

# Public Document Pack

**Sefton Council** 

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: 8th November 2016

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: The Committee Room, Town Hall, Bootle

## Member

Councillor  
Cllr John Sayers (Chair)  
Cllr Michael O'Brien (Vice-Chair)  
Cllr Harry Bliss  
Cllr Clare Louise Carragher  
Cllr Daniel Terence Lewis  
Cllr David Pullin  
Cllr Michael Roche  
Cllr Frederick Weavers  
Cllr Veronica Webster  
Cllr Bill Welsh

## Substitute

Councillor  
Cllr Janet Grace  
Cllr Paula Murphy  
Cllr Simon Jamieson  
Cllr Anne Thompson  
Cllr Kevin Cluskey  
Cllr Jo Barton  
Cllr Steve McGinnity  
Cllr Tony Dawson  
Cllr Susan Bradshaw  
Cllr Simon Shaw

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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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# 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 the Previous Meeting** (Pages 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held on 20 September 2016
- 4. Call In - Southport Development Framework** (Pages 13 - 74)

Report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing
- 5. Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes - Introduction of the Business Case** (Pages 75 - 102)

Report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing
- 6. Shale Gas Working Group - Update on the Implementation of Recommendations** (Pages 103 - 108)

Report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing
- 7. Flood and Coastal Risk - Annual Report** (Pages 109 - 120)

Report of the Head of Locality Services - Commissioned
- 8. Town Centres Working Group - Update on the Implementation of Recommendations** (Pages 121 - 130)

Report of the Head Inward Investment and Employment
- 9. Port Master Plan Working Group - Update on the Implementation of Recommendations** (Pages 131 - 140)

Report of the Head Inward Investment and Employment
- 10. Cabinet Member Reports** (Pages 141 - 142)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
- 11. Work Programme and Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 143 - 168)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance



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

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE THE BIRKDALE ROOM, TOWN HALL,  
SOUTHPORT  
ON TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

Overview  
& Scrutiny



PRESENT: Councillor Sayers (in the Chair)

Councillors Bliss, Dan T. Lewis, O'Brien, Pullin,  
Roche, Weavers, Webster and Bill Welsh

### 9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carragher and Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills.

### 10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

### 11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) held on 5 July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 12. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Minute No. 4 – United Utilities – Increase in Charging. The Committee raised concerns regarding the unsatisfactory response from OFWAT, to the Council's invitation to attend a future Meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requests that the Chief Executive of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council write to the Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out the concerns of the Committee and the lack of cooperation conveyed by OFWAT in response to an invitation to attend a Meeting of the Committee.

### 13. VISION - SEFTON 2030

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director requesting the Committee to review the draft Sefton 2030 Vision and Outcomes Framework and engagement feedback and provide any comments thereon to Cabinet.

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

The report indicated that through Imagine Sefton 2030 the Council had been leading on developing a new vision for the borough, working closely with partners, businesses, private sector organisations, the voluntary, community and faith sector and the community to help it understand what mattered and to be ambitious for the Borough and its communities in the future; that following various consultation exercises (including views from consultations associated with Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Carers and Dementia Strategies, Town Centre Investment, Local Plan and other engagement activity) feedback gathered had been reviewed and analysed during the development of the draft Vision and Outcomes Framework; and that extensive engagement had taken place with the Council workforce, the majority of whom lived in Sefton, and that a number of themes began to emerge. The themes were then tested out with partners and although both groups expressed what they wanted to see in 2030 differently, the report detailed comments/views on what the following recurring themes should look like:-

- Resilient people and places
- Growing, living and ageing well
- A great place to live, work and play
- Activities, sociability and hosting
- Image and Environment
- Accessible and linked
- Right for business
- Digital, Science and Technology

Attached as Annex A to the report was a copy of the Vision and Outcomes Framework.

Attached as Annex B to the report was a copy of the Imagine Sefton 2030 Vision Consultation Report - August 2016

The report concluded that comments from partners and this and other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, plus an updated version of the Vision and Outcomes Framework, would be considered by Cabinet on 3 November 2016 with a view to commending the framework to Council on 17 November 2016.

Jan McMahon, Head of Strategic Support made a brief presentation to Members on the Sefton 2030 Vision.

