.2 Sefton is typically flat and low lying, however, this generalisation hides a complexity that heavily influences surface water drainage.
- 1.2.3 A coastal ridge between Formby and Southport causes most watercourses within this area to flow inland, away from the coast, where they are discharged to the sea via Crossens Pumping Station at Banks or via

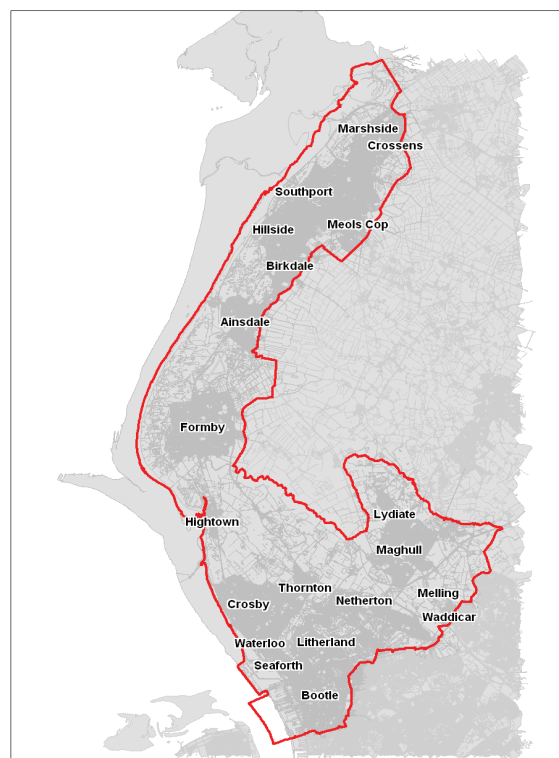


Figure 1: Sefton SWMP study area

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Altmouth Pumping Station near Hightown.

- 1.2.4 Those areas in the south of Sefton that don't drain towards the River Alt, typically drain towards the coastline and docks. Drainage is heavily influenced by the path of Rimrose Brook and by the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, which zigzags across Sefton.
- 1.2.5 The northern half of Sefton is narrow and contains a mix of urban areas, e.g. Formby, Ainsdale and Southport, which are bordered by coastal dunes to the west and arable and grazing fields to the east. South of Formby the land is rural and arable until the edge of Crosby and Netherton, south of which is heavily urbanised. To the east, the area is dominated by Maghull and Lydiate, which are also bordered by arable land. There is significant road and rail infrastructure linking these settlements together and with Liverpool, Ormskirk and Manchester. There are also numerous environmental and heritage designations of national, regional and local importance.

## 1.3 Current surface water flood risks and management responsibilities

- 1.3.1 The sewerage infrastructure of most of Sefton is largely based on Victorian sewers. Based on the available outputs of United Utilities' sewer models, the capacity of the sewer system across the borough is highly variable. Approximately 57% of the sewer network has a capacity that is at or above the flow anticipated from a storm with a 1 in 30 (3.3%) chance of occurring in any given year, indicating that 43% of the network would not provide the design capacity associated with a new build system. This is an understandable capacity issue affecting older sewerage systems.
- 1.3.2 As a result of these capacity issues there is a risk of localised flooding associated with the existing public sewerage and land drainage system. Approximately 2,600 homes, businesses and infrastructure could be impacted during a 1 in 30 (3.3%) chance event and more severe events like the 1 in 100 (1%) chance event could impact approximately 40,100 homes, businesses and infrastructure.
- 1.3.3 Flooding mechanisms vary. There are many areas of low relief, such as parts of central and southern Southport and some areas of Crosby and Litherland, in which the flood risk comes primarily from surface water runoff ponding in wide topographical depressions that would affect large areas. These tend to be areas that were built on what were once sand dunes and as such there is typically no watercourse system to drain excess water away and the rate of ponding exceeds the capacity of sewers during severe storms.
- 1.3.4 Elsewhere, for example along the eastern edge of Southport, Ainsdale and Formby, similar flooding mechanisms occur however low gradients assist in the removal of flood water. United Utilities (UU) is generally responsible for the sewer systems that drain these areas, however, UU is only responsible for flooding from its sewers and not responsible for flooding caused by water being unable to enter its drainage system, which is the responsibility of the land owner or Sefton MBC if it relates to the highway or ditches or watercourses. In Formby and in isolated areas elsewhere, United Utilities surface water sewer system discharges to ditches that are the responsibility of Sefton MBC. In places these then re-enter piped systems, which remain the responsibility of Sefton MBC.
- 1.3.5 In areas of greater relief, for example those areas around Rimrose Valley, areas of Netherton, Aintree, Maghull and Lydiate, Litherland and Bootle, the flooding mechanism is linked to the presence of historical watercourses or flow paths which have now been replaced by sewers or which are now piped watercourses. In these areas, when water cannot enter the sewer system it will follow flow paths along the line of the former

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watercourse. In many places these flow paths are intercepted by features such as raised road embankments, railway lines and the Leeds and Liverpool Canal, resulting in wider areas of flooding. As elsewhere, UU is responsible for flooding from sewer systems and piped watercourses are the responsibility of Sefton MBC. This includes sections of the drainage system in Thornton, Aintree and Maghull.

- 1.3.6 Many areas within Sefton are also at risk from fluvial and tidal flooding, however, for the large part these are managed by the presence of defences and the operation and maintenance of complex pumped drainage systems in both the Alt and Crossens catchments. In a few areas there is a risk from fluvial flooding that is not managed by defences and these areas can coincide with areas of surface water flooding, though these areas tend to be located in areas of arable or grazing land and are therefore not significant influences on flood risk. High water levels within the main drainage system can, however, have a significant influence on areas that lie outside of the flood plain, particularly within Formby, in which there is a history of high water levels effecting levels within Dobb's Gutter and other watercourses.
- 1.3.7 There are also areas within Sefton that are at risk from groundwater. This tends to be associated with main rivers such as the River Alt and Fine Jane's Brook however it can contribute to surface water flooding in lower lying areas such as parts of Maghull, Aintree, Netherton and along the eastern edge of Ainsdale, Birkdale and Southport.
- 1.3.8 The risk of flooding from other sources is limited. The River Alt could act as a pathway for reservoir flooding originating in Knowsley or St. Helens and the Leeds and Liverpool has been and remains a potential source of flooding in Sefton.

## 1.4 Future challenges

- 1.4.1 Key challenges with respect to the management of surface water within Sefton relate to climate change, development/growth and land use management.
- 1.4.2 The key challenge in future is climate change, which is expected to increase the number of homes, businesses and infrastructure impacted by 45%, i.e. up to 58,300 properties may be impacted. Climate change is also set to increase the risk of flooding from rivers and the sea, which will have an impact on the risk from surface water sources. The capacity of sewers is already lower than those of a new build system in approximately 43% of the borough, as a result sewer flooding will increase as climate change affects rainfall intensity.
- 1.4.3 Future growth will also present a significant challenge. The location of significant new development is set out in the Sefton Unitary Development Plan (2006), however, recent consultation on the Core Strategy indicated that there were three options for how Sefton may develop, largely based on how many people will live in Sefton in the future. The evidence base for the Core Strategy Options Paper indicates that only 55% of housing needs could be provided within the existing urban area and that all land currently needed for employment needs to be retained as such to meet the needs of the local economy. Growth will therefore require expansion of the urban area into the Green Belt which will increase pressure on infrastructure, including flood risk management and drainage infrastructure.
- 1.4.4 Within existing urban areas, increases in impervious areas not linked to growth or infrastructure development, i.e. urban creep, poses a challenge with the potential for borough-wide increases in impervious areas of approximately 3.8ha per year. Without proper management and control of such increases, which can occur through permitted



development, the impacts on flood could compound the potential effect of climate change and planned growth, resulting in wider and more frequent surface water flooding problems.

## 1.5 Opportunities and Constraints

1.5.1 This study has identified both opportunities and constraints related to the implementation of flood risk management actions and measures.

### Opportunities

1.5.2 This study has identified the following opportunities for local flood risk management measures to contribute to wider objectives and targets:

- There may be opportunities to incorporate or enhance flood risk management function within new or redeveloped urban green spaces, e.g. detention basins and soakaways;
- There may be opportunities to incorporate, restore or enhance wildlife habitats when developing measures to reduce flood risk, particularly by storing water in ponds or wetlands;
- Recommendations to increase the utilisation of SuDS and in particular source control measures could contribute to an improvement in water quality, contributing to the wider objectives of the Water Framework Directive, as well as reducing runoff rates and volumes; and
- Changes to the criteria for Defra's Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid (FDGiA) funding of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) schemes, could provide opportunities for previously marginal schemes with higher whole-life and environmental benefits to receive sufficient funding to proceed.

### Constraints

1.5.3 There are also potential constraints to the effective management of flood risk.

- Existing infrastructure capacity is below current design standards in many areas and this may, in places, limit the flood risk management options available;
- Environmental designations may limit the suitability of some flood risk management measures, especially if there may be an increase or a decrease in water level as a result;
- Land ownership could restrict potential actions; and
- Changes to the criteria for Defra's Flood Defence Grant-in-Aid (FDGiA) funding of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) schemes, could restrict opportunities for marginal schemes with lower whole-life and environmental benefits to receive sufficient funding to proceed.

## 1.6 Objectives

1.6.1 The agreed objectives of the SWMP are:

1. To determine and map current and potential surface water flood risk areas across the Sefton MBC area, irrespective of source.
2. To determine the consequences of surface water flooding on people, property, infrastructure and the environment, now and in the future.

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3. To identify an effective, affordable and achievable strategy with sustainable and cost-beneficial measures to mitigate surface water flood risk, which achieve multiple benefits where possible, and which make the most of opportunities for economic, social and environmental enhancement.
4. To improve co-operation and co-ordination for better working relationships between Key Partners to the Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP) comprising Sefton Council, the Environment Agency, United Utilities and other stakeholders influencing surface water management, including establishment of a standing liaison requirement for subsequent delivery of the SWMP measures and any review of the SWMP.
5. To assess potential flood risk management measures to Critical and Vulnerable Infrastructure within Sefton.
6. To inform and advise spatial planning so that new development is directed away from areas at greatest risk of actual and potential surface water and other flooding so that appropriate surface water mitigation measures are promoted.
7. To assess the likely impact of potential flood risk management measures including their contribution to eco-hydrological benefit (i.e. WFD compliance) and to specific locations identified for potential development and thereby seek to inform future spatial planning policy and site guidance briefs.
8. To contribute to meeting the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Regulations, 2009 and the Flood and Water Management Act, 2010, and inform emergency planning decisions.
9. To develop an Action Plan for the delivery of SWMP measures showing how partners and stakeholders will work together to finance and implement the preferred measures.
10. To periodically review the appropriateness of SWMP datasets and modelling, the delivery of the Action Plan, the means of implementation and to monitor the effectiveness of the enacted SWMP measures, and to update the SWMP where resources allow.
11. To develop and implement an effective communications strategy involving all Partners that engages the affected communities and all stakeholders and helps their understanding of surface water flooding issues in Sefton.

## 1.7 Local Flood Risk Zones and Critical Drainage Areas

- 1.7.1 The SWMP has identified through modelling of surface water and sewer flooding a number of Local Flood Risk Zones (LFRZs). LFRZs are those areas of flooding of 5m<sup>2</sup> or greater that affect houses, business or infrastructure to a depth of 80mm. LFRZs can represent both pathways and receptors of surface water flooding and facilitate the targeting of local measures and options to manage flood risk.
- 1.7.2 A second stage was undertaken to identify those LFRZs in which 8 or more properties are impacted, defined as key LFRZs. Approximately 300 key LFRZs have been identified, and they represent areas in which the consequences of flooding in these areas are considered to be locally significant.
- 1.7.3 From these key LFRZs, 22 Critical Drainage Areas (CDAs) have been identified. CDAs define areas where multiple and interlinked sources of flood risk cause flooding in one or more Local Flood Risk Zone during severe weather, thereby affecting people, property and local infrastructure. Land within a CDA either contributes to flooding within a LFRZ or acts as a pathway for the water that contributes to that flooding. At the outlet of the CDA, the land also may be within a LFRZ and may therefore also be a receptor. CDAs enable strategic level policies and actions to be identified and applied in a targeted manner to address flood risk issues that cover wider areas. CDAs are presented in Figure 2.

## 1.8 Action Plan

- 1.8.1 The assessments completed as part of the surface water management plan have to date identified a range of potential measures that should be investigated further with the aim of alleviating flood risk in critical drainage areas and across the borough in general. This should include further assessment of their feasibility, effectiveness, costs and benefits as well as the potential for providing wider benefits to features such as habitats and water quality. Remaining options can then be developed further into a prioritised list for future implementation.
- 1.8.2 An Action Plan has been developed that outlines recommendations, actions and measures that should be implemented to ensure that Sefton MBC meet the requirements placed upon them by the FWMA and FRR and which could be implemented in order to reduce the chance and consequences of flooding, to improve the emergency response to flooding and to improve the integration of flood risk management activities across the borough.
- 1.8.3 Recommendations and actions identified in the plan relate to the following main areas:
1. **Flood and Water Management Act / Flood Risk Regulations** (FWMA / FRR) - Duties and actions as required by the FRR and FWMA;
  2. **Policy Action** (Policy) - Spatial planning or development control recommendations;
  3. **Communication / Partnerships** (C + M) - Actions to communicate risk internally or externally or create / improve flood risk related partnerships;
  4. **Financial / Resourcing** (F + R) - Actions to secure funding internally / externally to support works or additional resources to deliver actions;
  5. **Investigation / Feasibility / Design** (I / F / D) - Further investigation / feasibility study / design of mitigation; and
  6. **Flooding Mitigation Action** (FMA) - Maintenance or capital works undertaken to mitigate flood risk.
- 1.8.4 The Action Plan is summarised in Table 1-1, below, indicating the action type, where it applies, what the action is, a potential funding source, lead organization and general benefits of the action.
- 1.8.5 No firm implementation programme is presented for actions other than those in which the driver is compliance with EU timescales, and in particular those within the EU Floods Directive, via implementation of the Flood Risk Regulations. Timescales for the implementation of other actions and recommendations are dependent upon the outcome of further investigation and the availability of funding.
- 1.8.6 Sefton MBC, as LLFA, will review the actions presented within the Action Plan and will work with partner organisations to monitor implementation and progress, review opportunities for operational efficiency and to review any legislative changes. The SWMP Action Plan should be reviewed and updated once every six years as a minimum, but there may be circumstances which might trigger a review and/or an update of the action plan in the interim, such as a significant surface water flood event, new data becoming available or changes to funding and investment.

