



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 6th March, 2014 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Bootle** to transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours sincerely,



Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Southport

Wednesday 26 February 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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A G E N D A

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

Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2014

(Pages 11 -
22)

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 Paragraphs 48 to 50 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, set out in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

7. Recorded Votes at Council Budget Meetings

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

(Pages 23 -
26)

8. Establishment of a Combined Authority for the Liverpool City Region

Report of the Chief Executive to follow

9. **Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2014/15** (Pages 27 - 52)
Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT
10. **The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities - Prudential Indicators 2014/15** (Pages 53 - 64)
Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT
11. **Capital Programme 2013/14 and Capital Allocations 2014/15** (Pages 65 - 76)
Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT
12. **Local Government Act 2003 - Chief Financial Officer's Requirements - Robustness Report** (Pages 77 - 84)
Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT
13. **Statements by Political Group Leaders**
To receive statements by the Leaders of the three Political Groups on the Revenue Budget for 2014/15
14. **Revenue Budget 2014/15** (Pages 85 - 116)
Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT
15. **Budget and Council Tax Recommendation 2014/15** (Pages 117 - 136)
Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT
- (A copy of the draft Budget Resolution will be circulated at the Council Meeting)**
16. **Membership of Committees 2013/14**
To consider any changes to the Membership of any committees etc.
17. **Council Constitution - Call - In and Urgency Provisions** (Pages 137 - 142)
Report of the Leader of the Council
18. **Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Sir Ron Watson**
To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Sir Ron Watson:

"The Council recognises the significant amount of funding received under the Discretionary Housing Payments which in 2013-14 is £547,790.00 together with the additional sum of £140,000 which was applied for separately in the light of the Council;s experience.

The Council is concerned, however, that the spare room subsidy commonly known as the Bedroom Tax does not adequately represent the position of people with disabilities and urges the Government to ensure that disabled people who are in receipt of the higher level of DLA payment should be exempt from the system.

The Council also believes that in respect of Sefton, consideration should be given to the involvement of Elected Members in determining the allocation of funding in respect of applications received for exemption."

19. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Lappin

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Lappin and seconded by Councillor Hardy:

The Government's Welfare Reforms and the impact on the lives of people in Sefton

"Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council faces unprecedented levels of cuts to its budget due to the Government's austerity measures.

Since 2010, the Council has reduced the amount of money it has to spend in real terms by £115 million. Out of every pound available to the Council to spend, 52pence is spent on delivering social care services to vulnerable adults and children in support of its core purpose of protecting the most vulnerable members of our community. This accounts for 52% of the budget available to spend, £116m out of a total budget of £224m. In 2015/2016 and 2016/2017 the Council needs to further reduce its budget by a further £55m.

Sefton Council is extremely concerned that the impact of these cuts, added to the impact of the Government's welfare reforms, will cause long term and irreversible damage to our adults, to our children, to our families, to our very communities.

Today in Sefton:

- 4 Trussell Trust food banks had been established since May 2013 – one each in Southport, South Sefton, Crosby and Maghull – which to date have helped 4,162 adults and 2,760 children to eat with demand increasing for the services week on week;
- There has been over 8,000 applications for our Emergency Limited Assistance Support Fund since it came into place in 2013. The rate of applications has now risen to over 1,000 applications per month;
- 402 referrals have been made to the Sefton Helping Hand

Service for emergency provision of equipment, bedding and cooking facilities;

- Sefton Citizens Advice Bureau has seen a 28% increase in demand for welfare benefits advice since 2011 and a 54% rise in debt relief orders since 2011 – and in terms of clients seeking debt advice, the levels of debt of those clients has increased by 108% in the last year;
- 3,140 people, between October 2012 and June 2013, have had their Job Seekers Allowance or Employment Support Allowance sanctioned due to the changes in conditions as part of the Government’s welfare reform measures;
- Unemployment and youth unemployment rates remain higher than the UK average, with youth unemployment 3% higher than the national rate. The overall International Labour Organisation (ILO) unemployment rate continues to climb and the gap between Sefton and UK continues to widen;
- Sefton’s largest registered social landlord, One Vision Housing, has seen a 23% increase in void properties as a result of welfare reform changes, which has led to 4,963 people on the waiting list for its stock of 2,783 one bedroom properties, and been left with over supply of 2/3/4 bedroom properties due to the introduction of the Bedroom Tax;
- There has been a 489% increase in Discretionary Housing Payments, compared to 2012/13;
- The number of homelessness cases dealt with, and the number of interventions made to prevent homelessness, has increased from 493 cases in 2010-11 to 575 cases in 2012-13, a 16.5% increase, with an anticipation of a similar number in 2013-14; and
- According to a recent study by Joseph Rowntree Foundation, there are now more children in poverty from “working families” than families where no one has paid work and some areas of the Borough, predominantly in the South, have more than half of children living in poverty.