Members of the Committee asked questions/made comments on the following topics:-

- the staged delivery of the Vision
- include reference to work life balance
- The requirement for all Town Centre Strategies to link into the Sefton 2030 Vision

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

- Address the issue that respondents did not think that young people were listened to or that their opinions were taken into account when planning for the future
- Review those areas where young people seem to be least engaged against those areas where they seem more engaged and seek to improve
- Improve partnership working between the Council, Colleges and potential investors/business to ensure that relevant courses and trades are available to young and mature students across the Borough with a view to increasing supply and demand of the workforce sector
- Improve partnership workings to ensure that the housing choices referred to in the report are included in the Sefton offer
- Welcomed that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board were undertaking a review of the Performance Framework which would be the framework to monitor and measure progress in achieving the 2030 Vision.

RSOLVED: That

- (1) Jan McMahon, Head of Strategic Support be thanked for her informative presentation; and
- (2) the report on the Vision and Outcomes Framework and engagement feedback in connection with the Sefton 2030 Vision, and comments of the Committee be noted.

### **14. REVIEW OF WINTER SERVICE POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned, in relation to the Winter Services Policy and Operational Plan.

It was reported that the Department provided a Winter Service to the Borough in accordance with the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan. It was further reported that Officers monitor the weather conditions 24 hours a day throughout the winter season and enact the plan when weather conditions dictate.

The report referred to the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (section 111) and an additional section being inserted (41(1A)) to the Highways Act 1980 which placed a duty on Highways Authorities in respect of winter conditions, as follows:-

“In particular, a Highway Authority is under a duty to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice”.

The report stated that the Council operated to a Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan which had been approved by the Council and was reviewed each summer to ensure that it remained “fit for purpose”.

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

The report also stated that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 13 October 2011, resolved to authorise the Director of Built Environment (now Head of Locality Services – Commissioned) to make any further revisions to the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Transportation) now (Locality Services) and that there was no requirement to submit any revisions to the Cabinet for further approval.

It was reported that the winter service policy and operational plan was subject to an annual reassessment and consultation and that in accordance with Cabinet Member's wishes, a consultation letter was sent to every Elected Member, as detailed at Annex A to the report. The closing date for responses was reported to be Thursday 30 June 2016. In addition to the formal consultation with the Elected Members, Officers had analysed systems to identify any issues or requests received from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties throughout the last winter season. It was further reported that the consultation had not raised any issues with the existing policy and operational plan.

The report stated that Sefton's Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan was based on guidance provided by the Government in a document entitled "Well-maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highways Maintenance and Management 2005 Edition.

The report highlighted that one key issue had been addressed, in relation to the need for an improved fleet of vehicles which can spread salt more accurately. Newer vehicles with a higher specification had been acquired through a rental agreement with the contractor which would ensure that any vehicles utilised on the eight gritting routes should meet the requirements of Appendix H.

The report highlighted that the policy had been reviewed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party in order that the Council's compliance in accordance with the Government guidance could be audited. Some minor changes had been made based on the recommendations received.

Members requested that the following comments be referred to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services:-

- That at the conclusion of the review currently being undertaken by Merseytravel in relation to Bus routes, the Cabinet Member be requested to re-assess the impact on the gritting routes, taking into account the outcomes of the review.
- Consider the merits of padlocking the grit bins to prevent theft.
- Request that in consultation with Sefton's Communications Team, an article be published on Sefton's Website detailing some key facts regarding the gritting process.

RESOLVED: That:

(1) the report be noted;



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

- (2) the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned be requested to refer the comments of this Committee to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services.

### **15. UPDATE ON THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing in relation to the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan and the progress being made towards the making of Neighbourhood Plans by Communities of Sefton.

Members raised questions regarding the process for those areas that weren't associated with a Parish or Town Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

### **16. SHALE GAS WORKING GROUP - UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing in relation to the progress with implementation of the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the draft objectives, membership and frequency of meetings of the Cross-Regulatory Working Group, be referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control and his recommendations be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee scheduled to take place on 8 November 2016;
- (2) the Head of Regeneration and Housing or his nominated representative be requested to meet with partners as necessary to inform the scope and the terms of reference of the group; and
- (3) the timetable associated with the actions, as detailed in the report be noted.

### **17. STREET CLEANSING, FLY TIPPING AND LITTER BINS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services - Provision in relation to the current issues surrounding the delivery of the work programme for the Year 2016/17 in relation to Street Cleansing, Fly tipping and Litter Bins.