**Table 1-1: Summary of Sefton SWMP Action Plan**

Action Type	Where?	What?	Potential Funding Source	Lead Organisation	Benefit
C + M	All CDAs	Developed a programme of education and awareness for land owners and tenants that lie within CDAs and in particularly in some of the key LFRZs	SC	SC	Community resilience to flooding
		Determine whether businesses and industry are resilient to surface water flooding	LO	LO	Community resilience to flooding
	Borough-wide	Determine whether education facilities are resilient to surface water flooding	LO	LO	Community resilience to flooding
		Determine whether environmentally sensitive and heritage sites are resilient to surface water flooding	LO	LO	Community resilience to flooding
		Determine whether healthcare facilities are resilient to surface water flooding	LO	LO	Community resilience to flooding
		Determine whether potentially polluting sites and other sources of pollution are resilient to surface water flooding	LO	EA	Community resilience to flooding
		Determine whether services (e.g. power, telecommunications) are resilient to surface water flooding	LO	LO	Community resilience to flooding
		Improve data collection, data sharing and validation	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Floods and Water Management Act. Improved understanding of local flood risk issues.
		Promote commercial business flood resilience	LO	SC	Community resilience to flooding
		Take forward existing and future local actions in the SWMP	SC	SC	Co-ordinated delivery of local flood risk management within the borough
F + R	Sub-regional	Take forward strategic existing and future actions in the SWMP that involve local boroughs or other flood risk management authorities	SC	SC	Co-ordinated delivery of local flood risk management across the region
		Maximise multi-functional open space that includes an element of flood risk management/reduction	SC	SC	Project synergy and overall cost savings by undertaking flood risk reduction work at the same time as other park projects
FMA	Borough-wide	Consider retrofitting flood resilience and resistance measures to basement properties where there is a history (and likely future risk) of groundwater ingress.	Defra, SC	SC	Reduction in the probability of flooding
		Enforce maintenance of ditches where the responsibility is the riparian land owner and where public access cannot be provided in order to improve the efficiency of the surface water drainage network.	LO	LO	Reduction in the consequences of flooding

Action Type	Where?	What?	Potential Funding Source	Lead Organisation	Benefit
FWMA / FRR		Installation of additional road gullies to reduce standing water depth and duration in local flood risk zones	SC	SC	Reduction in the probability of flooding
		Investigate potential to relieve ponding in key locations	UU, SC	SC	Reduction in the consequences of flooding
		Undertake more detailed studies to identify whether attenuation could be provided on upstream watercourses and within overlaid flow paths	EA, LO	SC	Reduction in the consequences of flooding
		Consider flood resistance and resilience measures	Defra	SC	Reduction in the consequences of flooding
		Investigate the potential for flood defences to the north of Formby to protect against flooding from Wham Dyke, Acre Lane Brook and Eight Acre Lane	EA, LO	EA	Reduction in the consequences of flooding
		Consider feasibility of diversion of flow in Melling towards Brooklea	EA, LO	SC	Reduction in the consequences of flooding
		Consider feasibility of connecting Dobb's Gutter into Bull Cop	UU, SC	SC	Reduction in the consequences of flooding
		Co-operation - Authorities must co-operate with each other in exercising functions under both the Act and the Regulations.	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Floods and Water Management Act
		Develop, maintain, apply and monitor a Strategy for local flood risk management of the area.	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Floods and Water Management Act
		Duty to Maintain a Register	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Floods and Water Management Act. Improved understanding of local flood risk mechanisms and asset importance
		Flood Incident Investigations	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Floods and Water Management Act. Improved understanding of local flood risk issues.
		Prepare flood hazard maps and flood risk maps	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Flood Risk Regulations
		Prepare flood risk management plans	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Flood Risk Regulations
		Sustainable Development contributes towards achievement of sustainable development.	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Floods and Water Management Act. Long term implementation of sustainable flood risk management.
	Sustainable Drainage - LLFAs must establish a SuDS Approval Body (SAB)	SC	SC	Meeting obligations under the Floods and Water Management Act. Long term implementation of sustainable flood risk	

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Action Type	Where?	What?	Potential Funding Source	Lead Organisation	Benefit
		Update the PFRA in relation to flooding in the LLFA's area.	SC	SC	management. Meeting obligations under the Flood Risk Regulations
I / F / D	All CDAs	Assess the accuracy of the UU drainage capacity assumptions to enable further local prioritisation of flood management options	SC	SC	Refine understanding in CDAs
	All LFRZs	Ensure drainage systems are operating at capacity in Local Flood Risk Zones	SC	SC	Flooding isn't exacerbated
		Investigate whether flooding incidents have occurred in Local Flood Risk Zones	SC	SC	Validate model outputs, resident 'buy in', Adds to understanding of local flood risk
	Traffic sensitive routes, underpasses	Determine standard of protection offered by pumps/drainage serving critical transport infrastructure underpasses	MR, NR, SC	SC, HA	Refine understanding in CDAs, reduction in the probability of flooding on sensitive routes
	Borough-wide	Identify if any maintenance is required on watercourses not currently maintained	SC	SC	Reduction in the consequences of flooding
		Determine whether current emergency response to borough-wide surface water flooding is appropriate	SC	SC	Emergency response based on best available information
		Green roof/SUDS retrofitting feasibility on council owned property and large new developments	SC, LO	SC	Understanding of existing performance and determine feasibility of measures
		Look for opportunities to reduce flood risk to critical infrastructure whilst upgrading the existing drainage network	UU	UU	Refine understanding of risk to critical infrastructure. Prioritise localised drainage improvements
		Monitor implementation of flood resilience and resistance measures into new and existing properties and plan for future delivery.	SC	SC	Track delivery of improved flood resilience and facilitate the targeting of new funding when it becomes available
		Review of the recorded incidents of basement flooding in the borough as well as groundwater borehole and geological conditions and develop a strategy to manage the problem.	SC	SC	Refine understanding of this borough wide problem and identify solutions and funding
	Relevant CDAs	Work with British Waterways to understand the influence that the Leeds and Liverpool Canal has on flood risk.	SC, BW	SC	Refine understanding in the CDA
	Refer to Figure C-6 Appendix C	The SWMP models do not include detailed information for a number of culverted watercourses. The model may therefore over or under convey water in these locations, which means the current prediction of risk could be an underestimate or overestimate.	SC	SC	Refine understanding of flood risk
	Southport, Formby, Crosby and Bootle	Develop a more detailed understanding of the potential interaction with and relative contribution of fluvial and surface water flooding risk to the railway in Sefton	NR, MR	MR	Refine understanding in the CDA

Action Type	Where?	What?	Potential Funding Source	Lead Organisation	Benefit	
Policy	Stations and Railway lines	Determine capacity of existing drain system serving railway lines and the accuracy of the SWMP drainage capacity assumptions.	NR, MR	NR, MR	Refine understanding of risk to critical infrastructure. Prioritise localised drainage improvements	
	All CDAs	Seek to limit the effect of urban creep on surface water flood risk	LO	SC	Mid-long term reduce in flood risk and improvement in water quality	
	Borough-wide		Seek to further reduce runoff rates and volumes from new Brownfield development in Critical Drainage Areas	LO	SC	Mid-long term reduction in the consequences of flooding
			Seek net improvement in water quality through promotion of SuDS in new development	LO	SC	Mid-long term reduction in the probability of flooding
			Seek to reduce runoff rates and volumes from new Greenfield development across the borough	LO	SC	Mid-long term reduction in the probability of flooding
			Seek to reduce runoff rates and volumes from new Brownfield development across the borough	LO	SC	Mid-long term reduction in the probability of flooding
		Ensure any major regeneration in Sefton targets a reduction of runoff to predevelopment Greenfield runoff rates.	LO	SC	Long term reduction in flood risk in the CDA	
	Relevant CDAs	Work with adjacent borough councils to develop joint land use planning and development control policies	SC, WLC, KC, SHC, LC	SC	Mid-long term reduction in the probability of flooding	
	<p>NB. Actions from the SWMP will be carried into medium term plans and carried out on a priority basis, subject to funding and approval.            SC = Sefton MBC, LO = Land Owner, EA = Environment Agency, UU = United Utilities, MR = Merseyrail, NR = Network Rail, HA = Highways Agency, BW = British Waterways, WLC = West Lancs Council, KC = Knowsley MBC, SHC = St. Helens MBC, LC = Liverpool City Council</p>					

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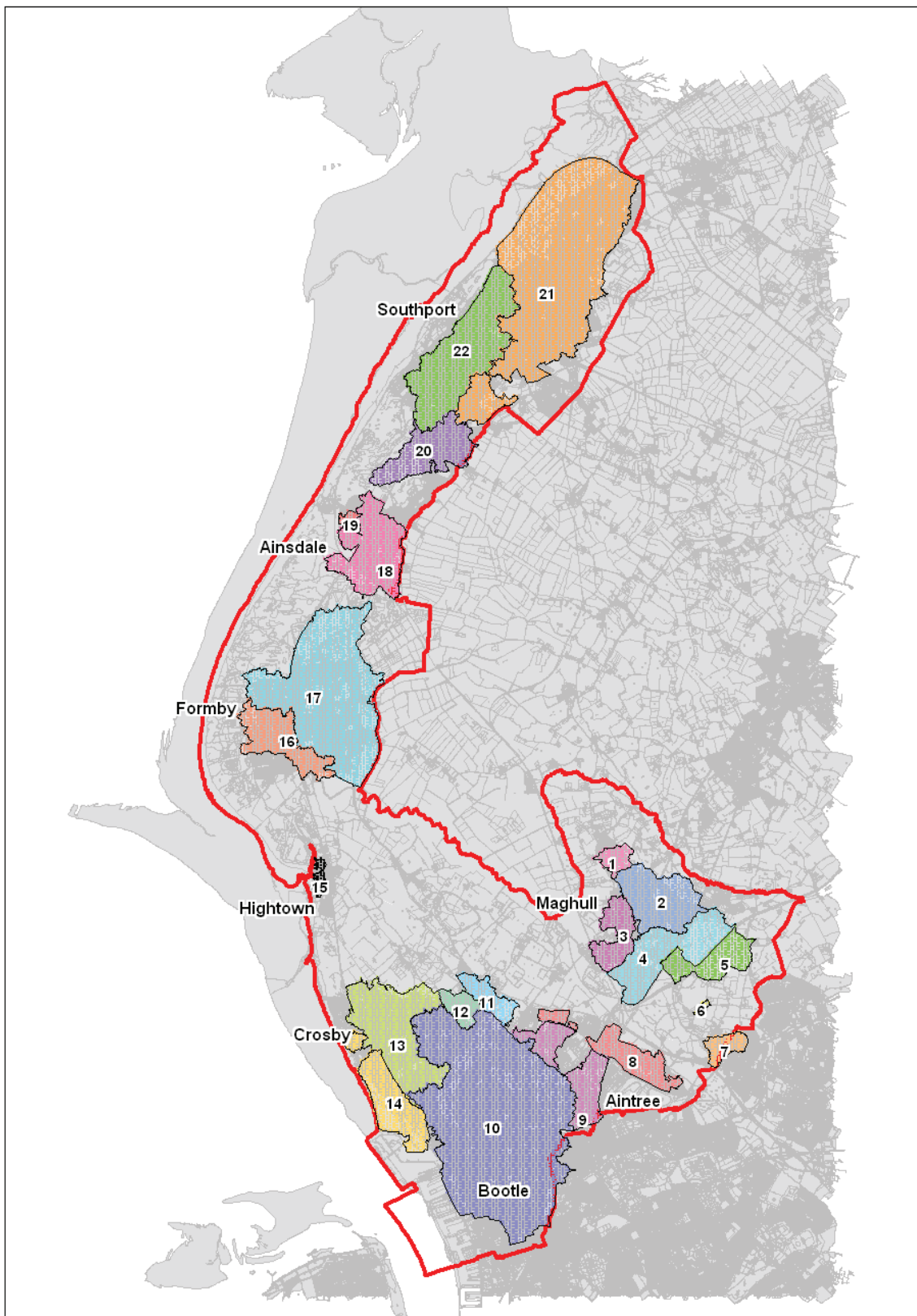


Figure 2: Sefton SWMP Critical Drainage Areas



# Agenda Item 9

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny  
(Regeneration and Environmental Services)

**Date of Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011

**Subject:** Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Forward Plan for 2011-12

**Report of:** Alan Lunt – Director of Built Environment

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?**

No

**Exempt/Confidential**

No

**Purpose/Summary**

To request Members to recommend for approval the forward plan for the next twelve months and its use as the basis for reporting against in the first annual report to this committee that will be presented in October 2012.

**Recommendation(s)**

That Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services);

1. Recommend the forward plan for approval by the Cabinet Member for Environment
2. Agree the forward plan is used as the basis for the first annual report to them to be delivered in October 2012.

**How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

	<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	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability	√		
4	Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities	√		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy		√	

**Reasons for the Recommendation:**

To comply with the requirements of the Flood Risk Management Act 2010 that requires Lead Local Flood Risk Authorities to report on progress on an annual basis to their Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

There is no direct financial implication with this report other than the cost of preparing the report itself.

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## Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal:</b> None	
<b>Human Resources</b> None	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Impact on Service Delivery:

None at the moment

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

**FD 955** The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has been consulted and would comment that there are no costs arising from this report but any future costs associated with gully maintenance, drainage improvements, coast protection, and flood defence through the forward plan will need to be contained within the existing budgets for these services.

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted and has no comments. **LD315/11**

## Are there any other options available for consideration?

The Council could choose not to undertake its duties as set out in the Flood Risk Management Act 2010. This would reduce the Councils ability to manage flood risk in the Borough and may result in sanctions from Government for failing to delivery statutory functions.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet/Cabinet Member Meeting

**Contact Officer:** Graham Lymbery

**Tel:** 0151 934 2960

**Email:** graham.lymbery@sefton.gov.uk

## Background Papers:

None

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 The Flood Risk Management Act 2010 has placed a number of new duties on the Council as the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority. One of these is the requirement to report to Overview and Scrutiny Committee on an annual basis to aid them in their role of scrutinising the manner in which the Council is managing flood and coastal erosion risk within the borough.
- 1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously reviewed flood and coastal erosion risk management within the borough and made a number of recommendations in relation to this function.

## **2.0 Current Position**

- 2.1 The Council already undertakes a range of activities in relation to flood and coastal erosion risk management and these have been briefly summarised in appendix 1 which sets out the statutory need for undertaking the activities, what is undertaken and an indication of the cost for each activity.
- 2.2 The figures indicated against each activity in Appendix 1 are those at outturn 2010/11 and fall as part of works and staffing budgets held within Highways Works (gully cleansing, drainage Improvements); Coast Protection and Flood Defence. All costs shown were contained within their respective budgets last year.

## **3.0 Forward Plan**

- 3.1 Appendix 2 provides an outline of strategic activities planned for the next year. It has not been possible to specify timings for these activities as most depend on input from other teams and external agencies.
- 3.2 It is recognised that Overview and Scrutiny Committee have previously made recommendations for this service area and appendix 3 sets out how these prior recommendations are taken into account within the forward plan.

## **4.0 Next step**

- 4.1 Subject to the recommendation of this committee this report will be presented to the Cabinet Member for Environment for approval.

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## Appendix 1

### **Flood Risk Management and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Management, Maintenance and Repair activities**

Flooding is identified as a corporate risk and has the potential to cause significant damage to homes and infrastructure as well as in more extreme cases threatening people's wellbeing. As a Borough Sefton Council have acknowledged this risk and sought to manage it, the following sets out what we are doing and why in the context of corporate risk.

#### **Legislative background:**

Section 41 of the Highways Act 1980 places a duty upon the authority to maintain the highway, maintain in this sense includes repair. There is a test of reasonableness that applies to this section and it is accepted that there will be some floods on the highway that we can do nothing about but if our maintenance regime is considered unreasonable and has contributed to the flooding we would be considered to be failing in our duties. There is case law that establishes that section 41 also applies to structures that support the highway or maintain its integrity such as sea defences that protect a road.

The Land Drainage Act 1991 provides the Local Authority with powers to enforce riparian duties; however these same riparian duties also apply to us. This requires us to maintain watercourses within our control.

The Floods and Water Management Act 2010 places a number of duties on the authority the prime one being that we become the lead authority for local flooding, along with this are duties relating to recording our assets, developing a local flood risk strategy, approving works to watercourses, approving and adopting sustainable urban drainage systems (SUDs) and investigating floods.

The Coast Protection Act 1949 primarily gives us powers not duties, we have the power to undertake works but only if we choose to. However, once we have constructed works we do have a duty to keep them in a safe condition as they are accessible by the public.

#### **What we do:**

In order to drain water from the highway we have approximately 48,000 gullies along with some specialist drains such as ACO and Decathlon. This is the visible element of the infrastructure with the pipework buried beneath the road; there are approximately a 1,000km of roads in the borough most of which will have drainage pipework under them which include the main drain and connections. These gullies are cleaned once per year (£167K) as standard (with the exception of Marine Drive which is monthly) with about 10% being cleaned a second time on a planned basis (£15k) and 10% getting a second visit on a reactive basis (£19k) when flooding occurs. The first 1.5m of connecting pipework requires some cleaning to remove blockages, tree roots and the like (£18k) and we also clear the drainage screens on a twice weekly basis (£4k).

