



COUNCIL SUMMONS

To Members of the Metropolitan Borough Council

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to

be held on **Thursday 23rd January, 2014 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Southport**

to transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Southport

Wednesday 15 January 2014

Please contact Steve Pearce, Democratic Services Manager
on 0151 934 2046 or e-mail steve.pearce@sefton.gov.uk

We endeavour to provide a reasonable number of full agendas, including reports at the meeting. If you wish to ensure that you have a copy to refer to at the meeting, please can you print off your own copy of the agenda pack prior to the meeting.

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AGENDA

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested to give notice of any disclosable pecuniary interest, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests and the nature of that interest, relating to any item on the agenda in accordance with the Members Code of Conduct, before leaving the meeting room during the discussion on that particular item.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(Pages 9 - 18)

Minutes of the meeting held on 21 November 2013

4. Mayor's Communications

Public Session

5. Matters Raised by the Public

To deal with matters raised by members of the public resident within the Borough, of which notice has been given in accordance with the procedures relating to public questions, motions or petitions set out in Paragraph 36 to 46 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

Council Business Session

6. Questions Raised by Members of the Council

To receive and consider questions to Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Spokespersons for any of the Joint Authorities upon any matter within their portfolio/area of responsibility, of which notice has been given by Members of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 48 to 50 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, set out in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

7. Strategic Asset Management Plan

(Pages 19 -
38)

Report of the Director of Built Environment

8. Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2014/2015, Change to Council Tax Discount for Unoccupied Properties from 1st April 2014 and updating the Council Tax Base 2014/15

(Pages 39 -
96)

Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT

- 9. Pay Policy** (Pages 97 - 118)
Report of the Head of Corporate Personnel
- 10. Re-adoption of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976** (Pages 119 - 122)
Report of the Head of Corporate Legal Services
- 11. Membership of Committees 2013/14**
To consider any changes to the Membership of any Committees etc.
- 12. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Robertson**
To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Robertson:
- “That this Council wishes to be seen to be fully signed up to the localism agenda that all 3 major political parties support both in broad terms and in many areas of detail.
- To this end we welcome and support in principle proposals from Parish Councils, community groups and local charities who wish to assist in running services that the Borough Council can't find the resources to sustain such as libraries, youth facilities, community halls etc.”
- 13. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Robertson**
To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Robertson:
- "This Council
- (1) welcomes new investment in road and rail but is concerned that the transport plans of local transport authorities, including that of Lancashire County Council, should give appropriate priority to the transport needs of the Borough of Sefton and people travelling into the Borough from places outside Merseyside;
 - (2) recognises the economic importance to the Borough of transport links to Lancashire and Greater Manchester;
 - (3) commits itself to work in conjunction with West Lancashire Borough Council and Lancashire County Council to engage further with neighbouring transport authorities to ensure these links are preserved and

enhanced; and

- (4) requires a report to be prepared for and submitted to Cabinet at an early date indicating how these aims may best be achieved.”

14. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Hardy

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Hardy:

“This Council:

- (1) Expresses deep concern about both:
 - (i) the proliferation of high cost, short term lenders on our high streets and the increasing number of people becoming trapped in a cycle of long-term debt due to the extremely high interest rates charged by these companies; and
 - (i) the proliferation of betting shops on our high streets and particularly the huge increase in the number of high stakes, fixed odds betting terminals.
- (2) Notes that:
 - (i) there are an estimated 1 million families a month nationally taking out payday loans, including many families in Sefton; and
 - (ii) there are over 33,000 fixed odds betting terminal machines in the UK making about £1.5 billion profit each year, causing debt and creating anti-social behaviour in many deprived neighbourhoods.
- (3) Commits to working to tackle these problems in Sefton and protect vulnerable residents and employees through the following action:-
- (4) Requests the Chief Executive to write to the Minister for Employment Relations and Consumer Affairs to lobby the Government to:
 - (i) Look again at introducing a cap on interest rates charged by high cost, short term lenders;
 - (ii) Introduce restrictions around the practice of ‘rolling over’ loans given the OFT’s recent findings regarding the proportion of revenue generated through charges associated with this practice;

- (iii) Introduce restrictions on the number of fixed odds betting terminal machines allowed in each shop, reduce the maximum stake allowed and increase the time between each game; and
- (iv) Re-designate high interest lenders and betting shops within the Town and Country Planning Act so as to require planning permission to be granted before certain establishments can be converted into high interest loan or betting shops.”

15. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Dawson

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Dawson:

“This Council

- (1) welcomes the enthusiasm with which many businesses within Southport have actively endorsed the proposal to create a Business Improvement District (BID) in the central area of Southport;
- (2) notes the unanimous support for the proposed Southport BID of the Southport Area Committee and Sefton MBC Cabinet;
- (3) believes that a BID in the central area of Southport will contribute to a revival of Southport town centre led by the town's business community;
- (4) encourages businesses in the central Southport area who are eligible to vote in the matter to support the BID in the forthcoming ballot; and
- (5) as one of the major business ratepayers in the proposed Southport BID area, endorses the decision of the Cabinet to vote 'Yes' to the BID.”

16. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Keith

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Keith:

“This Council:

- (1) welcomes the relaunch by the NSPCC of the Underwear Rule campaign which provides parents and professionals with an easy way to start simple conversations with children that could help keep them safe from sexual abuse;
- (2) believes that everyone has a role to play to help

prevent the sexual abuse of children and that all children have the right to be happy and safe;

- (3) to this end, the Council will do its utmost to support the campaign both across Council staff, Children's centres and foster carers; and
- (4) will encourage all Sefton Primary Schools to take up the NSPCC Child Line training for primary school children. This training includes the key message that children's bodies belong to them and no one can touch it without their permission. Children have the right to refuse a kiss or a touch, even from a person they love. No one should touch them on the part of their body that their swimwear or underwear covers. The schools service programme creates a safe space for children and staff to discuss their understanding of what can be complex and embarrassing issues;

The Council will endeavour to share these key messages with parents, carers and agencies that work with children.”