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

The report highlighted the following key headlines in relation to street cleansing activities throughout the Borough of Sefton:-

- Legislation governing street cleaning services.
- Roles and responsibilities of the Council for street cleaning services in Sefton.
- Common perceptions around street cleaning service and the measure of success used.
- Street cleaning enforcement powers of the Council and opportunities for joined up enforcement with other individuals, groups and organisations.
- Frequency and monitoring of street cleaning services, fly tipping and litter bins.
- Resource pressures relating to street cleaning services.
- The methods of community engagement used to reflect local priorities for street cleaning and Cleansing.

Members of the Committee raised questions, comments and observations on the following topics:

- That the Head of Locality Services – Provision, be requested to write to all Schools throughout the Borough with a request for them to send a message to all the pupils that disposing of litter inappropriately was not only antisocial and unpleasant but also illegal.
- That a similar message be conveyed to local businesses such as convenience stores and fast food outlets emphasising that they have a responsibility and duty to ensure customers use litter bins provided.
- There was an issue around areas with flats where there doesn't seem to be any provision for storing rubbish and so consequently rubbish sacks/bags were being put out each day. A possible solution could be something like euro bins.
- There is a need to address those residential areas where parked cars prevent cleansing of the highway. Could the Council issue a schedule to those residents so that there is an understanding of when vehicles are required to be moved to allow the cleansing process to proceed?

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Locality Service – Provision, be requested to provide an update report to a future meeting of the Committee.

## 18. **WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17 AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN - 1 OCTOBER 2016 - 31 JANUARY 2017**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance that sought the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2016/17, the progress of established Working Groups appointed by the Committee and the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Committee notes items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan for period 1 October 2016 – 31 January 2017;
- (2) the Committee approves the following memberships of the established three Working Groups:
  - (a) Peer Review – Councillors Dan.T.Lewis (Lead Member), Carragher, O'Brien and Thompson;
  - (b) Parks and Greenspaces – Councillors Bliss, Roche, Webster and Welsh; and
  - (c) Voluntary Community Faith Sector – Councillors Pullin and B. Welsh;
- (3) the Scoping Document of the Peer Review Working Group, as detailed in Appendix B to the report, be approved; and
- (4) the Work Programme for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be approved.

## 19. **CABINET MEMBER REPORTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance that included the most recent report from the following Cabinet Members:-

- Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing;
- Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing (parks and greenspaces element only);
- Cabinet Member – Locality Services;
- Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control; and
- Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member update reports be accepted.

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**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Date of Meeting:** 8 November 2016  
(Regeneration and Skills)

**Subject:** Item Called In – Southport Development Framework

**Relevant Cabinet Member:** Councillor Atkinson – Regeneration and Skills

**Report of:** Head of Regulation and Compliance

**Wards Affected:** Ainsdale; Birkdale; Cambridge; Dukes; Kew; Meols; Norwood;

**Is this a Key Decision?** Yes **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** Yes

**Exempt/Confidential** No

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## **Purpose/Summary**

- (1) To advise the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the relevant aspects of the Constitution and the reasons for the call-in of the decision of the Cabinet on the above item as set out in paragraph 2.3 to this report.
- (2) To seek the views of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- (3) In the event of the Committee being concerned about the decision, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must decide which of the following courses of action is to be taken in relation to this matter:
  - a) referral of the matter to the Cabinet for re-consideration, setting out the nature of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's concerns; or
  - b) referral of the matter to Council for the Council to decide whether it wishes to object to the decision (subject to the guidance set out in paragraph 2.5).
- (4) In the event of the Committee being satisfied with the decision, the decision can proceed for implementation immediately following the meeting.

## **Recommendations:**

- (1) That the Committee considers the reasons set out in the extract of the Constitution (see paragraph 2.3) and the requisition for call-in (see paragraph 2.2) and determines its jurisdiction accordingly.
- (2) That the Committee determines whether it is concerned about the decision made by the Cabinet.

# Agenda Item 4

- (3) If the Committee is concerned about the decision, that the Committee indicates which of the two options set out in paragraph (3) of the summary set out above, it wishes to pursue.

## 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 Recommendations:

The decision of the Cabinet has been called in. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is required to consider the concerns raised by Councillors.

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

#### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct revenue financial implications arising from this report. Emerging initiatives may require revenue resources. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process and a budget identified.

#### (B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital cost implications arising from this report. Emerging initiatives may require capital resources. This will be addressed as part of the predevelopment process and a budget identified. It is inevitable that the vast majority of resources to deliver the framework will be generated through the private sector and the appropriate use of council owned assets.

