



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 24th July, 2014 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Southport** to transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. Carney".

Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Southport

Wednesday 16 July 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 Meetings

(Pages 9 - 28)

Minutes of the Annual Council meeting held on 29 May 2014 and the Adjourned Annual Council meeting held on 3 June 2014

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. Membership of Committees 2014/15

(Pages 29 -
32)

Report of the Director of Corporate Services

8. Capital Scheme Approvals 2014/15

(Pages 33 -
36)

Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT

9. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2013/14

(Pages 37 -
60)

Report attached

10. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Hartill

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Hartill:

“The Council understands that Fracking is the drilling technique where high pressure fluids are forced into the ground as a means of extracting fossil and geothermal fuels such as shale gas.

The Council is aware that:

- There are currently many environmental concerns associated with Fracking. These concerns include worries that the Fracking process can cause small earth tremors.
- There is believed to be a great deal of shale gas and oil under the Sefton Coastline and this will no doubt become a target area for drilling companies
- At this time, the law of “Trespass” protects home owners from Fracking being carried out under built up areas. This is because people and businesses own the land under their properties from the surface down to the earth’s core.
- The Department of Energy and Climate Change are currently carrying out consultation with a view to introducing new legislation that will allow energy companies to carry out Fraking activities below 300 metres in built up areas, without the permission of the owners of the land above.

The Council believe that to suggest such a change in law is a huge breach of civil trust and may even contravene the Human Rights Act regarding the peaceful enjoyment of property and the right to a peaceful life.

The Council requests the Chief Executive to:

1. Write to the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and inform them that the Council does not support, and in fact strongly opposes the proposed changes to the Trespass Law; and
2. Inform the DECC that the Council, as mineral planning authority, is likely to require any potential applicant, who is seeking planning permission to carry out Fracking operations within Sefton, to submit an Environmental Impact Assessment which assesses the potential risk to people, plants, animals, soil, water, climate, landscape ,

architectural and archaeological heritage.”

11. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Robertson

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Robertson:

“That the Council welcomes the publication of the Draft Liverpool City Region Long Term Rail Strategy but is concerned that the Southport - Wigan - Manchester line, which supports commuter travel for Sefton residents living in the north of the Borough, who work in Manchester and the tourist trade/economy in Formby/Southport/North Sefton, is omitted from the report.

The Council calls upon the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority to include this line, and the development and promotion of it in the final draft of the strategy.

All options to upgrade this line need to be fully considered within the strategy and should include:

- Renewal of outdated/inappropriate rolling stock
- Increased passenger/train capacity
- A potential new park and ride station at Kew
- Electrification
- Adoption of Meols Cop Station by Merseytravel
- Connectivity with the Ormskirk - Preston line

The benefits that could flow from including this line within the final City Region Long Term Rail Strategy will support the north of the Borough and help sustain Sefton's tourist economy. It will also ensure that the north of the Liverpool City Region is well connected to West Lancashire, Preston and Manchester City Region by rail.”

12. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Bennett

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Bennett:

“That the Council encourages all contractors, when working in the Borough of Sefton, to be aware of the needs of its neighbours and the environment and to respect these.”

13. Notice of Motion Submitted by Councillor Mahon

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Mahon:

“This Council:

Calls on the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Mr. Eric Pickles M.P. to examine the changes this coalition government has made to this country’s planning system to see if they are working for the benefit of the communities. Some of the issues are detailed below.

The National Planning Policy Framework

There is a body of opinion that sees this as a ‘Developers Charter’ where the rules have shifted in favour of allowing much more development.

Prior Notifications

Several kinds of developments can now progress without the need for full application and full assessment of impacts. In most cases these don’t include highway issues and ignore issues that many residents may be concerned about.

Types of development covered by these changes include large house extensions, changes between different uses, changes of agricultural buildings to many other uses like hotels etc. Councils still need to determine these prior notifications, in many instances with no fee and with reduced timescales for decision making.

Changes to the Use Classes Orders

Now a much wider range of uses than ever can change to another use without the need for planning permission.

These include shops to residential – what will this mean for our town centres? Restaurants to offices, shops to building societies or credit unions. These are only a small number of the changes of use that are now possible without needing planning permission.

Localism Act – Neighbourhood Planning and Community Right to Bid.

Neighbourhood Planning could be a positive tool to support our own local plans. The process has been designed so that communities can help plan their local areas, but only if they accept the same, or more, development than our own Local Plan.

Community Right to Bid – this is in danger of becoming a tool

to stall development proposals from many months when key assets come up for sale. This does not provide certainty and speed for new developments – it provides the opposite.

Abolition of Regional Planning

This was intended to bring more effective local decision making through the removal of a whole regional tier of control and influence in strategic planning. This has resulted in each local authority now having to prepare their own evidence and their own estimates about how many houses they need to build in their area. This has, in effect, introduced a huge new area of controversy and uncertainty for councils.”