There is further cleansing work undertaken on the connecting pipework (beyond 1.5m from the gully) which includes desilting and tree root cutting (£27k). There is a significant cost for investigation of flooding problems as it is difficult to undertake sometimes requiring cameras and sometimes requiring excavation (£25k). There are approximately

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90 gullies repaired or replaced each year due to them failing or being substandard (£75k) and 2 or 3 a year that are new (£4k), introduced to deal with low spots. The pipework requires repair where it has failed either at the joints or through a collapse (£35k).

Outside of the highway we investigate other flooding issues (£10k) and maintain the watercourses in our ownership (about 18km) of which there is a significant focus on Formby (£49k), other areas requiring maintenance works such as headwalls (£17k). There is generally an unallocated balance maintained to deal with floods as they happen both in terms of investigation and remediation (£40k).

On the coast we maintain our hard defences both in terms of their integrity (£15K) and safety (£35k). We undertake some small scale works on the sand dunes to slow the rate of erosion (£15k) and have to maintain navigation markers in our ownership (£5k).

We work with Capita who undertake core work (£245k) for the Council relating to drainage services dealing with all the day-to-day issues whilst the Flood and Coastal Erosion risk Management Team (3 full time equivalents, £100k) deal with the majority of the coastal defence issues and the strategic elements for flood and coastal erosion risk management. This is under review to ensure that the roles and responsibilities in relation to the recent legislation are clear and new duties accounted for. Elements of this staff time are used to build the case for drawing in grant aid for undertaking works within the borough.

The costs indicated above (£1,000k) are based on last years contract rates (for works) and the new contracts show an increase on two areas and reduction on one but the overall implications of this have yet to be assessed.

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## Appendix 2

### Forward plan - strategic elements planned to be completed by October 2012:

#### Draft Local Flood Risk Strategy including:

- Vision, aims and objectives
- Overview of risk including implications of climate change
- Assets and overview of condition
- Options for management of risk
- Roles and Responsibilities
- Legislation
- Funding
- Action Plan
- Review process

Clearly the above headings only give an indication of the content and progress on this item will be reported on a regular basis to overview and scrutiny in order to ensure that the end product is satisfactory.

#### Policies will be developed for the following:

- Culverting
- Enforcement
- Asset management

#### Communications:

A key element of work over the next twelve months will be developing a draft communications strategy that will clarify how we communicate the risk of flooding, who to and why.

#### Groundwater:

We currently have a gap in our understanding of risk relating to the potential for either groundwater flooding or for ground conditions to contribute to flood risk. Over the next twelve months we will clarify a suitable risk based approach to addressing this gap in understanding and if appropriate progress actions required to fill this gap.

#### Emergency Planning and Business Continuity

These plans will be reviewed and updated.

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## Appendix 3

Below are Overview and Scrutiny's previous recommendations on the left and on the right an explanation of how they fit into the proposed forward plan for the coming year.

No	Recommendation	Action
<b>A General</b>		
(i)	Cabinet and Chief Officers should note that since December 2008 the local authority has become the lead authority for flood risk management and all aspects and should make the appropriate arrangements in response to this new role.	The Coastal Defence Team has been given extra resources to take on this role and renamed the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team.
(ii)	Sefton should immediately establish a 'Sefton Flooding Group', along the lines of the successful Group now operating in Wirral. This Working Group should take forward the recommendations set out in this report.	An officer level group has been established to co-ordinate activities both internally and with external partners. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has a clear remit in relation to flood and coastal erosion risk management and will continue to be consulted on a regular basis. A Merseyside Flooding Partnership is being established which will involve officers and elected Members to facilitate co-ordination at a Merseyside level and ensure co-ordinated representation at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee.
(iii)	Information should be made available to all residents and local businesses that sets out the contact details and areas of responsibility relating to flooding and what support flooded homeowners can expect.	A communications plan will be developed.
(iv)	The Council needs to make landowners aware of their riparian responsibilities in relation to watercourses which cross their land and seek to find ways to enforce action from these individuals, while ensuring that the councils' own riparian ownership responsibilities are fulfilled.	Policies relating to enforcement and culverting are being developed and the issue of communicating riparian responsibilities will be dealt with in the communications plan.
(v)	the Council should take on board the recommendations of the Pitt review, the Government's forthcoming Flood and Water Bill and the actions proposed therein and take note of the comments on the Bill made by the Drainage Services Manager as part of the consultation process.	Will be taken into account in the development of the Local Flood Risk Strategy.
(vi)	Cabinet be recommended to take note of the recently prepared Flood Risk Assessment.	Flood Risk Assessment approved by the Cabinet (Minute No. 137 - 1 October 2009 refers)
(vii)	the Council should take account of the financial and other implications of the forthcoming report on climate change to be submitted by the Drainage Services Manager.	Funding issues will be dealt with in the Local Flood Risk Strategy.

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No	Recommendation	Action
<b>B Coastal / Tidal Flood Risks</b>		
(i)	The existing plans developed to protect the area between the Coastguard Station & Hightown need to be brought forward and implemented as soon as practicable.	Both the Crosby to Formby Strategy and the Shoreline Management Plan have now been approved and adopted by the Council and actions arising from these will be incorporated within the action plan for the Local Flood Risk Strategy.
(ii)	The Council needs to discuss the repair of the "Training Bank" with interested parties	This issue has been discussed with the Environment Agency and will continue to be pursued within the constraints of current grant aid rules.
<b>C Watercourse / Fluvial Flood Risks</b>		
(i)	Within the authority's budgetary constraints the funding and development of a regular maintenance programme of the strategic watercourses across the Borough should be considered and the acceleration of the production of a definitive map of all watercourses should be investigated.	The maintenance programme will be reviewed as part of the development of a Local Flood Risk Strategy and within the policy on asset management. By October 2012 we will be able to provide a programme of asset inspection alongside the policy for how these assets will be maintained.
(ii)	The Council should request the Environment Agency to install remote monitoring of water levels in the Lunt/Maghull area as a matter of urgency.	As part of our understanding of risk any opportunities to develop approaches that improve our understanding or allow us to give advance warning will be explored with partners.
(iii)	The Council should make efforts to provide assistance to residents whose properties have been subject to flooding as a result of the flooding of watercourses outside of the curtilage of their premises (for example from a neighbouring property) by way of emergency contact numbers or reporting procedures.	This will be considered within the development of a communications plan.
(iv)	The Council should consider introducing a policy prohibiting any further culverting of open watercourses.	This issue will be addressed in a policy on culverting which will be developed in conjunction with partners and in particular with planning officers.
(v)	The Council should instigate a programme to comply with its duty to inspect and maintain watercourses where culverted under the highway, firstly by compiling a comprehensive record of all such watercourses and then implementing a regular inspection and maintenance programme thereof	The maintenance programme will be reviewed as part of the development of a Local Flood Risk Strategy and within the policy on asset management. By October 2012 we will be able to provide a programme of asset inspection alongside the policy for how these assets will be maintained.



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No	Recommendation	Action
<b>D Land and Highway Flood Risks</b>		
(i)	Residents should be notified in good time when gully cleansing is due to take place so that they can avoid parking over gully drainage grates.	The maintenance programme will be reviewed as part of the development of a Local Flood Risk Strategy and within the policy on asset management. By October 2012 we will be able to provide a programme of asset inspection alongside the policy for how these assets will be maintained. Within this we will include the issue of how residents are advised of the service they can expect and how they can help.
(ii)	Within the authority's budgetary constraints the funding and development of a more proactive response to flooding and maintenance across the Borough should be considered.	This will be considered within the section on funding within the Local Flood Risk Strategy.
(iii)	There is a need to ensure the proper screening of gully drainage grates etc. when highway surfacing works are carried out	It is agreed that a clear statement relating to this is required and this will be included either within or alongside the policy on maintenance of assets.
<b>E Pluvial or Surface Water Flood Risks</b>		
(i)	The Planning Department should look at means of enforcing planning permission for hard landscaping across the Borough (for example flagging front and rear gardens).	<p>Noted that Planning permission is now required for most hard-surfacing of front gardens or driveways. Levels of public awareness and acceptance of this requirement are high.</p> <p>The hard-surfacing of rear of gardens is permitted development. Where Surface Water Management Plans provide the evidence to justify this in the future, options such as the removal of these permitted development rights can be considered for particular areas of Sefton. This would mean that planning permission would be required for hard-surfacing in rear gardens as well.</p>
(ii)	The Planning Department should endeavour to ensure that a flood risk assessment is included as part of the planning application process	Site flood risk assessments as part of the planning application process are already a requirement in areas where there is an identified flood risk, e.g. for all development adjacent to brooks, ditches or canals, and for all development on sites of over 1.0 hectare within Flood Zone 1 and all development within Flood Zones 2 and 3 (in line with national planning policy in PPS25) or on sites identified as requiring a site-specific Flood Risk Assessment in Sefton's Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, local plans or planning guidance.
(iii)	The Planning Department should consider methods of ensuring that building does not take place above existing watercourses	<p>The Council will continue to take this approach where it is aware of the watercourse (or culvert). For sites which include or are next to a Main River watercourse, the prior written consent of the Environment Agency is also required for any proposed works, buildings, fences, pipelines or other structures or tree or shrub planting in, under, over or within 8 metres of the top of the bank/retaining wall of the Main River watercourse.</p> <p>The Director of Planning and Economic Regeneration considers that a planning policy limiting development immediately above or adjacent to existing watercourses is best approved within the Core Strategy, which is currently being prepared, and subsequent local development documents. A policy should also require new development schemes to take appropriate opportunities to restore existing culverts to open channels. In</p>

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No	Recommendation	Action
		<p>the interim, it is proposed that the 'Sustainability in Design' information note be amended to say that the Council will not look favorably on building above existing watercourses.</p> <p>In addition to the above statements relating to section E the role of planning in controlling development and avoiding inappropriate development is recognised as critical and this will be reflected in the development of the Local Flood Risk Strategy.</p>
<p><b>F Sewer or Foul Flood Risks</b></p>		
(i)	<p>Sefton should publicise the responsibility of individuals, and private contractors, to not to dispose of certain materials down our domestic drains</p>	<p>This will be considered within the development of a communications plan.</p>
(ii)	<p>The council should consult with United Utilities with a view to agreeing a practical schedule of sewer replacements within the borough</p>	<p>Joint working with United Utilities, as part of the development of surface water management plans and flood risk identification will identify opportunities where sewer replacements will have combined benefits. However, United Utilities funding opportunities are tied into their 5 year plan with OFWAT</p>
(iii)	<p>The working group is concerned that the budget for the maintenance of gullies has been significantly reduced to the extent that gullies are now only able to be cleaned once per year and feels that the decision in respect of this budget should be revisited.</p>	<p>Any increase in budget needs to be considered within the context of other services that the Council delivers. In order to make informed decisions Council needs to understand the risks associated with maintaining or reducing the current budget and the benefits of increasing it. Within the Local Flood Risk Strategy funding issues will be considered and officers will set out to the best of their ability the risks associated with different levels of funding in a format that allows informed decisions to be made.</p>

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<b>Report to:</b>	Planning Committee Overview & Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services Cabinet  Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	24 August 2011 20 September 2011  13 October 2011  27 October 2011
<b>Subject:</b>	Joint Merseyside and Halton Waste Development Plan Document: Council Approval of Publication Waste DPD		
<b>Report of:</b>	Director Built Environment	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Linacre, Derby, Netherton and Orrell, Norwood
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Yes	<b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt/Confidential</b>	No		

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## **Purpose/Summary**

- (i) For Members to note the results of public consultation on the Merseyside and Halton Joint Waste Development Plan Document Preferred Options 2 (New Sites Consultation) Report which was undertaken between May and June 2011.
- (ii) To seek District approval of the Publication Waste Development Plan Document and a final 6-week consultation at the end of 2011.
- (iii) To also seek approval to move to Submission Stage early in 2012.
- (iv) To set out the final steps to adopt the Waste DPD.

## **Recommendation(s)**

Recommendation 1 – To note the results of consultation on the Waste Development Plan Document Preferred Options 2 (New Sites Consultation) Report.

Recommendation 2 - To approve the Publication Document for the final six-week public consultation commencing late in 2011 followed by Submission to the Secretary of State.

Recommendation 3 To delegate District officers within the Waste DPD Steering Group to make the necessary typographical changes to the Publication Document prior to submission of the Waste DPD and for any more substantial changes to be reported to Members through the appropriate scheme of delegation prior to Submission.

Recommendation 4 – To approve the spatial distribution of one sub-regional site per district.

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## How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

### Reasons for the Recommendation:

To authorise publication of the Waste DPD for a six week consultation and submission of the Waste DPD to the Secretary of State.

### What will it cost and how will it be financed?

#### (A) Revenue Costs

Budgetary provision for completion of the Waste DPD has been identified from within the Planning Service budgets during 2011/12 and 2012/13 to cover the following cost elements:

- Examination in Public (£25,000)
- Implementation and Monitoring of the Plan – (£3,500 per annum from April 2013)

#### (B) Capital Costs

None

### Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b> None	
<b>Human Resources</b> None	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains
---

**Impact on Service Delivery:**

None

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD905) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 265/11) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**Are there any other options available for consideration?**

No. As a Waste Planning Authority Sefton has a statutory duty to produce a Waste DPD.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Council

**Contact Officer:** Steve Matthews

**Tel:** 0151 934 3559

**Email:** [steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Government planning policy, the National Waste Strategy and Regional Spatial Strategy all require Development Plan Documents to address sustainable waste management. Through Planning Policy Statement 10 (Planning for Sustainable Waste Management) the Merseyside Districts are required to put in place a planning framework that identifies the locations for new waste management infrastructure to meet the identified needs of that Council or a group of Councils.
- 1.2 In 2005, Leaders agreed that the waste planning matters for the sub-region would most effectively be addressed through formal collaboration in preparing a Joint Waste Development Plan Document (Waste DPD). Consequently, the six Merseyside Authorities of Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral have entered into a joint arrangement to prepare the Waste DPD. It is the sub-region's first joint statutory land use plan and will guide future development of waste management and treatment facilities across Merseyside and Halton.
- 1.3 The Waste DPD is primarily focused on (i) providing new capacity and new sites for waste management uses and (ii) delivering a robust policy framework to control waste development.
- 1.4 The scope of the Waste DPD is to deal with all controlled waste including commercial and industrial, hazardous, construction, demolition, excavation and municipal waste. Waste management requirements include reception, recycling, treatment and transfer activity all designed to minimise amount of the waste requiring final disposal. This amounts to between approximately 4.5 million tonnes of material each year. Of that approximately 800,000 tonnes arises from local authority collected waste. The recycling, treatment and disposal of local authority collected waste is the responsibility of the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and Halton Council.
- 1.5 The Waste DPD aims to deliver significant improvements in waste management across the sub-region whilst also diverting waste from landfill. Specifically, the Waste DPD will provide Districts with a high degree of control through its land allocations and policies to direct the waste sector to the most appropriate locations primarily on allocated sites. It therefore will provide industry with much greater certainty to bring forward proposals that are more likely to be acceptable to the Districts.
- 1.6 The Publication Document is the final consultative stage in Plan preparation and follows completion of the Preferred Options 2 consultation.

## **2. Preferred Options 2 (New Sites Consultation)**

- 2.1 A 6-week Preferred Options 2 consultation was completed on 20<sup>th</sup> June 2011. The scope of the consultation was limited to only four new sites proposed to be allocated for waste management uses. Large sub-regional sites were consulted upon in Halton, Liverpool and St. Helens and a smaller local site in Sefton. All sites consulted upon were identified as replacement sites to ones that had previously been deleted as a consequence of public consultation at the previous Preferred Options stage or subsequent Member decisions.