Sefton Metropolitan Council believes that our communities deserve better. It believes that unless action is taken to mitigate these and other issues which affect the quality of lives of its people, Sefton’s service infrastructure will be unable to cope.

Therefore it requests that the Chief Executive writes to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions requesting:

- (1) that a cumulative impact assessment is carried out by the Government on the impact of its welfare reforms on the residents of Sefton (those in paid work, those out of paid work and the children and young people

aged 0-19) as a matter of extreme urgency;

- (2) that the Department of Works and Pensions work in partnership with the Council to reduce the numbers of “benefit sanctions” and their impact on the quality of life for our families and communities; and
- (3) the quality of the benefit entitlement and work capability assessments be significantly improved.

And that the Chief Executive also writes to the United Nations asking them to investigate whether the UK Government is now at risk of breaking the United Nations International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, that sets out minimum standards of access to food, clothing and housing.

Upon receipt, the responses be formally submitted to the Cabinet for consideration.”

20. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Dawson

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Dawson:

“This Council:

- (a) notes that the Local Government Boundary Commission, in its final report of November 1997, concerning the governance of Sefton Metropolitan Borough, recognised the serious difficulties arising from having a borough within which the communities have relatively little in common and concluded:
 - “There are a range of democratic and management arrangements that could be used to address the problem. If these changes are to succeed, they must provide a shared agenda for the Council and those who have been campaigning for Southport to leave Sefton.
 - The encouragement of a culture within Sefton Council which recognises the distinctiveness and importance of Southport and other parts of the borough is needed. We have seen little evidence that Seton Council as a whole has this kind of decentralised approach and thinking. This is reflected in the way in which residents across the borough feel that other areas receive more favourable treatment - which will only change if the Council behaves in a different way.
 - If the government places a duty upon local

authorities to promote the overall social, economic and environmental wellbeing of the communities they serve then Sefton Council will have to decide how it will implement this new obligation. Best value will require local authorities to discuss and agree these plans with their communities and review them on a regular basis. At the very least, these developments will call upon Sefton Council to develop new styles of working with residents throughout its territory.

- We believe that Sefton Council could achieve more efficient and convenient local government throughout the various communities it serves. But how to accomplish this must be a matter for the Council, no doubt following consultation with its residents and after examining the experience of other local authorities. We recognise that this may not be an easy process but we have concluded it is an essential one if the demands for splitting the borough are not to resurface at regular intervals.”
- (b) believes that, over the past 16 years, Sefton MBC has failed to adequately-address the issues clearly-identified by the Local Government Boundary Commission and the Council's performance in the areas identified as needing change has, arguably, deteriorated rather than improved particularly during the past two years. In particular, we note:
1. double-rating of parished areas such as Maghull and Lydiate, meaning that residents in those areas have unfairly been pay twice for the same services;
 2. a programme of library closures which clearly discriminated against residents of individual communities within the Borough; and
 3. the creation of a Sefton Central Area Committee which flies in the face of the purpose of Area Committees in that it has councillors from different communities determining matters which should best be decided upon only by councillors of the communities concerned.
- (c) notes the introduction by the Member of Parliament for Southport of the "Local Government Boundary Commission (Public Representations) Bill 2013-14", due to have its Second Reading on 16th May 2014.
- (d) resolves to write to the Local Government Boundary Committee asking them to return to the Borough of Sefton to conduct a formal Review as to whether the Commission's recommendations in 1997 have been adequately complied with and, if not, to recommend to

the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how these issues should now be addressed.”