### Implications:

<b>Financial:</b> Emerging initiatives may require financial resources. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process but will not necessarily be
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funded directly by the Council.	
<b>Legal:</b> Emerging initiatives may require legal support. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process.	
<b>Human Resources:</b> Emerging initiatives may require human resources. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process and staff/resources identified.	
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="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:** N/A

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

Extensive public consultation and engagement has been undertaken as detailed in Appendix 1.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills has been briefed on the Framework.

Local ward councillors, officers and key stakeholders have been consulted, as have members of the public. All comments have been considered and where appropriate incorporated into the final report of the Framework.

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted (FD 4362/16 ) and notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However any emerging issues resulting from the approved Investment Framework will be subject of a further report, indicating any financial implications for the Council as appropriate.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 3645/16) have been consulted and has no comments on the report.

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

No – the Overview and Scrutiny Committee must consider the Call-In.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

To be determined by the decision of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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**Background Papers:**

All relevant papers in relation to the Cabinet decision are attached to the report.

# Agenda Item 4

## 1. **Cabinet Decision (Cabinet Member Portfolio – Regeneration and Skills)**

1.1 The report attached as an **Appendix** to this report was considered by the Cabinet on 6 October 2016.

1.2 The decision of the Cabinet is set out below:

### **Decision:**

That approval be given to the publication of the Southport Development Framework to guide future development and investment opportunities.

### **Reasons for Decision:**

An approved Southport Development Framework would help promote the opportunity for investment and development potential that can support the Town.

### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None - The draft framework had been the subject of extensive consultation and engagement. Various options had been considered and are contained within the draft and final documentation.

## 2. **Details of the Call-In of the Cabinet Decision**

2.1 The following Members of the Council (who are not Members of the Cabinet) signed the requisition for the **call-in**, in relation to the Southport Development Framework, in accordance with the provisions of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Procedure Rules in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution.

Councillor Weavers  
Councillor Pat Keith  
Councillor Lynne Thompson

2.2 In the requisition for the call-in, the following reasons were given:-

"We welcome all moves to improve Southport's development but seek clarification of how the Cabinet's approval of the publication of the proposed framework will guide future developments and investment opportunities and contribute towards Sefton Council policies. Paragraph 10.6 in the Southport Development framework document states that the council should develop an action plan around initiatives identified in this framework on a short medium and long-term basis. We would like to know a more precise time scale, which is essential for the plan to be put into practice, rather than the generalities given on page 55 of the Cabinet agenda from 6th October 2016 in setting up an action plan. "



# Agenda Item 4

- 2.3 The Constitution sets out the following requirements with respect to call-in:

“All requisitions for call-in shall refer to a specific decision and provide a reason. A decision may only be the subject of one call-in. A decision may only be called-in for the following purposes:

- a) to seek more understanding of the decision and its implications;
- b) to question the soundness of the decision based on facts taken or not taken into account;
- c) to identify the need for Council policies to guide decisions;
- d) to make recommendations to the Cabinet and/or Council;
- e) to question whether the decision conforms with agreed policies.”

- 2.4 Members are asked to consider the requisition cited above (paragraph 2.2) and determine which ground or grounds apply to the requisitions, if any. If the Committee determines that the requisitions fall within one of the grounds, then it can proceed to consider whether it is concerned with the decision.

- 2.5 The Secretary of State in his guidance recommends that the Overview and Scrutiny Committees should only use the power to refer matters to the full Council if they consider that the decision is contrary to the policy framework or contrary or not wholly in accordance with the budget.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	6 October 2016
<b>Subject:</b>	Southport Development Framework	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Ainsdale; Birkdale; Cambridge; Dukes; Kew; Meols; Norwood;
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Regeneration and Housing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Yes	<b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt/Confidential</b>	No		

## Purpose/Summary

To seek authorisation to publish the final report of the Southport Development Framework following the public consultation exercise on the final draft document. It is important to emphasise that when reading the Framework it is strategic document for use over the longer-term. The Framework will be used to guide future developments and attract investment.

## Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet approves the publication of the Southport Development Framework to guide future development and investment opportunities.

## 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		/	

# Agenda Item 4

## Reasons for the Recommendation:

An approved Southport Development Framework will help promote the opportunity for investment and development potential that can support the Town.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The draft framework has been the subject of extensive consultation and engagement. Various options have been considered and are contained within the draft and final documentation.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct revenue financial implications arising from this report. Emerging initiatives may require revenue resources. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process and a budget identified.