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- 2.2 A total of 2930 consultation responses were received as well as 1 petition with 4259 signatures. The responses received across the sub-region are summarised below. A more detailed analysis, including originating postcodes etc is available in the Results of Consultation Report (see Appendix One)

<b>District Site</b>	<b>Support Strongly</b>	<b>Support</b>	<b>Oppose</b>	<b>Oppose Strongly</b>
Atlantic Park, Bootle, Sefton	76	62	13	37
Widnes Waterfront, Halton	130	52	12	38
Sandwash Close, Rainford, St. Helens	5	7	26	2604
Garston, Liverpool	78	71	9	42

- 2.3 No significant issues arose from the proposed allocations in Halton, Liverpool and Sefton. Consultation responses were received from waste operators and landowners including two statements expressing specific concerns as to the soundness of the Plan. The grounds provided for challenging the soundness of the Plan are not considered to be strong.
- 2.4 A very considerable degree of local community and business opposition was experienced for the replacement sub-regional site in St. Helens with an estimated 2573 consultation responses from the immediate locality, with 2569 (99%) being opposed or strongly opposed to the proposed allocation. The Waste DPD team, along with colleagues from St. Helens, have analysed and considered all the responses received. As part of this process and to demonstrate a continuing high degree of transparency, all reasonable planning matters and consultee concerns have been thoroughly re-examined.
- 2.5 No significant planning, procedural or deliverability issues have come to light as a consequence of this re-assessment, nor as a result of the consultation responses received which make this sub-regional site unacceptable or require that a new site be selected. Consequently there is no technical case to remove this proposed sub-regional allocation.
- 2.6 The results of consultation report which will be found at <http://merseysideeas-consult.limehouse.co.uk>.
- 2.7 All four new sites which were the subject of Preferred Options 2 consultation will therefore be included within the Publication Waste DPD alongside those moving forward from Preferred Options 1. This gives a total of 6 sub-regional sites (1 per District, >4.5 hectares in area) and 13 local sites proposed as allocations (see table 2 in section 4.2 of this report) for built facilities (see Recommendation 1).

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## 3. Publication and Submission of the Waste DPD

- 3.1 The Publication Stage of the Waste DPD is the final 6-week consultation stage whereby the consultees can submit comments. Comments can only be submitted on the basis of “soundness matters” and can relate to technical content or procedural matters (i.e. the process by which the Waste DPD has been prepared).

**Copies of the Publication version of the Waste DPD are available to download at <http://merseysideeas-consult.limehouse.co.uk> or please contact 0151 934 3558 for a paper copy. Copies will also be made available at each committee meeting.**

- 3.2 At Publication Stage the 6 Districts are required to formally approve the Waste DPD as a Council document and part of their Local Development Framework. The proposed timetable for the 6-week Publication consultation starts at the beginning of November. All consultation processes are carried out in accordance with each Council’s Statement of Community Involvement.
- 3.3 A report is due to be taken to Liverpool City Regional Chief Executives and Cabinet during the approvals process as this is a joint undertaking.
- 3.4 Submission of the Waste DPD to the Secretary of State follows shortly after the consultation has closed on the Publication document once the representations received have been considered and collated. At this stage the Waste DPD team and Districts are able to set out how it intends to respond to any soundness issues raised. Upon Submission to the Secretary of State, the formal examination of the Waste DPD starts with the appointment of an independent Planning Inspector. This is not a consultative process but one of rigorous examination of any soundness matters raised at Publication stage or that the Planning Inspector chooses.
- 3.5 Members should note that given timescale pressures it is normal at this stage to seek Full Council approval of Submission in tandem with Publication (see Recommendation 2). Delegated authority is also sought for officers from the Waste DPD Steering Group to make typographical changes and, for more substantial changes to be addressed through the appropriate scheme of delegation for each District (see Recommendation 3).

## 4. Contents of the Publication Waste DPD

- 4.1 Members are reminded that the content and issues to be addressed within the Waste DPD are governed by the requirements of national planning policy and waste strategy, particularly Planning Policy Statements 10 and 12. The Waste DPD is also supported by a large evidence base of technical assessments and reports ranging from Equality Impact Assessments to Sustainability Appraisals. Appendix 3 provides a list of the technical appendices that are publicly available within the web site (<http://merseysideeas-consult.limehouse.co.uk>) as downloadable resources. Alternatively paper copies can be made available for inspection.
- 4.2 The Waste DPD lists all relevant existing operational licensed waste management and disposal facilities within Merseyside and Halton. The Waste DPD site



allocations proposed in Table 3 are additional to these existing sites.

- 4.3 The Vision and Strategic Objectives of the Waste DPD were established at the Spatial Strategy and Sites and Preferred Options 1 consultation stages. These are being taken forward virtually unaltered and are set out in Section 3.2 of the Publication Document.
- 4.4 Chapter 2 summarises the evidence base whereby current and projected waste management capacity needs are identified over a 15 year period to 2027 taking into account changes in waste arisings, progress with new waste infrastructure and the effects of policy and legislative change. The Waste DPD then forecasts what waste management capacity and sites are needed to divert, minimise, recycle, treat, reprocess and finally dispose of the waste arisings on Merseyside and Halton.
- 4.5 Government policy and independent planning advice make it clear that it is necessary for the Waste DPD to have sufficient flexibility to take account of changes in waste management needs and also is able to accommodate some loss of allocated sites to other uses during the Plan period. The level of need and how it is expressed in proposed allocations has already been agreed by Members at Preferred Options stage. The proposed allocations set out in Table 2 are the minimum level of allocations necessary to meet identified needs and policy requirements.
- 4.6 Both the Vision and Strategic Objectives strive for Merseyside and Halton to become self-sufficient in waste management over the plan period.

## **Site Allocations**

- 4.7 Chapter 4 sets out the approach to site prioritisation and identifies the site allocations. Identification of sites for waste management use is an essential and challenging part of the Waste DPD. Therefore, a policy (WM1) has specifically been inserted to ensure that the waste management industry is directed towards site allocations and sets out a series of rigorous tests that need to be met by potential developers. The policies relating specifically to sites are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: Site-related Policies in the Waste DPD

Policy Number	Purpose & content
WM1	Guide to Site Prioritisation – primarily guides developers to allocated sites before considering other areas of search or unallocated sites.
WM2	Sub-regional Site Allocations – identifies the sub-regional site allocations.
WM3	District Site Allocations – identifies the district site allocations
WM4	Allocations for Inert Landfill – identifies the inert landfill allocations
WM5	Areas of Search for Small-scale Waste Management Operations and Re-processing Sites – identifies favoured areas of search for other small-scale waste management operations.

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WM6	Additional HWRC Requirements – defines criteria for identifying further HWRC facilities within the City of Liverpool.
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- 4.8 The site allocations included within the Waste DPD Publication document are set out in table 2. All of the sites have already been formally approved by Members at Preferred Options stages and subject to at least one public consultation process. All site allocations are supported by a technical assessment.
- 4.9 A good spatial spread of sites has been achieved such that there is one sub-regional site per district, with a variable number of smaller district-level sites per District. This pattern of site distribution has evolved over the course of several public consultations and cycles of Council approvals. Members are asked to formally endorse the approach of one sub regional site per District at Publication stage (see Recommendation 4 and site listings in Table 2).
- 4.10 All sites identified are either vacant land suitable for new facilities or have the potential for significant modernisation and/or intensification of use to meet identified waste management need. All sites included as allocations have the support of the landowner / operator.

Table 2: Site Allocations in the Waste DPD

District	Site Reference & Name	Site Area (ha)
Halton	H1 Widnes Waterfront <b>Sub-regional Allocation</b>	7.8
	H2 Eco-cycle, 3 Johnsons Lane, Widnes	2.0
	H3, Runcorn WWTW	1.2
Knowsley	K1 Butler’s Farm, Knowsley Industrial Park <b>Sub-regional Allocation</b>	8.0
	K2 Image Business Park, Acornfield Road, Knowsley Industrial Park	2.8
	K3 Brickfields, Ellis Ashton Street, Huyton Business Park	2.3
	K4 Former Pilkington Glass Works, Ellis Ashton Street, Huyton Business Park	1.3
	K5 Cronton Claypit	22.3
Liverpool	L1 Land off Stalbridge Road, Garston <b>Sub-regional Allocation</b>	5.4
	L2 Site off Regent Road/ Bankfield Street	1.4
	L3 Waste treatment plant, Lower Bank View	0.7
Sefton	F1 Alexandra Dock, metal recycling site <b>Sub-regional Allocation</b>	9.8
	F2 55 Crowland Street, Southport	3.6
	F3 Site North of Farriers Way, Atlantic Business Park	1.7
	F4 1-2 Acorn way, Bootle	0.6
St Helens	S1 Land SW of Sandwash Close, Rainford Industrial Estate <b>Sub-regional Allocation</b>	6.1
	S2 Land North of TAC, Abbotsfield Industrial Estate	1.3
	S3 Bold Heath Quarry	40.3

District	Site Reference & Name	Site Area (ha)
Wirral	W1 Car Parking/ Storage Area, former Shipyard, Campbelltown Road <b>Sub-regional Allocation</b>	5.9
	W2 Bidston MRF/ HWRC, Wallasey Bridge Road	3.7
	W3 Former goods yard, adjacent to Bidston MRF/ HWRC, Wallasey Bridge Road	2.8

- 4.11 A site profile including a map and the information shown in Table 2 is included in the Publication Document and is supported by technical assessments as part of the evidence base. These assessments include amongst other matters sustainability and effects on European nature conservation designations.
- 4.12 In relation to the site at 55 Crowland Street, Southport, the site profile clarifies that any increased capacity of waste management use, over and above that already granted consent, should be assessed carefully by Sefton Council's Highways Department, in relation to the potential implications on the local road network. Any highways assessment would in particular need to address the Butts Lane/Norwood Road junction; congestion on the local road network particularly Norwood Road; rat-running of HGVs along residential roads; and on-street parking in Crowland Street. A Transport Statement may be required.
- 4.13 In all cases a full planning application will be required which will set out details such as type of use, site access and operational hours. A planning application for a waste use on any site identified above will be subject to a further local public consultation and any decision as to suitability or otherwise will be determined by Sefton's Planning Committee.

## **Landfill**

- 4.14 The opportunity for final disposal of non-inert waste to landfill within Merseyside and Halton is extremely limited due to land use constraints alongside geological and hydrogeological limitations. Detailed technical assessment has concluded that there are no opportunities within Merseyside and Halton for non-inert landfill disposal, and therefore there are no allocations for this purpose. Over time as behaviour changes in terms of the quantities and types of waste produced and as new treatment facilities become operational the reliance that Merseyside and Halton have on exporting non-inert waste to landfill will decrease. The Waste DPD therefore will be based on a continuing but decreasing export of non-inert landfill to existing operational sites outside of the area throughout the Plan period.
- 4.15 Merseyside and Halton do however have the potential to provide final disposal sites for inert waste. Two sites, both of which are existing active minerals operations are proposed as inert landfill allocations to meet the continuing, but decreasing, quantities of inert waste at Cronton Clay Pit (K5) and Bold Heath Quarry (S3). As fiscal and waste diversion pressures continue to impact on this waste stream, it is expected that relatively modest quantities of inert waste will be deposited at these sites over time, as most inert waste can be recycled and reprocessed into new recycled products and raw materials.

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## Policies

- 4.16 Chapter 5 sets out the policy framework intended to provide industry with a high degree of certainty and some flexibility in coming forward with proposals for new waste management infrastructure. The policies also set the bar high in terms of the very tight control that the Local Authorities will exercise over waste management activities and these policies strongly direct the waste management industry towards allocated sites. Table 3 summarises the key Waste DPD policies.

Table 3: Development Management Policies in the Waste DPD

<b>Policy &amp; Page number</b>	<b>Purpose and content</b>
WM7	Protection of Existing Waste Management Capacity – to ensure that the existing essential waste management capacity is maintained to serve the needs of Merseyside and Halton.
WM8	Waste Prevention and Resource Management – to promote the prevention of waste and make efficient use of waste for all developments.
WM9	Design and Layout for New Development – for all new non-waste developments to enable the easy and efficient storage and collection of waste.
WM10	Design and Operation of New Waste Management Development – to ensure high quality design and operation of new waste management facilities to minimise impact of local communities.
WM11	Sustainable Waste Transport – to minimise and mitigate the impacts of waste transport on local communities.
WM12	Criteria for Waste Management Development – sets out the criteria against which all waste management proposals will be assessed.
WM13	Waste Management Applications on Unallocated Sites – sets out the criteria that must be addressed for sites brought forward on unallocated sites.
WM14	Energy from Waste – states that no large EfW facilities are needed but makes provision for small-scale EfW that serves an identified local need for energy or heat.
WM15	Landfill on Unallocated Sites - sets out the criteria that must be addressed for landfill proposals brought forward on unallocated sites.
WM16	Restoration and Aftercare of Landfill sites –sets out the information requirements for planning restoration and aftercare of landfill sites.

- 4.17 The Waste DPD policies are designed to work with and not duplicate the District specific policies in their Core Strategy and other Development Plan Documents.

## Implementation and Monitoring

- 4.18 The Waste DPD is required by planning policy (PPS12) to include an implementation plan and monitoring arrangements and these are set out in Chapter

6 of the Publication document. Responsibility for implementation principally lies with the Local Planning Authority with support from Merseyside EAS, Waste Collection Authorities, MWDA, landowners and the waste industry.

## **5. Next Steps**

### **Examination in Public:**

- 5.1 The Public Examination is a formal part of the plan making process, and starts upon Submission of the Waste DPD to the Secretary of State. A Planning Inspector is appointed by the Planning Inspectorate and the Waste DPD team will need to provide a secretariat for the Examination Hearing process including resources, a Programme Officer and a venue for the Inspector and their team and the formal hearing.
- 5.2 On the basis of the current work programme, the Examination Hearing is planned for May 2012. We expect to receive the Inspectors' Report 13 weeks after the completion of the Examination.

### **Adoption:**

- 5.3 The Waste DPD will need to be formally adopted, like all other statutory planning documents, by each of the Merseyside Districts as part of the adopted statutory development plan. Adoption is likely to take place in November 2012.

## **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1 The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT comments that the financial implications of this report on the Council are that the final costs for the preparation of the Waste DPD have already been agreed with the Districts and appropriate budgetary provision have been made including the Examination In Public (see above). Currently no additional preparation costs are anticipated.

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## Appendices

Appendix 1 : Results of Consultation Report for Preferred Options 2 (New Sites Consultation) – Not attached. Available to download at <http://merseysideeas-consult.limehouse.co.uk> or please contact 0151 934 3558 for a paper copy. Copies will also be made available at each committee meeting.

Appendix 2 : Waste DPD Draft Publication Document which is also available electronically as a PDF document – Not attached. Available to download at <http://merseysideeas-consult.limehouse.co.uk> or please contact 0151 934 3558 for a paper copy. Copies will also be made available at each committee meeting.

