

# Sefton Council



## 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 21st April, 2016 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 13 April 2016

Please contact Steve Pearce, Democratic Services Manager  
on 0151 934 2046 or e-mail [steve.pearce@sefton.gov.uk](mailto: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**

(Pages 7 - 18)

Minutes of the meeting held on 3 March 2016

**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. Sefton Mental Health : A Strategic Plan for Sefton 2015-2020**

(Pages 19 - 28)

Report of the Head of Adult Social Care

**8. Membership of Committees 2015/16**

To consider any changes to the Membership of any committees etc.

## 9. Motion Submitted by Councillor Keith

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Keith:

### Government proposals to enforce all State Schools to become 'Academies' by 2020

“The Council notes that the present proposals:

- (a) remove the requirement for there to be parent governors, thus taking away the crucial voice of parents in the running of schools and the welfare of their children.
- (b) are undemocratic, since they require schools to become academies without consulting the parents of each school concerned as to whether they would wish their children's schools to have their management arrangements altered in this manner.
- (c) require a transfer of the process of monitoring and funding schools from local authorities from local education authorities to central government which will be remote and unfamiliar with the environment within which local schools operate
- (d) include an unprecedented land grab by central government in confiscating school land presently owned by councils and churches

The Council notes the recent remarks by the Chief Inspector of Schools, who was previously an Executive Principal of an Academy, that a number of multi-academy trusts have “manifested the same weaknesses” as the worst-performing local authorities and “offer the same excuses” while paying their Chief Executives monumental salaries as reward for manifest failure.

The Council expresses particular concern at the inability of the proposals to demonstrate an appropriate or adequate means of co-ordinating the provision of Special Needs education within any local area.

The Council instructs the Chief Executive to write on the Council's behalf to the Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education, with a copy to local MPs representing constituencies within the Borough, expressing the Council's deep reservations about the proposals and requesting that the Government should think again on the matter.”

## **10. Motion Submitted by Councillor Welsh**

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Welsh:

“The Council notes the proposal by Arriva Rail North to end the direct rail service between Southport and Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport, leaving the only direct service to Manchester going to Manchester Victoria.

The Council is aware that surveys have revealed that the majority of commuters travelling to Manchester from Southport and Formby use the direct service to Manchester Piccadilly as the Manchester stations on this line (including Deansgate and Oxford Road) are located nearer to their places of work than is Manchester Victoria.

The Council believes that the removal of this service will be detrimental to commuters from the north of the Borough and could discourage people from continuing to live in the Borough as well as discouraging people who work in south central Manchester from choosing to live in the Borough.

The Council also believes that the removal of the direct service to Manchester Airport would be detrimental to the economic interests of the Borough of Sefton. It will disadvantage the tourism and conference sectors for whom easy links from Manchester Piccadilly and Manchester Airport are a vital competitive asset. It will also disadvantage businesses in target sectors such as digital technology. Direct access to Manchester universities and the Airport are essential for the development of these businesses.

The Council therefore instructs the Chief Executive to write on the Council's behalf to Arriva Rail North, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Transport for Greater Manchester, Rail North and the Department for Transport, with a copy to the local MPs representing constituencies within the Borough strongly urging that these proposals are reconsidered.”

## **11. Motion Submitted by Councillor Killen**

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Killen:

“The Council calls on the Government to make fair transitional arrangements for all women born on or after 6th April 1951 who have unfairly borne the burden of the increase to the State Pension Age (SPA).

Hundreds of thousands of women had significant pension changes imposed on them by the Pension Acts of 1995 and 2001 but were not notified of the changes until relatively

recently. Some women were not notified until two years ago of a six-year increase in pension age. Women born in the 1950s are bearing a disproportionate cost of Conservative plans to reduce state spending.

Many women born in the 1950s are living in hardship. Retirement plans have been shattered with devastating consequences. Many of these women are caring for elderly relatives, providing childcare for grandchildren, or suffer discrimination in the workplace so struggle to find employment. Women born in this decade are suffering financially due to the Tories' ideological drive to reduce the cost of the state. These women have worked hard, raised families and paid their tax and national insurance with the expectation that they would be financially secure after finishing work. It is not the pension age itself that is disputed - it is widely accepted that women and men should retire at the same time. The issue is that the rise in the women's state pension age has been too rapid and has happened without sufficient notice being given to the women affected.

The Council calls upon the Government to reconsider transitional arrangements for women born between 1951 and 1955 so that women do not live in hardship due to pension changes they were not told about until it was too late to make alternative arrangements.”

**12. Motion Submitted by Councillor McKinley**

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor McKinley:

“Sefton Council calls on the Government to do all in its power to prevent loss of revenue to the UK through illegal tax evasion and highlight the immoral nature of tax avoidance schemes that are a drain on our national resource. Measures should include closing tax loopholes wherever possible and working toward preventing Crown Dependencies and overseas territories from acting as ‘offshore tax havens’.”