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital cost implications arising from this report. Emerging initiatives may require capital resources. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process and a budget identified. It is inevitable that the vast majority of resources to deliver the framework will be generated through the private sector and the appropriate use of council owned assets.

## Implications:

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

<b>Financial</b> Emerging initiatives may require financial resources. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process but will not necessarily be funded directly by the Council.
<b>Legal</b> Emerging initiatives may require legal support. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process.
<b>Human Resources</b> Emerging initiatives may require human resources. This will be addressed as part of the pre development process and staff/resources identified.
<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 of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

Not applicable

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

Extensive public consultation and engagement has been undertaken as detailed in Appendix 1.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills has been briefed on the Framework. Local ward councillors, officers and key stakeholders have been consulted, as have members of the public. All comments have been considered and where appropriate incorporated into the final report of the Framework.

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.4323/16) notes there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However any emerging issues resulting from the approved Investment Framework will be subject of a further report, indicating any financial implications for the Council as appropriate. The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.3606/16) have been consulted and has no comments on the report.

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

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

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## **Background Papers:**

None

# Agenda Item 4

## 1.0 Introduction/Background

1.1 Nexus and Broadway Malyan were appointed to present their views on how Southport Town Centre could evolve. Their findings and ideas are presented as the Southport Development Framework – see attachment.

1.2 The final Southport Development Framework is the culmination of the analysis, consultation and appraisal work undertaken in Southport with Stakeholders and the public and presents a high level concept to bring forward regeneration and investment. The Development Framework has been prepared at a time when local authorities are operating with significantly reduced budget settlements. This underlines the importance of working in partnership with the private sector alongside the community and local business, to deliver improvements that are needed. This Investment Framework:

- Is consistent with and has clear strategic links with the Sefton Local Plan;
- Supports the planning and regeneration priorities for the area and identifies specific development proposals;
- Will be used to guide the future of the Council's current property and land holdings in the area;
- Will inform future Council parking strategies and studies;
- Is intended to enhance investor confidence and assist private sector developers to either dispose of or develop their assets within Southport Town Centre;
- Will facilitate the use of private and public sector resources to improve the overall economic health and vitality of the town.

1.3 In developing the investment framework for Southport Town Centre the process has given consideration to the following issues:

- Develop a Southport offer to meet the needs of today's family leisure market;
- Nurture a hub environment for creative businesses and link in with Southport College;
- Long recognised as Southport's 'jewel in the crown', Lord Street is at the heart of the town's heritage as well as its future;
- Proposals that are capable of attracting inward investment;
- Echoing the Classic Resort Vision, it's important to ensure that quality is central to future investments and interventions;
- Strengthening east west links across the Town Centre;
- It should be clear how the town works, how it ties together, how visitors access key assets and how they move around, it should be clear where you are in the town in relation to other parts;
- The heart of the town is a sizeable area and key assets are set some distance apart – the links between are important and should be populated with new uses and points of interest as far as possible to join the parts of the town together;
- Taking opportunities to add new uses and to better showcase existing ones to complement and strengthen the core destination offer will enable the town to respond more fully to contemporary interest;
- The Framework proposes to develop on the strong urban form and built assets of the town to create or rediscover spaces to showcase new activities;
- Proposals capable of capturing more of the spending power of local residents, employees and visitors.

## 2.0 Delivery Approach

2.1 Proposals that are taken forward by Sefton will be evidenced based and will look to maximise economic opportunities within the Town.

2.2 The Council will support pre-development feasibility, site assembly and are prepared to partner, so the town is in a position to receive new public and private investment requirements that will deliver new services and a more diverse economy. In order to anticipate and confirm requirements the Council will look to:

Action	Theme	Timescale
Action Plan Report	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce a statement of priorities outlining the delivery approach in further detail</li> <li>Produce a Communication and Engagement Plan</li> </ul>	Short  Short
Major Development Proposals	<p>Encourage new external investment that will add to the critical mass of attractions and visitor accommodation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Marine Park and the Southport Golf Links and Fairways Park and Ride</li> </ul>	Medium
Lord Street	<p>Exploring external investment opportunities for the development of the;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>public realm and events space in Lord Street</li> </ul>	Medium & Long
Business Conferencing & Family Visitors	<p>Explore and facilitate external investment opportunities in new infrastructure in order to attract more and larger business conferences including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Southport Floral Hall Complex</li> <li>Four star plus - hotel provision</li> <li>Other types of provision, for example boutique B&amp;Bs and Glamping</li> </ul>	Medium  Medium  Medium
Heritage and Culture Provision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pursue a Townscape Heritage Initiative bid for Lord Street and links to the promenade</li> <li>Pursue a Coastal Communities Fund Bid support Southport Pier</li> </ul>	Short & Medium  Medium
Business, Social Enterprise and training.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Understand potential opportunities for business, further and higher education growth and opportunities for digital and creative</li> <li>Continue to provide business and investment support from Invest Sefton</li> </ul>	Short, Medium & Long  Short
Tidal Lagoon	Keep under review the appetite and Government support for major investment in tidal lagoons in the British Isles	Long