Appendix 3 : List of Supporting Materials for the Waste DPD Publication Document

Document Filename	Description
Agricultural Waste Survey findings.pdf	Agricultural Waste Survey
All Sites Scored.xls	Built Facilities sites long list prepared for Spatial Strategy & Sites report
All sites to be assessed for Landfill.xls	Landfill sites : short list
Broad Site Search Final Report.pdf	Broad Site Search Report : Initial Site Search study 2005
Built Facilities Site Search Methodology Preferred Options.pdf	Built facilities site search methodology report (Preferred Options Stage)
Built Facilities Site Search Methodology Preferred Options 2.pdf	Built facilities site search methodology report (Preferred Options 2 Stage)
ClimateChangeImpactsModelling.pdf	Study into Greenhouse Gas Emissions by waste facilities
Equality Impact Assessment.pdf	Equality Impact Assessment - Preferred Options report
European Sites With Border final May2010.pdf	Map of European sites designated under Habitats Regulations
Health effects of waste management.pdf	Health Impacts Assessment of waste facilities
List of Supporting Document.pdf	This listing
Merseyside Radioactive Waste Arisings.pdf	Radioactive Waste Survey for Merseyside
MerseysideWasteAA final 30Apr2010.pdf	Habitat Regulations Assessment Report
Needs Assessment and Planning Implications.pdf	Needs Assessment and Planning Implications : Main Report
North West ComInD Survey Final Report.pdf	NW Regional Survey of Commercial & Industrial Wastes 2006/7
North West ConDemEx Survey Final Report.pdf	NW Regional Survey of Construction & Demolition wastes 2006/7
NW Regional Broad Locations Report Nov 08.pdf	NW Region Broad Locations Report : 2008
SA Environmental Statement Consultation Draft.pdf	Sustainability Appraisal for Preferred Options- Report
SA Environmental Statement NTS Consultation Draft.pdf	Sustainability Appraisal for Preferred Options - Non-Technical Summary
SA Scoping Report pre- PO revision July 2009. pdf	Sustainability Appraisal Scoping Report (07/09 update)
SFRA Merseyside Waste DPD. pdf	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment for Merseyside Waste DPD
Site Profiles Appendix.pdf	Detailed Site Profiles - Appendix to Publication Document
St Helens sub-regional sites assessment.pdf	Additional Assessments carried out on St Helens sub-regional sites
Survey for Landfill in Merseyside and Halton Report. Pdf	Landfill site search methodology report
Waste DPD Issues and Options Report.pdf	Waste DPD Issues and Options Report
Waste DPD Publication Document.pdf	Waste DPD Publication Document
WasteDPD Preferred Options Report.pdf	Preferred Options Report
WasteDPD Preferred Options 2 Report.pdf	Preferred Options 2 Report : New Sites Consultation
WasteDPD_ Spatial_ Strategy_ and_ Sites_ Report. Pdf	Spatial Strategy & Sites Report

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Date of Meeting:** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011  
(Regeneration and Environmental Services)

**Subject:** Cabinet Member Reports

**Report of:** Director of Corporate Commissioning **Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

**Exempt/Confidential** No

**Purpose/Summary**

To submit to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Cabinet Member Reports for the following Portfolio's:-

1. Cabinet Member – Environmental;
2. Cabinet Member – Leisure, Culture and Tourism Services
3. Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Housing;
4. Cabinet Member – Transportation

**Recommendation(s)**

That the report be received.

**How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

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

**Reasons for the Recommendation:**

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

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**What will it cost and how will it be financed? N / A**

**(A) Revenue Costs N/A**

**(B) Capital Costs N/A**

**Implications: N/A**

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impact on Service Delivery: N/A**

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no financial implications. **FD970 /2011**

The Head of Legal Services has been consulted and hasn't any comments on the report. **LD321/11**

**Are there any other options available for consideration? N/A**

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

**Contact Officer:** Ruth Harrison

**Tel:** ext. 2042

**Email:** Ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.



## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Attached to this report, for information, is the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the period May – July 2011 for the following portfolio's which fall within the remit of this Committee:-
  1. Cabinet Member – Environmental;
  2. Cabinet Member – Leisure, Culture and Tourism Services
  3. Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Housing;
  4. Cabinet Member – Street Scene and Transportation.

## **2. Recent Developments**

- 2.1 At its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board proposed that, in future, Cabinet Member reports will be published on the Modern Gov library and an e-mail alert will be sent to Scrutiny Chairs. In the event that Chairs identify any issues they would like to raise for discussion at their next Overview and Scrutiny Committee, they should alert the appropriate officer and this will enable appropriate officer attendance at that meeting.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Simon Shaw	Environmental	July August 2011

The following issues have been considered during the July / August period that come under the Environment Portfolio.

## 1 Scambusters - Decision

The CM considered a proposal to continue participation in a Nationally funded project for a NW Scambusters team to respond to the growth in cross-border consumer fraud that can only be effectively tackled by a team that can work across Local Authority boundaries. Known as Level Two fraud, these types of scams target the vulnerable across wide areas. They include cold-calling scams, where a builder who was “just passing” offers to fix a loose tile on an elderly person’s roof and substantially overcharges for poor, incomplete or unnecessary work; complex DVD piracy rings that operate in markets and computer fairs around the region as well as on the internet; and car-clocking conspiracies where cars are moved from auction to auction and “lose” thousands of miles from the odometer on the way.

Enforcement of this type of activity is specialised and resource intensive and relies heavily on observations and surveillance as well as developing strong links with intelligence sources and databases.

The CM Authorised the Director of Built Environment to sign the offer letter issued by BIS to enable the Council to participate in the Project as a Project Partner.

## 2 Illicit Money Lending Team - Decision

Illegal moneylenders commonly referred to as “*loan sharks*”, work outside of the regulatory regime, offering cash loans to the most vulnerable in the community who have an urgent need to buy something they cannot afford. Illegal moneylenders don’t issue written agreements highlighting the interest rates they charge, or consider whether their “*customers*” can afford the repayments. Illegal moneylenders have only one priority: to make sure they receive the repayments they have set from the people to whom they have given money. A money transaction of this kind is normally unenforceable in law and therefore bad payers may be intimidated, beaten or forced into the control of the illegal moneylender to ensure the money plus the interest is paid back.

Enforcement of this function is specialised and resource intensive and relies heavily on observations and surveillance as well as developing strong links with intelligence sources and databases. Funding is available from the Government for the continuation of this project subject to the signature of a joint agreement.

The CM Authorised the Director of Built Environment to sign the protocol for Illegal Money Lending Team Investigations to enable the Council to work in partnership with Birmingham City Council in relation to the Consumer Credit Act 1974 and the Illegal Money Lending Project.

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## **3 National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme - Decision**

Sefton Council is statutorily obliged to discharge food safety duties under the food Safety Act s 40 and codes of practice. Participation with the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme is strongly advised but is not yet compulsory. The Food Standards Agency have indicated that the requirement is likely to become obligatory if uptake by local authorities is inconsistent. The overarching aim of the scheme is to reduce the incidence of food-borne illness and the associated costs to the economy. Nationally approximately one million people suffer from food poisoning every year at an estimated cost to the economy of £1.5 billion. For the last 5 years Sefton has operated a similar scheme known as Scores on the Doors. Like the Scores on the Doors the National Food Hygiene Rating scheme is designed to help consumers choose where to eat and/or shop for food by giving them information about the hygiene standards in food premises at the time they are inspected by Environmental Health officers and Senior Technical Officers. The publication of the results of these inspections should encourage businesses to improve their standards. Catering and retail businesses will be given a hygiene rating under the scheme. It is a six tier numerical system with 0 (urgent improvement necessary) at the bottom to 5 (very good) at the top. Consumers will be able to access ratings at [www.food.gov.uk/ratings](http://www.food.gov.uk/ratings) and businesses will be encouraged to display stickers and certificates showing their rating at the premises.

The CM approved the migration to the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme and accepted the offer of grant from the FSA (£5,503) towards the preparatory costs of the transition.

## **4 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme Procurement Framework - Decision**

The CM considered a report on the results of tendering exercise to establish a procurement framework for the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme 2011-2016 and seek approval to establish framework agreements with the successful companies.

The CM approved the successful companies to go on an approved list framework for the North West Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

## **5 Draft Mersey Ports Master Plan – Decision**

The CM considered a report about the draft master plan which sets out a 20 year strategy for growth for the Port of Liverpool and Manchester Ship Canal. The economic benefits of the port are of national, regional and sub regional importance. The proposed growth will have impacts on infrastructure, land and associated activities such as energy, waste and off shore wind. Specific considerations for Sefton include: the planned deepwater port, use of Seaforth Nature reserve, creation of Intermodal Freeport and possible land acquisition along regent/Derby Road. The report highlighted the key elements that the Council will respond to, under the consultation which closes 5 September 2011. The Council's proposed response balances issues within the master plan to ensure that economic benefits to be released by growth, are matched by appropriate environmental controls and direct investment in local areas to achieve major regeneration. CM approved that the detailed content of this report forms the basis of the Councils formal response to the draft Mersey Ports Master Plan.

## **6 Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy Consultation - Information**

Last autumn, Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority and the Merseyside district councils in the Merseyside and Halton Waste Partnership undertook the 'Don't Waste Your Say Public' Consultation that gave residents in Merseyside the chance to have their say on how Merseyside will improve municipal waste management over the next thirty years and address some of the major resource challenges. The information and opinions collected from residents has informed the development of a revised Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy for Merseyside which will provide a way forward across the region from 2011 to 2041. The draft strategy has been out for public consultation. The final strategy will be presented to Sefton Members for approval at the end of the year. A full copy of the draft Strategy, a summary of the draft Strategy, the draft Environmental Report and other supporting documents can be found on the Merseyside Waste Disposal Authority website: [www.merseysidewda.gov.uk](http://www.merseysidewda.gov.uk).

## **7 Changes to the Rat population within the Borough - Information**

The above issue was considered in response to a request from a party Environmental spokesperson to consider the comparative levels of rat activity within the Borough and the implications of recent service changes. The Council has specific statutory duties with regard to controlling rats and mice under the Prevention of Damage by Pests Act and must take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that the district is kept free from rats and mice. The level of rat activity in any one area is dependant upon a number of factors including the availability of food and water, suitability of nesting and harbourage and changes in climatic conditions. Poor infrastructure e.g. defective drainage systems and food sources such as fly tipped waste or discarded food all contribute to a potential for rat activity. Rat activity remains an issue within the Borough and pest control services and enforcement play a key role in tackling this. Public perceptions show a clear view that the environmental conditions and personal behaviour have a significant impact upon the levels of rat activity. Requests for rat treatment services boroughwide were 2748 in 2008/09, 2305 in 2009/10 and 2384 in 2010/11. This means there was a year on year reduction of around 16% followed by an increase of around 4%. Ongoing monitoring will be necessary to establish the potential impact that recent and potential service changes may have upon the levels of rat activity.

## **8 Climate Change Adaptation Plan – Information**

The CM considered an update on the development of the Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan for Sefton Council that sets out a strategy to increase the resilience of Sefton Council and its community, the impacts of accelerated climate change and to position the Council to take advantage of any opportunities that may arise.

For Sefton MBC, the key risks relate to;

- The costs and operational issues of dealing with a major weather event (flooding, storms, heatwave)
- Increased cost of damage to assets (roads and buildings)
- Failure to meet statutory duties
- Increased demand on services, particularly social care, housing, transport and environmental health.

The Implementation plan sets out the ongoing process of how Sefton will:

- Implement the actionable measures of the Report
- Continue to progress the process of Climate Adaptation
- Provide support to facilitate Climate Adaptation by partners

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- Widen the coverage of the adaptation process to include those not yet engaged.

Sefton will aim to embed adaptation in to existing programmes and decision making processes, rather than it being an additional thing to do. However, due to the diverse nature of the issues contained within the adaptation process and the very long timescales, a unique climate adaptation management system (CAMS) has been developed that will ensure climate adaptation is effectively managed and the organisation retains a 'memory' of the necessary actions and processes over the long, and potentially very long, timescales involved.

## **9 Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme - Information**

The Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme (CRC EES) is a mandatory energy efficiency scheme designed to assist the UK in meeting its European carbon emission reduction commitments. Total carbon emissions from the Council (excluding transport) will be collected and reported. There are very significant financial incentives and sanctions within the scheme and Councils need to ensure that financial incentives are maximized and that any penalties are avoided. The scheme legally commenced in April 2010 involving large non-energy intensive public and private sector organisations in the UK. The scheme is an emissions trading scheme and uses reputational and financial levers to secure commitment from participating organisations in achieving the objective of energy efficiency. The scheme requires organisations to purchase allowances to cover every tonne of carbon they emit. The Introductory Phase (2010 to 2014) price of allowances is £12 per tonne. Sefton Councils annual purchase of allowances is calculated at **£400K**. For 2011/12 allowances can be bought through a Government auction. The auction will take place retrospectively sometime between April and July 2012 i.e. based on actual emissions. Under the new Coalition Government's Comprehensive Spending Review, changes were made to remove the recycling payments of carbon allowances to participants in the first year, effectively turning the CRC EES into a tax. The scheme requires annual reports of carbon emissions. The Council will need to produce reports that will require energy use data from all departments. Schools, including Academies, have a "reasonable assistance duty" under the CRC EES order to provide energy data to the authority. The CRC scheme presents public sector organisations with a number of challenges including ensuring compliance with the schemes registration, administration and annual reporting and auditing requirements. Non-compliance would expose the Council to very significant financial penalties with fines for late or inaccurate data. Sefton must develop and maintain reliable systems of energy and carbon data collection that provide timely, complete and accurate information. Sefton provided its first statutory CRC Data Report by the due date.

## **10 Feed in Tariffs (FiTs) and the Sefton Options - Information**

The Feed-in Tariffs (FiTs) were introduced in April 2010 as a direct payment to the installers of small-scale renewable electricity generating equipment. The tariffs have two elements, a generation tariff and an export tariff. The tariff levels are particularly attractive for the installation of photovoltaic (PV) also known as solar electric panels, generating an approximate 7% annual return on investment. A similar regime of payments exists for small wind turbines and electricity generated from biomass sources. Councils have been receiving positive pressure from the Government to take advantage of the income generating opportunities of the FiTs. Every Council has been contacted by the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change and encouraged to become 'power generators of the future'. Council decision-making timeframes have meant that

most Councils are introducing their renewable schemes this financial year. The presence of FiTs gives 4 potential working options. There are two models where we procure and own the PV panels and associated equipment; investing our own capital or borrow to invest capital. There are two further models where others raise the capital and own the equipment and we either; rent our roof/land space out for others to use, or an affinity scheme where we promote deals to others via the Council's endorsement usually the general public. Sefton officers have researched the best potential sites and whilst many promising buildings exists for such investments, the best types are schools and leisure centres, both of which have recently been subject to ownership issues either from Academy plans or through the transformation process. Listed buildings and older civic buildings such as the town halls have added complications such as planning issues, older electrics and complex roof design. Some developments have already proceeded and are being considered, for example Aintree Davenhill School works and Southport Arts Centre refurbishment. Officers have given some technical assistance to Lydiate Parish (now installed) and Maghull Town hall to explore possibilities. Recently Forefield school has submitted a planning application to install PV.

## **11 REECH - Information**

An update of the work being under taken by the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency in Community Housing (REECH) Steering Group in delivering the multi-million pound sub-regional project, for which Sefton is the accountable body.

## **12 VIRIDIS - Information**

Informed of the work being undertaken across the region to deliver the Liverpool City Region Low Carbon Action Plan. The project also has linkages with the work being undertaken by Sefton Council as part of the REECH Project. Members were informed of the Feasibility Study being undertaken by AMION Consulting and Encraft Ltd on behalf of a group of registered social landlords and local authorities to explore the potential to establish a collaborate model to maximise the benefits arising from installation of Photovoltaic Panels within the sub-region.

## **13 Development of Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the Sub-region - Information**

Local Authorities are expected to have appropriate policies in place in their Local Development Frameworks (DLFs) to address issues relating to renewable energy and to facilitate the delivery of resilient energy infrastructure. Increasingly there is also a need for local authorities to influence integrated development and regeneration at a level beyond that of a single development site, and also for them to drive improvement in the energy performance of the existing building stock. The update informed of the work being undertaken across the LCR to address issues relating to renewable energy and to facilitate the delivery of resilient energy infrastructure, and of the Feasibility Study being undertaken by ARUP consultants on behalf of Merseyside Environmental Advisory Services (MEAS) on the development of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the Liverpool City Region.

## **14 Air Quality Plan for the Achievement of Air Quality Limit Values for Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) in Liverpool Urban Area**

South Sefton is included in an Agglomeration (UK0006) which is predicted **not to comply with the Air Quality Directive** and for which, therefore, an Air Quality Plan

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must be developed. Under the provisions of the Localism Bill **finances** for non compliance with the Air Quality Directive could be redistributed to local authorities, although there are no current proposals for how this would be done. Work by Sefton under the statutory Local Air Quality Management regime is in broad agreement with the Air Quality Plan for the Agglomeration leaving Sefton well placed to respond to the Plan and show that all practical actions are being taken.

## **CLEANSING SERVICES**

### **15 Zoned Collection Service Fully Operational**

The introduction of the new Zoned Collection Service has now been implemented in full. The number of 'issues' raised on a weekly basis has now returned to the very low 'pre Christmas' levels, resulting in the service being operated by less vehicles and less staff, but with the same high satisfaction, collection and completion levels enjoyed by Sefton residents prior to the implementation.