2.3 Draft versions of the Framework have previously been brought to appropriate Cabinet Members. The draft Framework has also been through consultation with stakeholders, Southport Area Committee, officers and the public.

# Agenda Item 4

## **3.0 Consultation**

- 3.1 To produce the Framework document Nexus and Broadway Malyan engaged with key stakeholders and reviewed information about property market issues, planning policy, highways, transportation and design.
- 3.2 Officers brought the consultation proposals to the November 2015 Consultation and Engagement Panel for advice. Following guidance from the Panel the following consultation activity took place. More detail about this process is given in Appendix 1.
- 3.3 As expected a wide range of comments and opinions were provided as part of the consultation process. Comments received from the consultation exercise have been incorporated into the final report and aspects clarified. Many of the comments were not directly relevant to the report and were around broader Southport and other issues.

## **4.0 Conclusion**

- 4.1 The Southport Development Framework is a high level strategic document that is fixed at a point in time. The Framework provides a potential direction of travel for Southport Town Centre, it is not a prescriptive document and it will not prevent Sefton Council from exploring other development opportunities that may emerge.
- 4.2 Regeneration is a dynamic process and ideas, proposals and conditions will change over time. Local Plan Policy and Supplementary Planning Documents (if required) will support the Framework. The regeneration of Southport Town Centre will also need to align with the Sefton 2030 Vision.
- 4.3 Sefton Council will facilitate development in Southport through negotiation with major landowners, stakeholders and potential developers. It will actively consider the role, use and potential disposal of its property assets to create viable schemes and facilitate the regeneration of Southport Town Centre.



## Appendix 1 – Consultation

1.0 Officers brought the consultation proposals to the November 2015 Consultation and Engagement Panel for advice. Following guidance from the Panel the following consultation activity took place:

- Public consultation
  - Ran from 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015 to 8<sup>th</sup> February 2016
  - 2 drop-in sessions in Southport Library
  - Hard copies of documentation available in Southport Library, Southport Town Hall and Southport One Stop Shop
  - E-consultation through the Sefton website
- Stakeholder's event
  - approximately 40 attendees
- BID event
  - 26 attendees

The consultation was publicised by:

- Information on the Sefton website
- Tweets out from Sefton Council
- Press releases to local papers
- Leaflets in town centre locations

1.1 Officers also held two briefings for Southport Ward Councillors, before the public consultation and during the consultation period and John Pugh, MP, was also briefed. Southport Area Committee discussed the strategy, approximately 100 people attended.

1.2 125 responses were received. Approximately 150 people also spoke to officers about the report at the drop-in sessions.

1.3 As expected a wide range of comments and opinions were provided as part of the consultation process. Some of the comments were based on a misinterpretation of the information, which has been clarified in the final draft. Many of the comments were not directly relevant to the report and were around broader Southport issues.

1.4 All comments have been considered and where appropriate incorporated into the final draft report of the Framework.

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# Southport Development Framework

October 2016

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Agenda Item 4



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# 1. The Framework Vision for Southport

1.1 The Southport Development Framework provides an ambitious starting point that encourages discussion and buy-in from the local community, businesses and potential investors. The Framework will act as a roadmap for developing a more detailed set of proposals to enable change in Southport Town Centre, building on its current key strengths and attractions.

1.2 In the last decade Southport adopted the position of England's Classic Resort. The definition of classic is - *'judged over time to be of the highest quality contemporary visitor offer and outstanding of its kind'* - always meeting the needs and expectations of discerning visitors. The vision made it clear that 'Classic' was identified with a **quality contemporary offer, to set it apart from other coastal destinations**. The quality of the town's unique heritage; valued built and natural environment; retail; accommodation; food and drink and cultural offer, are some of the essential elements for further strengthening.

1.3 As the needs and expectations of today's residents, workforce and visitors continue to evolve, so too will the experience which they will expect to receive in the town. In order to live up to the Classic Resort values, present day expectations are reflected in a vision that can be considered – **A classic seaside town that is more contemporary and dynamic, merging the old and the new; diverse in its offer, embracing creative industries, digital technology and youthful**

**endeavour, in a high quality leisure, retail, historic and public space offer for those who live in, work in and visit the town.**

1.4 Southport is fortunate to have many organisations and businesses across a range of sectors who have demonstrated their commitment to the town for many years. It is important that all stakeholders support a shared vision for the town and together continue in helping shape its future.

1.5 There are a number of specific interventions suggested which will support the vision. These include:

- Developing a Southport offer to meet the needs of today's family leisure market. The needs of families continue to change as their expectations are shaped by the high quality, thrilling experiences which they have enjoyed around the world. Leisure experiences also need to address the implications of today's multi-generational families which see value for money as synonymous with the highest quality. The redevelopment of the beachfront as a 21st Century family leisure destination is key to this.
- Nurturing a hub environment and a focal point for students of Southport College, businesses and others in the areas of creativity, design, digital and social media, possibly around Lord Street. This combined with an on going cultural programme would help build a local reputation for creative industries and encourage adults of working age with these interests to establish themselves and want to remain in the locality.
- Long recognised as Southport's 'jewel in the crown', Lord Street is at the heart of

the town's heritage as well as its future. Despite the economic challenges of recent years, this document reconfirms the importance of the town's principal street and makes suggestions for how it can continue to be improved.

1.5 There are a number of recurring and complementary themes in the Framework associated with how Southport works physically and spatially:

- **Quality** – echoing the Classic Resort Vision, it's important to ensure that quality is central to future investments and interventions – for example gateways into the town, car parking, public realm, connections, shopping and leisure. Lord Street should be the benchmark for quality.
- **Clarity** – it should be clear how the town works, how it ties together, how visitors access key assets and how they move around. It should be clear where you are in the town in relation to other parts. It should be clear where you park to access different parts of the seafront, promenade, and town centre. It should be clear that there are arcades, markets, open space, and a beachfront that are there to be enjoyed – explaining where they are and how to get there.
- **Linkages** – the heart of the town is a sizeable area and key assets are set some distance apart – links are important and should be populated with new uses and points of interest as far as possible to join the parts of the town together, so that activity in one area can be of benefit to others. Regular shoppers should be encouraged to make the walk to Lord Street for a more diverse cultural experience around a relaxed leisure offer supported by food and drink, the Atkinson, events and animated public space. Visitors

should be encouraged to explore Chapel Street, as well as more independent offerings on Wesley Street and Union Street. Visitors should be aware that it is only a 10 minute walk from the Railway Station to the Pier. Everyone should know where the market is. Lord Street should form the backbone and focal point to a series of interconnected places and spaces.

- **Diversity** - taking opportunities to add new uses and to better showcase existing ones to complement and strengthen the core destination offer will enable the town to respond more fully to contemporary interests. Examples include creative arts, the digital economy and social media, café culture, independent food and drink, food markets, music, events and street art. Again Lord Street is the central location from which to showcase and signpost this new vibrancy.
- **Spaces and Places** – leisure, culture and enterprise take place in our buildings, street and squares. The Framework proposes to develop on the strong urban form and built assets of the town to create or rediscover spaces to showcase new activities, a quality streetscape to encourage interaction, movement and commerce and new and re-imagined buildings to create defined places and new activity.

# 2. Introduction

Southport is a key economic driver in the region as a tourist, leisure and shopping destination, attracting a large number of visitors from all over the country. In recent years and like many other seaside towns, Southport has faced new challenges on a number of fronts