### **16 Reallocating Staff Resources**

Following the efficiency savings within Street Cleansing, all previous ABG funded staff have been re-deployed into the core cleansing operation successfully using posts vacated by those employees taking VR/VER. Certain parts of the operation, such as rear entry, fly tipping squads and litter bin emptying teams, are under increased pressure from higher volumes of wastes which were previously collected via community skips and WNF funded squads. However, at this stage, the service is continuing to operate effectively.

### **17 Street Cleansing Successes**

The Royal Wedding celebrations and recent public holidays all passed without problem, and the amended cleansing schedules were all completed according to plan. The Cleansing Service received a number of congratulatory and complimentary emails and letters from residents and visitors to Southport for the manner in which the resort was kept clean over the public holiday period when hundreds of thousands of visitors left huge volumes of litter and debris during and after their visit. Plans have now been developed to ensure that the Borough is presented to the highest possible standards, within existing resources, during the traditional busy summer holiday period.

All issues were subject to detailed reports / briefing notes which are available on request.



<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT: STREET SCENE</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Cllr Mike Booth	Leisure	July to August 2011

## **PARKS AND GREENSPACES**

### **Friends Forum**

Friends of Park Groups are an important mechanism for local people to get involved in the management of their parks. There are several examples of excellent work done by these groups in Sefton and these are of great benefit to the parks themselves and to the Council. A further joint meeting of Sefton's 'Friends of Park' groups was organised by the Parks and Greenspace Service, and took place in April 2011. It was well attended by enthusiastic representatives from 12 groups. The Friends Forum is a good way for these different groups to share ideas and discuss common issues and problems.

### **Volunteer Park Rangers**

The Park Ranger team has been extremely successful in reducing anti-social behaviour, encouraging volunteers, and working with the local community. However, due to over-stretched staff resources, the Park Rangers are unable to be present on-site as often as local people would like. One proposed solution to this is to encourage interested members of the community to become 'Volunteer Park Rangers', and assist the Ranger service in a wide range of activities to help manage and 'keep an eye' on the parks. A number of volunteers have already signed up for a pilot scheme, and a training programme has been devised which will enable them to carry out various tasks (of their choice). This training is due to take place in July, so that the new volunteers can begin to carry out their new roles in the summer. A Borough-wide scheme is planned for the autumn.

### **Parkwatch**

A draft plan has been produced for the Park Ranger 'Parkwatch' project which aims to adapt the successful 'Homewatch' model. This is an attempt to further address problems of crime and antisocial behaviour in our parks. It aims to improve reporting of crime, and bring together all facets of the community into the scheme, including those who currently do not get involved. The scheme has been agreed in principle by Safer Stronger Communities and Merseyside Police. The next stage will be for the Park Rangers to take the scheme to the Borough's schools from September onwards. Schools will play a major role in spreading the word about Parkwatch. Through a satellite scheme of schools adopting their local park, it is hoped that the children involved will be the first to buy-in and then spread the word to family and friends.

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## **'In Bloom' Competition**

The main aim behind the Council's involvement in the 'In Bloom' competition is to encourage community participation and ownership in the management of their local environment, including highways, private land, parks and open spaces. The Parks and Greenspace Service has facilitated several 'In Bloom' bids this year in Sefton. This has been achieved through supporting and / or co-ordinating community Steering Groups to oversee 'In Bloom' bids from different areas (namely Southport, Crosby and Waterloo, and Maghull), and to encourage smaller organisations to put in their own 'Neighbourhood' entries. Despite the name, the competition looks at wider issues than just horticulture, including environmental responsibility (e.g. conservation, heritage, litter, graffiti, recycling etc) and community participation. This year, besides the three 'North West in Bloom' entries listed above, there have been 19 'It's Your Neighbourhood' entries. Southport has also been nominated for the prestigious national 'Britain in Bloom' competition. All the judging will take place in July and August, and results announced in the autumn.

## **Park Activities**

Organised activities in Parks are a good way of attracting new audiences, and getting messages across to visitors about the benefits and responsible use of parks (and in some cases generate an income). Since the beginning of April, over 130 activities have been hosted in Sefton's parks. Many activities are organised 'in-house' by the Park Rangers, mainly focusing on promoting the responsible use of parks e.g. free micro chipping to promote 'Operation Collar' and responsible Dog Ownership. Educational activities, also run by the Park Rangers, include Wild Plant sessions and bug hunts around the Borough. Other major activities in the Parks (delivered by external partners) include Planet Circus, the first Circus to come to Bootle for a number of years, as well as a performance of Wind in the Willows in Derby Park (a joint project between the Parks Service, Hugh Baird College and the Friends of Derby Park). Other external activities held in the last few months include 'buggy-fit' sessions (exercise classes with young mums), football sessions in Ainsdale organised by the Community Association, and the 51<sup>st</sup> season of Brass Band Concerts in Botanic Gardens.

## **Summer Park Fun Days**

Over the five weeks of summer, the parks host a regular series of activities called Summer Fun Days. This summer there are 26 Fun Days across the borough to help promote the parks, promote responsible use, consult with the public, and promote other activities e.g. Green Flag success, In Bloom and Volunteer Park Rangers.

Activities include a DJ, circus skills, acting, arts and crafts, sports coaching and natural play. At the time of writing, the first 8 events have attracted over 1400 children and approximately 1400 adults which is significantly more than last year.

## **John Muir Award for Pupils Working at Derby Park**

The John Muir Award is an environmental accreditation scheme focused on outdoor space which encourages awareness and responsibility for the natural environment in a spirit of fun, adventure and exploration. In Feb/Mar 2011, year 5 pupils from Bedford Rd Primary visited Derby Park in Bootle and carried out over twenty hours of workshops (over a number of weeks) with the Linacre/Derby Park Ranger and the Wild about Plants

Officer from Plantlife. Children have since re-visited the park with parents to show them the work/activities they have carried out.

In June, 54 pupils from Bedford Primary received their John Muir Awards in a school assembly, where they showcased their activities to the rest of the school with a completely self produced presentation. These young people are the first ever in South Sefton to receive John Muir accreditation.

## **Rotten Row**

The Parks and Greenspace Service has been working closely with Birkdale Civic Society to improve Rotten Row, a popular tourist attraction in Southport. This pro-active community involvement aims to ensure the sustainability of this key attraction in the future. Birkdale Civic Society has formed a "Friends of Rotten Row" group, and these volunteers are meeting on site for the first time in early July to decide on a programme for the future. Also, Farnborough Road School year 4 pupils have spent four sessions on site undertaking a range of activities including weeding, plant identification, potting plants and undertaking "bug hunts". The Civic Society were recently successful in acquiring a Heritage Lottery Grant of £50K for improvements to Rotten Row, and have been working with the Council to agree a programme of work on site, in time for the borders centenary in 2012.

## **Kings Gardens Community Engagement: Update**

As part of the Stage 2 Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) bid, a comprehensive community engagement programme is being carried out, lead by the HLF-funded Community Development Officer. The aim of this work is to

- determine current usage of the gardens,
- determine people's priorities,
- gauge their reaction to proposed developments
- explore what activities and events people would like to see/participate in
- further promote and encourage usage of the gardens
- identify volunteers to support in these developments

To support this consultation, a number of events are taking place in Kings Gardens and displays of the proposals are being taken into empty shops, farmers markets and other community events within Southport e.g. Veterans Carnival. Sefton's Young Advisors have been appointed to carry out vital research with young people who live in and around the Kings Gardens area. News letters and press releases are being used to keep people informed, and a webpage is up and running at [www.sefton.gov.uk/kingsgardens](http://www.sefton.gov.uk/kingsgardens) through which an online consultation form is accessible.

## **Play Equipment for Disabled Children**

The Parks and Greenspace Service has made considerable progress towards improving the inclusiveness and wider appeal of Sefton's playgrounds, thanks to funding from 'Aiming High for Disabled Children'. In order that children with disabilities are able to participate in play, new equipment has been installed which can be used by children with severe mobility requirements. Disabled access equipment has been installed at various

# Agenda Item 11

locations including Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park and Crosby Coastal Park - three of the most popular sites for play in Sefton.

## **Outdoor Gyms**

In addition to this, the Service has also worked with the Primary Care Trust to provide more 'outdoor gyms'. The PCT has committed over £80,000 over the past three years to install equipment into 8 of our parks, which helps both the PCT and the Council contribute to the wider 'health agenda'. The latest schemes are at Hesketh Park, Southport, and Victoria Park, Crosby, where the equipment has been laid out in a trail around the parks.

## **Play Builder Schemes 2011**

The final round of 'Play Builder' schemes covers three new Council-run sites in Sefton. A range of new play equipment has been installed in Moorside Park in Crosby, and a football kick-about area and aerial runway have been installed at Crossens Community Park in Southport. The new facilities are already in use and have been well received by local youngsters. At Deansgate Lane in Formby, a wood sculptor has recently completed a design consultation process with Freshfields Junior School staff and these will be sculpted and installed as a play sculpture trail.

## **Quality in Parks**

The Green Flag scheme is the main nationally recognised award for parks, and is a widely accepted way of benchmarking their quality. One of the main benefits of the scheme is in helping to drive up the quality of the parks, and focusing the attention of all partners and stakeholders.

In addition to the seven existing parks and crematoria which were awarded 'Green Flag' status last year, two new sites have been successful in 2011, bringing the total of award-winning sites to nine. The two new sites are Lord Street Gardens, Southport, and Hatton Hill Park, Litherland. A strategy will be developed to choose which new sites will be bid for in 2012, which will be shared in a future Cabinet Member report. It is also intended to enter all five cemeteries and crematoria sites into this quality-based award. This will be completed through entering Bootle Cemetery as a new site for 2012.

## **APSE Awards**

Parks & Greenspaces have now been notified by APSE - Association for Public Service Excellence - that the section is once again a finalist for their Team of the Year Award for Parks, Horticulture & Grounds. This is the third time in three years that the section has made this stage of this prestigious Local Authority award ceremony. The awards ceremony takes place on the 8th September.

## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Ian Maher	Cabinet Member – Regeneration	July-August 2011

### 1. **Housing Market Renewal - CPO**

Compulsory Purchase Orders issued for Bedford/Queens Phase 3 and Klondyke Phase 1B have now been confirmed by the Secretary of State.

Confirmation notices have been issued to all those with a registered interest in the area, and public notices have been posted in the two areas.

A 6 week 'Challenge Period' allows appeals to this decision to be lodged with the Planning Inspectorate. The 'Challenge Period' finished on the 25<sup>th</sup> August. Following the 'Challenge Period' the vesting process will begin and discussions with residents about rehousing can commence.

### 2. **Housing Market Renewal Transition Fund**

A bid for £3.457m has been submitted to the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) for the Transition Fund.

This £30m pot was offered to five of the former pathfinder areas in order to purchase the interests of residents still remaining in HMR Intervention Areas.

As expected the fund is oversubscribed, by approximately 50%, and the HCA has now asked for further information not requested in the original bid. The deadlines set for the submission of this information is mid September, and therefore we do not expect to hear about our allocation until after this time.

### 3. **Housing Options service**

The Council has received a Homeless Prevention grant of £88,000, for both 2011-12 and '12-13. This is higher than previous years. A decision was made by the Member Overseeing Group, VCF sector, 22<sup>nd</sup> November 2010, that funding for Light for Life should be prioritised and continue. The only source of funding available for this is the Homeless Prevention grant. Light for Life, through their provision of the Southport Housing Centre, assist the Council in performing our statutory duty to ensure that there is provision of housing advice available within the borough. Their core services are to provide housing advice and homeless prevention to residents of Southport and Formby, operate a Bond scheme and access to a Floating Support service, and to facilitate the Private Landlords forum.

The existing SLA expired in March 2011, but was extended for 6 months so a new SLA could be developed, and the revised SLA will soon be agreed.

However, Light for Life have also lost funding they previously received from other sources. In light of this, Light for Life has had to implement a reorganisation to reduce their costs more in line with the resources that are now available.

The balance of the Homeless Prevention grant resource will be used to fund other related housing service options, such as; the Repossession Prevention fund, Bond Scheme, Hardship fund for homeless applicants, and Underoccupation project with OVH.

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The Government has provided the City region with funding to tackle Rough Sleepers, of £120,000 under the auspices of "no second night out". The 6 LA's (Sefton, Liverpool, Knowsley, Wirral, Halton and St. Helens) have agreed in principle how to use this funding between now and March 2013 when the project ends. Liverpool City Council are the Accountable Body, holding the funds for this project and as such there is no financial implication for Sefton. The Proposal is based on 1.4 staff: 1 (Full time) outreach worker & a 0.4 manager. Outreach worker will respond to the reports of rough sleeping across each authority, undertake assessments of need, work with existing providers, and find solutions to bring indoors and prevent no second night out. Manager will co-ordinate provision across authorities, facilitate the tracking meetings / single point of contact and provide additional outreach provision. It is possible that we could uncover some unmet needs in Sefton and we should be mindful that when the initiative has finished there could be additional service needs to be met.

The Council is committed to entering into a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings scheme. The scheme will be operated on our behalf by OVH, similar to that currently provided as the 'Homesearch' service. We are about to enter into contract with the other LA Partners and the IT System supplier Abris. It is hoped the new system, and approved CBL Policy, will come into effect circa March 2012.

## **4. Private Sector Housing Standards service**

The size of the team was reduced as part of the Transformation and budget exercise. It also currently has reduced capacity due to one member of staff being long term ill, and another on maternity leave. The team continue to deal with a high level of service requests from vulnerable private tenants and home owners, living in poor conditions. As the Council are no longer able to provide grant/loan funds to vulnerable home owners, there maybe a need for greater enforcement activities. A report on the implications of this will be brought to Cabinet Member Regeneration in the coming months.

There is a growing number of service requests to deal with empty homes - especially via ward Councillors and MPs. This is also a significant issue being raised through the Planning Core Strategy Process. We have 1 dedicated member of staff to deal with a small number of problematic properties. We do not have the capacity to deal with or take enforcement actions on large volumes of empty properties.

We are trying to work with partners to see if we can increase 'capacity' and take a more pro-active approach with empty property owners. Officers are discussing whether we could implement a pilot project proposal for the Southport area - an area with a very high level of vacancies, and greatest shortage of (affordable) homes.

The team also oversee the management of the Council's Gypsy & Traveller site in Formby, and deal with unauthorised encampments that occur in the borough. There have been 3 incidences to deal with over the last 3 months.

## **5. Home Improvements Team and DFGs**

The Council have approved a capital budget of circa £2.5m for 11-12, which is less than the circa £3m spent in recent years, to meet demand.

Part of the service is provided via an Agency agreement with Mears Ltd [who took over Anchor Trust last year]. We are working toward a reprourement of these services, and looking at options for how this procurement exercise might be structured; as it is currently combined with Supporting People services, and Older People services.

## 6. Kew Housing Development Site

The Council are working with David Wilson Homes to bring forward a scheme of 650 new homes on the site at Kew Southport. At present negotiations are ongoing regarding the proportion of Social Rented Housing to be built as part of the scheme. A detailed report to Cabinet will be presented in due course which will also identify this together with any potential Capital Receipt to the Council. An Extra Care Housing Scheme is now also looking as though it will be developed as part of the scheme. A combined Planning Application for the new Housing, the Extra Care Unit and an extension of the Business Park is expected to be submitted in early October.

## 7. Regional Growth Fund Round 2

LCR Local Enterprise Partnership endorsed 27 applications for RGF before the bidding deadline of 1st July.

Sefton MBC was lead applicant for one bid: Port of Liverpool Post-Panamax Container Terminal (£35m). It was a joint applicant with Bellway for Hawthorne Rd Enterprise Corridor (£1.57m), and with Liverpool CC and Keepmoat for Housing & Employment (Anfield & Queens Bedford).

Nationally, 492 bids were received with a combined total value of £3.3 bn. Decisions will be announced towards end-September.

## 8. Bootle Town Centre & Office Quarter

In line with the Strategic Regeneration Framework for South Sefton & North Liverpool, a stakeholder event on the future of Bootle Town Centre and Office Quarter was held on 6th July, courtesy of Bruntwood which offered the top floor of St Hughs House as a venue. Some 25 people attended for presentations and discussion groups. It was agreed to bring forward four pieces of research:

- A profile of the local workforce to understand trends in employment, population and dependency on public sector jobs; and an inventory of office floorspace and vacancy rates.
- A parking review
- A perception study of how workers and residents perceive the value and importance of the town centre.
- A retail strategy review which will include a Town Centre Retail Health Check (already in hand and due for completion in November 2011).

This research will feed through into the next stage of identifying the "Bootle product", brand definition, promoting the area as an investment destination, along with plans for adapting the town centre and office quarter to new requirements.

## 9. Work Programme & Families with Complex Needs

A provisional start date of 22nd August has been given for commencement of the Work Programme in Sefton. This is the new entry-to-employment programme for 6 month-plus unemployed jobseekers. Sefton@work is sub-contracted to A4E to deliver a mandatory programme for individuals referred from Jobcentre Plus. The first few weeks will be exceptionally busy as clients are forwarded who have been held back following the closure of New Deal earlier in the year.

The DWP is tendering for WP pr Page 79s to deliver a Families with Complex

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Needs contract. 7 providers have contacted Sefton, and because of the Council's excellent track record in work-focussed whole family support, a current total of 4 contractors have offered to sub-contract their delivery in Sefton to Sefton@work and its partners.

Officers are now investigating whether to participate in the first phase roll-out of Community Budgeting, which takes this approach a stage further and generates savings from transforming and integrating family services hitherto independent of each other.

## **10. REECH**

The first Supplier Event was held on 2nd August for contractors selected through the Fusion 21 framework to deliver the retrofit of insulation into the older housing stock under the REECH programme. This is the first of several such events to maximise the local benefits of the £18m programme to the city region. All companies who meet the criteria will be allocated an appointment for the Meet the Buyer event at Aintree Racecourse on 31 August.

Each of the nine participating RSLs has also agreed to prepare an Employment Plan detailing how they will open up employment, training and skills opportunities to the local community.

## **11. Employment Development**

The redevelopment of the available land at Southport Business Park and on the Senate Business Park, both sites which are owned by the Council, have been severely hampered by the recession which impacted significantly on the ability of developers to borrow the necessary bank finance. Indications are now such that developers are now showing some interest in initiating speculative development which may show some promise for these sites. Elsewhere there is interest being shown by developers in bringing forward new business premises on the Former switch Car Site, the Peerless Refinery site and Atlantic Park. Officers will continue to promote and support proposals for these sites as they to come forward.

## **12. StepClever Property Project**

The StepClever Property Project is now in its final year and there is a push to ensure that the remaining approved projects do progress to financial completion. Whilst there have been only two projects in the Sefton area there are a number that are very close to the Sefton boundary that will provide employment opportunities to Sefton Residents. These include the Liverpool Film Academy and the St Mary's Walton project both very close to Derby Ward boundaries and the Rotunda Project which is a short distance from both the Linacre and Derby Ward boundaries.

## **13. Southport Market Refurbishment**

The project has been delayed as the initial contractor, ROK Ltd, was unfortunately placed in administration. The works have however now recommenced with a new contractor Lockwoods Construction (Liverpool) Ltd.

Works are now proceeding well and is currently due to complete in accordance with the revised contract completion date of 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Discussions are however underway with the contractor aimed at improving upon the existing completion date in order that the Market can play a full role within the Southport Food Festival, which is scheduled for June 2012.



The development of proposals for gateway features and infrastructure works, which will provide facilities for occasional outdoor markets, is underway.

The Lettings consultant Quaterbridge Ltd, report that take up of stall leases for the new facility is proceeding well.

All funding for the project has been secured and the projected final outturn cost is within the total amount of funding available.

## **14. Southport Cultural Center**

Works on site are well underway, the appointed contractor being Bovis Lend Lease Ltd, now re-branded as simply Lend Lease Ltd.

External funding for the project, provided by the NWDA and Sea Change Grant has been reduced, as a result of Central Government funding reductions, to £7,908,000. This means the total funding availability is revised to £15,608,000.

The expenditure necessary to meet the external funder draw down requirements to the end of the 2010/2011 financial year was achieved. The funders have now been provided with the information necessary to allow receipt of the grant funding in full.

A process of Value engineering has been carried out, and is ongoing, to address funding shortfalls and to ensure that the best possible value is achieved from the available funding provision.

The progress on the project has been delayed to some extent, due to a number of factors, including the uncovering of faults or matters of particular conservation interests, which are always likely in buildings of this nature. The contractor and design team are currently however holding 6 weekly workshops aiming to mitigate the impact of any delays and ensure that that existing completion date is achieved.

A detail report on progress, including an update on the projects financial position, will be provided to Cabinet in the near future.

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<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>DEPARTMENT: STREET SCENE</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Cllr John Fairclough	Transportation	July to August 2011

## **SCHOOL CROSSING SERVICE**

### **Standardised School Holidays**

Following a two year consultation process an agreement was reached with the five Merseyside Authorities to introduce a standardised year across all schools. This was to provide a more structured holiday period for parents, school workers, and those in similar professions as all schools would be closed at the same time. It would also negate the need for overtime payments for School Crossing Patrols at a cost to this service. Most School Crossing Patrols cover more than one school and in the past could work for a number of days over the official finish dates due to schools deciding to close at different times. This again previously proved difficult when trying to cover locations and authorise overtime payments from a service with a limited budget.

Unfortunately, during recent holiday periods this year, several schools in Sefton have not adhered to the agreement. Cover was provided at short notice in this instance for the safety of the children. However, negotiations are once again ongoing with those schools who wish to operate outside of the agreement to try and ensure a safe and economically viable way forward.

## **SEFTON SECURITY**

### **New Business Opportunities**

Requests for alarm installations, CCTV and alarm monitoring and static security services have risen throughout the past year despite most sectors feeling the effects of the recession. Sefton Security has invested in a range of new technologies which will allow for additional growth over the coming year. This will provide both additional income to the Council and also contribute further to the additional savings required over the coming years. Officers are awaiting the outcome of Tender Submissions for security work for the NHS in Manchester and Speke, and for intruder alarm work for the Corporate Property Services in West Lancashire. The Service is also currently undertaking a wide range of new installations in North Wales and Manchester, coupled with new local installations at Davenhill School, Southport Market Hall, Thornton College, Netherton Activity Centre and Splash World.

### **Depot Security System Upgrade**

A major security upgrade has been undertaken at Hawthorne Road Depot with the installation of a comprehensive intruder alarm system, a perimeter notification system, and a 48 camera CCTV system, all linked to the control room at Sefton Security for out of hours monitoring. In addition, a 'Voice over IP system' has been installed which will allow security and monitoring staff to speak directly to any person who is seen on site, day or night.

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Access to the Depot will be via a remote controlled gate, once again operated via the Sefton Security control room. To assist in the day to day traffic management and vehicle/visitor monitoring at the Depot an ANPR (Automatic Number Plate Recognition) system has also been installed. The cost of this upgrade is less than the cost of current security arrangements, and as a business model, this system will be promoted to a wider audience to hopefully generate additional revenues.

## **Successful Tender Award**

Sefton Security has been awarded a contract for the annual inspection of fire alarms and emergency lighting at some school sites in Sefton. The award follows a tender process undertaken by Capita on behalf of the Council and demonstrates that Sefton Security is able to provide works at rates which represent better value to the Council than those offered by external contactors.

## **Asbestos Removal**

Prior to completing the extension to the Alarm Receiving Centre (ARC) at Linacre Lane, and the subsequent increase in monitoring capacity, a works programme has commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2011 to remove asbestos from the roof space of the building. Despite major upheaval and the closure of all first floor office accommodation in the building, Sefton Security continues to provide all scheduled and contracted services to all customers and clients. The asbestos removal programme is due to be completed by mid October 2011.

## **Civil Unrest Response**

During the recent period of potential civil unrest, Sefton Security played a pivotal role in the co-ordination and deployment of resources, as well as the identification of both potential trouble hotspots and perpetrators.

Comments and praise received for the efforts of Sefton Security includes:

*"I would like to express my real thanks to our colleagues in the control room at Sefton Security. Throughout the two evenings their work has been of central importance in alerting all our colleagues to the potential risk and escalation of any incidents. As a consequence the Police have been able to deploy resources immediately and 'nip things in the bud'.*

The role of the Control Room (ARC) and staff on duty was mentioned and praised by the Police at de-brief meetings and thanks were noted in the minutes of the meetings.

## **Apprenticeship Programme**

Sefton Security introduced an apprenticeship programme for four new apprentices who will start with the Service in early October 2011. The apprentices will gain invaluable experience across a range of intruder alarm, fire alarm and CCTV installations, as well as door entry systems, lone worker devices, static and mobile security protocols, and portable appliance testing. In addition to the practical components of the apprenticeship, those selected will also attend college to undertake a range of NVQ qualifications which will further help their career aspirations.

## **VEHICLE MAINTENANCE**

### **VOSA – Operator Licence Risk Score**

The Vehicle Operator Services Agency (VOSA) is responsible for monitoring 'Operator Licence Holders' on behalf of the Traffic Commissioner. As such, the Vehicle Maintenance Services at Hawthorne Road Depot are regularly subjected to external assessment. The latest Assessment has produced an outstanding rating for the services we offer. The 'Operator Licence Risk Score' is based on a percentage score related to the risks associated with operating the service. In both 'Road Worthiness' and 'Overall Traffic Score' the service was awarded 'top ten percentile', meaning that the services offered are better than at least 90% of all other facilities assessed nationwide. These are the best scores which can be achieved. The VOSA has rated the service "as an excellent operator demonstrating excellent history of roadworthiness, based on both MOT Test history and roadside checks". Such praise at a national level will greatly assist in further developing the services offered at the Depot in coming months to generate additional revenues from expanded services such as Pre HGV Test Inspections, including roller brake, smoke emission and headlight aim tests, and service and repairs of HGV Vehicles.

### **MOT Testing Licence**

Having recently secured a contract to undertake pre-HGV inspections for a private sector fleet of 85 vehicles, the Vehicle Maintenance Section has been developing plans to further enhance the service to our in-house fleet, whilst also taking the opportunity to develop business opportunities to create additional revenues and reduce the cost of vehicle maintenance to the Council fleet. The Vehicle Maintenance Section has now been awarded an MOT Testing Licence allowing more work to be undertaken and certificated in-house. This facility can now also be used to generate additional revenues for the service and the Council.

## **SPECIALIST TRANSPORT UNIT (STU)**

### **New Service Provision**

The STU has recently commenced providing all transport requirements for the 'Looked After Children' service through the framework agreements negotiated by the STU. Daytime requirements are met via the in-house vehicle fleet and staff, with additional vehicles and resources provided as required. The initial reactions from the service providers are that all requests are being met in a timely and cost effective manner, and at a cheaper cost than previously expended via direct bookings with private sector providers.

The STU now provides transport on a regular and pre-planned basis for members of the Sefton Council Planning Committee, who are required to visit premises and locations as part of the local planning process. This is again at a cheaper cost than previously expended directly with private sector providers.

The STU has undertaken its first 'private trip' for an independent care home, who have then been subsequently invoiced accordingly. It is proposed to extend this area of service provision much further over the coming months, which will assist in further reducing the cost of providing transport within Sefton to 'internal' customers.

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## Vehicle Fleet Review

The new transport operating system known as 'Cleric' is due to be introduced at the start of the new academic year in September 2011. In addition, the new framework agreements for external buses and taxis will also be adopted at this time. As part of a review of resource allocation, a number of changes to staff rotas and existing vehicle capacity and deployment have been made prior to the start of the new term. This has resulted in the decommissioning of five vehicles from the fleet coupled with the resultant budgetary savings in terms of maintenance, fuel, repairs, etc. The in-house fleet now consists of 25 'ambulance' type vehicles and 2 'minibus' type vehicles, down from a total of 32 vehicles. The service provision is unaffected by this reduction as the STU are able to accommodate both current and increased usage levels with less vehicles.

## CATERING SERVICES

### School Meals Uptake Data

The School Food Trust annual survey results for 2010/11 have recently been released which shows that Sefton Council's catering Service is performing very well.

The 2010/11 uptake figures are as follows:

Primary / Special Schools uptake -	43.6% - an <b>increase</b> on 2009/10 of 1.1%
Secondary Schools uptake -	49.1% - an <b>increase</b> on 2009/10 of 4.3%

The national average uptake figures were as follows:

Primary / Special Schools uptake -	44.1%
Secondary Schools uptake -	37.6%

The uptake figure for Secondary Schools is well above the national average and further work is currently being undertaken in order that we may benchmark catering services in Sefton against individual authorities across the country to establish both the costs and efficiencies of our in-house services on a national level.

The Primary School score, whilst still higher than the national average, is very pleasing due to the fact that Sefton has an unusually large number of schools with no on-site cooking facilities. In Sefton, 29% of Primary Schools have no cooking facilities, against the national average of 15%. For these schools, food is cooked at another kitchen and transported to the receiving school. Uptake in such schools with no in-house cooking facilities is significantly lower than those which have their own facilities. In Sefton the uptake in such schools is 6.4% lower than schools which have their own facilities.

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Street Scene and Transportation	July - August 2011

**1. Thornton Switch Island Link**

A briefing note on the progress of the Statutory Orders process for the Thornton to Switch Island Link was provided to Leaders early in July. A report was also presented to Overview & Scrutiny (Performance and Corporate Services) Committee on 12 July 2011. The key issue to be addressed before the Compulsory Purchase Order and Sides Road Order can be published is the acquisition of land owned by the Forestry Commission (part of the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs). Officers from Strategic Transportation Planning Unit, Legal Services and Capita Symonds Property Management have been pursuing the completion of an agreement as a priority action. Heads of Terms for an agreement are in the process of being agreed and a response from the Forestry Commission is expected by 29 July 2011. This should enable the agreement to be finalised and steps taken toward agreeing a completion date. Once a completion date has been agreed, the reports authorising the making of the Orders can be taken to Cabinet and an Orders Publication Date can be confirmed.

Negotiations with other land owners are also proceeding alongside the Orders process.

**2. Port Master Plan and Port Access Study**

The public consultation on the Mersey Ports Master Plan – A 20 year Strategy for Growth has been taking place between 6 June and 5 September. Two exhibitions have been held in Sefton, at Crosby Civic Hall on 21 June and at Bootle Town Hall on 21 July. The basis of a Sefton Council response to the Master Plan consultation has been prepared and is being reported to Cabinet Members Regeneration and Housing, Transportation and Environment and to Planning Committee. The response recognises the potential economic value of the Port expansion proposals, but also identifies the need to address the resulting environmental impacts on local communities.

Stage 2 of the Port Access Study is also nearing completion and is expected to be published early in September. The study has assessed the future transport requirements of the Port, including the impacts of potential Port expansion and identifies short term and long term packages of transport interventions as a means of accommodating transport access to and from the Port. A non-technical summary of the study is being prepared, which will be made widely available once completed.

**3. LTP3**

Sefton is continuing to work with Merseytravel and the other Merseyside authorities on the delivery of the LTP3 implementation programme. Sefton's LTP programme addresses the transport priorities approved by Cabinet on 3 March 2011. An update of the 2011/12 LTP Capital Programme (report dated 8 July 2011) was recently reported to Cabinet Member.

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## 4. Local Transport Schemes

Work on delivery of the LTP Capital Programme for 2011/12 is underway, with numerous schemes in the design process and some commencing construction.

The Linacre Lane/Hawthorne Road junction improvement scheme has been completed. Four local safety schemes are commencing design and the proposals for the Formby Bypass/North End Lane junction will be reported to Formby Area Committee in September. The improvements to the Hicks Road junction as part of the A565 Route Management Strategy are being implemented during the summer holidays and the proposals for the College Road junction are planned for implementation later this financial year, subject to Area Committee approval in September. Proposals to improve the entry junction to the retail park on the A59 in Aintree are also being taken forward this financial year.

## 5. Local Sustainable Transport Fund

We were informed on 5 July that the cross-boundary bid with West Lancashire Borough Council to support the visitor economy across the two authorities had been successful securing £1.55m over the next 4 years. The success of the bid was reported to Cabinet on 21 July and Cabinet Member – Street Scene and Transportation on 22 July. The funds secured will be used to:

- Allow the continued operation and expansion of the Southport Cycle Hire Scheme. The funds will also allow further marketing of the scheme to promote cycle maintenance and increased usage. The aim being to further build the scheme to achieve self sufficiency at the end of the funding in 2015.
- Allow the reopening of the Kew Park and Ride site for the school summer holidays and then weekends up until the first weekend in October. Will also allow for improved signage and marketing for this period.
- Provide a staff resource through one officer directly employed by Sefton Council to develop & promote the visitor offer. The officer will coordinate the activity, liaise with the private and community sector participants and raise the profile of the area as somewhere to visit if you want to walk, cycle and enjoy wildlife. Will also include a specific community development component to be delivered by a partnership of Sefton CVS and West Lancashire CVS. The CVS led element consists of a multi-agency approach, using their existing networks of community organisations to engage local people, especially those in deprived neighbourhoods, to enable them to use the leisure opportunities available in the area and encourage more sustainable travel.
- Provide a series of small scale infrastructure improvements to aid access to local centres and attractions by sustainable means. When working with local businesses we would aim to achieve a 50/50 contribution split between the business and the project.
- Further develop leisure routes and facilities - Sefton and West Lancashire currently offer a variety of popular and well used opportunities for leisure walking and cycling. As part of the bid proposal to support the visitor economy, the activity to develop and promote the visitor offer described above will seek to make the most of these existing resources.



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However, there is also a need to improve the condition of the existing infrastructure in places and to provide new routes to fill gaps in the network and provide links between the different elements of the existing network.

- The bid led by Merseytravel which concentrated on access to employment opportunities has also been successful in securing £4.88m from the fund with the elements of the scheme in Sefton totalling £725k. The details of this project will be reported to Cabinet Member during August

## **6. Procurement of Highway Maintenance Contracts.**

Contracts were approved for award at Cabinet on 26 May. At the time of writing this report all contracts have been issued by our Legal Department to all contractors for their signatures. Early indications suggest a reduction in rates which will benefit the Council and go some way to counteract the reduction in the highway management budget. The Ground Maintenance contract has been issued to ensure the highway grassed areas are cut as soon as practical.

## **7. Additional Government “Pothole” Funding**

The authority has been allocated £613,000 to help to deal with the effects of the severe winter. Discussions have taken place and Cabinet Member kept informed. As discussed with Cabinet Member, the larger patch programme has delivered circa £300k worth of repairs to date and we are on target for completion by end of September in line with the DFT requirements. Undertaking larger patch repairs will hopefully negate this effect and result in more robust and longer lasting maintenance. Regular update reports will be shared with Cabinet Member.

## **8. Micro Asphalt and Surface Dressing**

Problems were experienced with the delivery of these programmes during financial year 2010/11. Some sites remained uncompleted and some required remediation work. Whilst some of this can be put down to poor weather at key times last summer and the extreme weather experiences last winter, nevertheless, the contractors are obliged to undertake all necessary remedial works at their own expense. Micro Asphalt Contractors have completed all defect works with a small percentage of lining still to be finished. The 2011-12 works programme are due to start in August 11 and will take 6 to 7 weeks to deliver subject to weather conditions.

## **9. Winter Service Consultation**

The consultation period has now expired and responses are currently being reviewed by the Network Department and are to be reported to Members in due course following completion of the report at the end of August 11.

## **10. Winter Service Procurement**

Sefton has taken the lead in procuring weather forecasting and supporting bureau services for Merseyside. The pre-qualification questionnaire process has been completed with tenders due back on 9 June. Results will be reported to Cabinet Member in due course.

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## 11. **Blue Badge Scheme**

The Department for Transport are beginning to progress the proposals to amend the Blue Badge scheme and officers in Sefton are involved in a number of working groups which will progress the details of the changes.

The amendments to the scheme which include the establishment of a national Blue Badge Database to assist with enforcement, a more secure badge design which will be centrally printed and distributed and the introduction of an on-line application form through Directgov are due to be implemented on 1 January 2012. There will be a charge for this service and to enable authorities to meet this cost it is also proposed to increase the maximum that can be charged for a Blue Badge from £2 to £10. The above will be the subject of a series of reports through Cabinet Member over the coming months

## 12. **Parking Enforcement Contract**

The above contract is due for renewal in April 2012 and work has started to commence the tender process for the contract which will run for 5 years.

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Date of Meeting:** 20 September 2011  
(Regeneration and Environmental Services)

**Subject:** Key Decision Forward Plan - 1 September 2011 to 31 December 2011

**Report of:** Director of Corporate Commissioning

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

**Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No

**Exempt/Confidential**

No

## Purpose/Summary

To submit to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the latest Key Decision Forward Plan.

## Recommendation(s)

1. That the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan attached as Appendix A;
2. That the Committee nominate a Member to sit on the "Port Master Plan" Working Group; and
3. That consideration be given to deferring the Rimrose Valley Working Group until the findings of the Port Master Plan Working Group have been drafted.

## How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

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

**Reasons for the Recommendation:**

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The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

Other decisions are required to enable the Committee to effectively carry out its overview and scrutiny role in health related matters.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed? N / A**

**(A) Revenue Costs N/A**

**(B) Capital Costs N/A**

**Implications: N/A**

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impact on Service Delivery: N/A**

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no financial implications. **FD968 /2011**

**Are there any other options available for consideration?**

The Head of Corporate Legal Services has no comments on this report because the contents of the report have no legal implications. **LD320/11**

**Implementation Date for the Decision N/A**

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

**Contact Officer:** Ruth Harrison

**Tel:** 0151 934 2042

**Email:** [ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## Introduction/Background

### 1. **Pre-Scrutiny – Prior Consideration of Reports Before they are Submitted to Cabinet**

- 1.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan. Such items must fall under the remit (Terms of Reference) of this Committee.
- 1.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 1.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.
- 1.4 ***The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the attached Key Decision Forward Plan.***

### 2. **Rimrose Valley Working Group**

- 2.1 The Committee began a review of the Rimrose Valley in the last Municipal Year. This Working Group met three times in 2010/11 and at the meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2011 it was proposed that a request to continue this review in 2011/12 would be put forward to the first available meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services). The following Members have been appointed as Members of the Working Group:-

Councillor K. Cluskey (Lead Member)  
Councillor Papworth  
Councillor Welsh

- 2.2 In light of the proposal to set up a cross-cutting working group on the Port Master Plan (paragraph 3 below). Members maybe minded to defer the Rimrose Valley Working Group until the Port Master Plan Working Group have carried out there review.

### 3. **Overview and Scrutiny Management Board**

- 3.1 At its meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> August 2011, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, proposed the establishment of a cross-cutting working group on the Port Master Plan.

The following issues to be included were:-

- Inclusion of the Port Access study (Department of Transport Document)
- Peel Holdings (at docks)
- Access could be affected
- Economic benefits
- Rimrose Valley could be impacted.

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*The Committee is requested to support the establishment of a cross-cutting working group on the Port Master Plan and to nominate a Member to sit on this.*

## **4. Future Topics For Review – Work Plan 2011/2012**

- 4.1 Paragraph 2 above refers to the the Rimrose Valley Working Group and the brief to investigate the future sustainable use of that area.
- 4.2 This Committee has been active in promoting the use of mini reviews/single item meetings which has benefited the Council by being more productive and adding value with reduced resources. The Committee will continue to operate in this way.
- 4.3 Members may wish to give consideration, as to topics for review in line with the Committee's terms of reference. Committees are required to undertake no more than two in-depth reviews per year. However it is also recommended that Committee's retain capacity to allow for any urgent pieces of work that maybe required of them.
- 4.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board suggested the possibility of setting up a Working Group to examine Public Transport to include:-
  - Bus services and cancellation of certain ARRIVA services
  - Impact on the public
  - Integrated Transport Plan.
- 4.5 The Head of Governance and Civic Services has recommended that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee set up no more than one Working Group.

## **5. Financial Implications – Rimrose Valley Working Group**

- 5.1 The head of Corporate Finance and ICT has no comments on this report. Any proposals relating to the future use of the Rimrose Valley will need to be subject to a full financial appraisal should the proposals require any capital or revenue funding by the Council.



## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 SEPTEMBER 2011 - 31 DECEMBER 2011**

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public 14 days before the beginning of each month.

A Key Decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

1. 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;
2. 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

As a matter of local choice, the Forward Plan also includes the details of any significant issues to be initially considered by the Executive Cabinet and submitted to the Full Council for approval.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each Key Decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision may not be taken, unless:

- it is published in the Forward Plan;
- 5 clear days have lapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- if the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, 5 clear days notice of the meeting has been given.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 15 (General Exception) and Rule 16 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport PR8 1DA or accessed from the Council's website: [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

- Council Constitution
- Forward Plan
- Reports on the Key Decisions to be taken
- The minutes for each Key Decision, which will normally be published within 5 working days after having been made

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Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet and the individual Cabinet Members which are held at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle or the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport. Video conferencing facilities are available at both venues for the Cabinet Member meetings. The dates and times of the meetings are published on [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk) or you may contact the Committee and Member Services Section on telephone number 0151 934 2068.

**NOTE:**

*For ease of identification, items listed within the document for the first time will appear shaded.*

**Margaret Carney**  
**Chief Executive**



## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Housing Market Renewal – Property Acquisitions (Compulsory Purchase Orders and Transition Funding)			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	15 September 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Linacre; Litherland			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Not applicable			
Method(s) of Consultation	Not applicable			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Not applicable			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Lee Payne		
	E-mail Address	<a href="mailto:lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk">lee.payne@sefton.gov.uk</a>		
	Telephone No	0151 934 4842		
	Consultation Deadline Date	Not applicable		

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Atkinson Centre Acceptance of Heritage Lottery Grant for the fit out of the museum galleries in the Atkinson Centre			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	15 September 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Ainsdale; Birkdale; Cambridge; Dukes; Kew; Meols; Norwood			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Not applicable			
Method(s) of Consultation	Not applicable			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report of the Head of Health and Wellbeing			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	John Taylor		
	E-mail address Telephone No	john.taylor@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2374		
	Consultation Deadline Date	Not applicable		

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Sustainable Energy Action Plan Development of a Sustainable Energy Action Plan for the sub-region			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	15 September 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Housing, Transportation and Environmental Place Directorate			
Method(s) of Consultation	Cabinet Member reports and internal meetings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report to Cabinet Members for Regeneration and Housing, Transportation and Environmental			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Mo Kundi		
	E-mail address Telephone No	mo.kundi@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3447		
	Consultation Deadline Date	Ongoing		

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Crosby and Waterloo Car Parks - Charges Amendments to Parking Charges at Crosby Car Parks and Introduction of Parking Charges at Seafront Car Parks in Waterloo and Crosby			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	15 September 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Blundellsands; Church			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Residents and Businesses			
Method(s) of Consultation	Press advertisement and direct contact with Business Organisations following Cabinet decision			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision- maker	Report to Cabinet of the 27th January 2011, Increase in Parking Charges – Crosby Car Parks			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Dave Marrin		
	E-mail address Telephone No	dave.marrin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4295		
	Consultation Deadline Date	Following the expiration of the consultation period specified in the press notice		

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Adoption of the Southport Town Centre Retail Strategy and its recommendations			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	15 September 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Ainsdale; Birkdale; Cambridge; Dukes; Harington; Kew; Meols; Norwood; Ravenmeols			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Mo Kundi, Stuart Waldron and Tony Corfield, Places Directorate  Mark Catherall, Southport Partnership			
Method(s) of Consultation	Report to Cabinet Member - Regeneration passed to officers for comment			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Southport Town Centre Retail Strategy 'Retail Strategy Review Update 2009 and Health Checks for Southport and Bootle' approved by Cabinet Member -Regeneration, Cabinet and Planning Committee in August 2009			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Alan Young		
	E-mail Address Telephone No	alan.young@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3551		
	Consultation Deadline Date	25 February 2011		

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	ERDF 4.2 Merseyside Business Support Programme			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	15 September 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Housing, Sefton Borough Partnership Sefton Chamber of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses, South Sefton Development Trust, Sefton Economic Forum, Job Centre Plus, LSC and Sefton businesses			
Method(s) of Consultation	Website and email consultation, direct consultation with Cabinet Members, Sefton Borough Partnership and Business Associations			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Merseyside Business Support Programme and ERDF 4.2 application form			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Mike Mullin		
	E-mail Address Telephone No	mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442		
	Consultation Deadline Date	31st July 2011		

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Thornton Switch Island Link Scheme - Compulsory Purchase Orders To seek approval for the publication of the draft Compulsory Purchase Order and draft Side Roads Order			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	15 September 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Manor; Park; St. Oswald			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Local residents/landowners Area Committees/ Parish Councils Statutory Authorities/ Agencies			
Method(s) of Consultation	Letters Local newspaper advertisements			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report on progress of the scheme and detailed justification for making of the Orders			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Stephen Birch		
	E-mail address Telephone No	stephen.birch@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4225		
	Consultation Deadline Date	11 March 2011		

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Thornton Switch Island Link Scheme - Design Stage and Project Management Arrangements To approve the start of work on the detailed design stage of the Thornton Switch Island scheme and to approve changes in project management arrangements			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	13 October 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Manor; Park; St. Oswald			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Not applicable			
Method(s) of Consultation	Not applicable			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Previous reports to Cabinet on the progress of the scheme			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Stephen Birch		
	E-mail address Telephone No	stephen.birch@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4225		
	Consultation Deadline Date	Not applicable		



## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Regional Growth Fund Bid for the North Liverpool and South Sefton Strategic Regeneration Framework To approve the acceptance of any offer letters in connection with Regional Growth Fund Bids, where the Council is the accountable body. To report on any known private sector led bids relevant to Sefton.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	13 October 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Derby; Linacre			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Housing			
Method(s) of Consultation	Report to Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Housing passed to officers for comment			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report to Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Housing on 13th June confirming permission to be part of bid process			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Mark Long		
	E-mail address Telephone No	mark.long@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3471		
	Consultation Deadline Date	Not Applicable		

# Agenda Item 12

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	To approve the publication version of the Merseyside and Halton Waste Plan for public consultation			
Decision Maker	Council			
Decision Expected	27 October 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Consultation to take place following approval			
Method(s) of Consultation	Not applicable at this stage			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report of consultation on "Preferred Options 2: New Sites report".			
Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Steve Matthews		
	E-mail Address Telephone No	steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3559		
	Consultation Deadline Date	Not applicable at this stage		

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	King's Gardens, Southport To approve the detailed proposals to restore King's Gardens, Southport which are being developed for the Council's Stage 2 bid to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF). Cabinet approval to submit the detailed Stage 2 bid will be required prior to HLF's deadline of December 2011. Authorisation to proceed with Stage 2 was granted following the meeting of Cabinet held 15th April 2010 and the project is included in the Capital Programme.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	10 November 2011			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Wards Affected	Ainsdale; Birkdale; Cambridge; Dukes; Kew; Meols; Norwood			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Environmental Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	All Sefton Council departments. Ongoing community consultation is being progressed in accordance with the Heritage Lottery Fund guidance and Sefton Council's Consultation Panel standards.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Extensive community participation, surveys, reviews, focus groups, family fun days, etc. Presentation of draft and final proposals by way of community events and activities, use of display boards in vacant retail premises.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Area Committee Report, 31st March 2010; Cabinet Report, 15th April 2010 Area Committee Report, 25th May, 2011 King's Gardens Stage 1 HLF bid Southport Investment Strategy Heritage Lottery Fund Parks for People guidance notes.			

# Agenda Item 12

Representations may be made to the following Officer(s) by the date specified	Officer(s)	Rajan Paul, Mark Shaw
	E-mail address Telephone No	rajan.paul@sefton.gov.uk, mark.shaw@leisyre.sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2370,
	Consultation Deadline Date	Ongoing until Cabinet approval

## CONTACT DETAILS

### HOW TO MAKE REPRESENTATIONS TO DECISION TAKER

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