- 2.1 The town has had to adapt and is still adapting to the increasing regional, national and international mobility of shoppers, visitors and tourists; there has been growth in online shopping and an increasing concentration of retail and leisure facilities into a fewer number of larger town and city locations.
- 2.2 This Framework is a re-commitment to Southport as a regionally significant visitor destination and desirable place to live. Community is critical to the town's success, and residents should be able to benefit, through employment opportunities and improved education facilities as investment comes forward. Existing assets and new investment opportunities should be linked in a coherent, accessible way. Initiatives around improved access, events, and the creative sector will help foster a new dynamism in the town.
- 2.3 Southport has a number of key success enablers in the form of existing assets and its offer, capable of attracting external investment:
  - It's visitor attractions including Southport Pier, Kings Gardens and Marine Lake, Southport Pleasureland, Splashworld, The Atkinson and The Southport Theatre & Convention Centre
  - Business Conferencing
  - Lord Street
  - Host to major leisure events such as the Southport Air Show, British Musical Fireworks Championships and the Southport Flowershow
  - Sefton's wider natural coast offer
  - The Golf Coast offer
- 2.4 Southport is a significant destination for conferences in the North West following the multi million pound investment programme in the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre.
- 2.5 The Centre has hosted a number of national and regional party conferences and major conventions.
- 2.6 Alongside tourism the town also performs as a 'day to day' town centre retail destination for the residential population as well as a wider Sefton and West Lancashire catchment area. Lord Street has traditionally been one of the most renowned shopping streets in North West England.
- 2.7 Southport has long been associated with major events such as the Air Show, the Flower Show and the British Musical Fireworks Championship, which generate large numbers of visitors and are an important boost to the visitor economy in the area.
- 2.8 Sefton's wider natural coast offer has an international reputation for its habitat and conservation status and is a recognised attraction for both passive and active leisure pursuits. Nearby Ainsdale-on-Sea provides a bathing beach and to the north is the RSPB reserve at Marshside.
- 2.9 Southport benefits from some of the finest golf courses in the UK. Beyond Royal Birkdale (which regularly plays host to The Open Championship) there are a number of other championship standard courses including Hillside, Formby, Hesketh, Southport and Ainsdale, Formby Hall and West Lancashire. These courses will continue to attract golfers and will continue to encourage people to take short golf breaks in the area.
- 2.10 Capitalising on Southport's keys assets which include tourist and leisure attractions on the Beachfront, its unique heritage and architecture particularly on Lord Street, retail facilities including the market, and aligning these with new high quality developments can help raise



the profile of Southport and achieve an attractive, thriving and unique town centre experience.

- 2.10 The Business Improvement District (BID) has played an active role in the preparation of the Southport Development Framework which has been crucial in ensuring the Framework is robust and fit for purpose.
- 2.11 This Framework will be used to inform future development opportunities in Southport by Sefton Council and encourage the public and private sectors to take proposals forward. The Framework supports sustained stakeholder involvement, in particular with the BID Company and Southport Tourism Business Network (STBN) in order for Southport to secure its future as a regionally significant destination. The document outlines some parameters for development options, including the type, scale, use and form.
- 2.12 This Development Framework focuses on:
  - How England's Classic Resort offer is visualised in the future to embed a contemporary, dynamic offer
  - Developing a high level plan for Lord Street
  - Sites with future development potential
  - Improving the contribution of the historic environment
- 2.13 In achieving the above, the Framework considers how the recommended actions will

help:

- Increase visitor footfall and spend
  - Shape the operational plans of Sefton Council and Southport BID
  - Support jobs and economic growth
  - Enable the Council and Southport BID Company to develop an outward facing investment prospectus
  - Enable the Council to refresh its visitor economy strategy or destination management plan
- 2.14 The report identifies high level growth and investment opportunities and provides a road map designed to inform and facilitate next steps and decision making to unlock Southport's potential.





# 3. Southport in Context

## Brief History

- 3.1 Modern Southport's origins are firmly based on the seaside, recreation and tourism.
- 3.2 Southport began to grow significantly from the end of the 18th Century, as holidaying by the sea and seaside bathing became increasingly fashionable and accessible. The first bathing house in the area known then as South Hawes was opened in 1792 followed by a hotel named South Port from which the growing town subsequently took its name. The generous width of Lord Street is due to its development in the early years being influenced by natural dune habitat. Houses were built on the higher ground (sand dunes) landward and seaward of a wide natural slack, with the properties gardens joining in the middle of what is now Lord Street.
- 3.3 The opening of the railway line; to Liverpool first, then Manchester in the 1840s, substantially improved access to the town for the growing urban population whilst the incremental introduction of annual holidays for factory workers created new markets for Lancashire's seaside towns.
- 3.4 Southport grew rapidly during the Victorian era. Today the town contains many examples of Victorian architecture, historic canopies, and the tree lined boulevard of Lord Street. The construction of the Pier was completed in 1860 and theme park opened in 1912.

## The Classic Resort

- 3.5 Southport's origins therefore lie and its role as a seaside town, having originally served the local Liverpool and Lancashire populations before developing into a resort of national renown. The town has adapted since the first hotel was established, not least through the creation of an extended seafront beyond the original Promenade, incorporating the Marine Park area and Pleasureland. The image and character of Southport has always been one of a more genteel resort than some other seaside towns and this is exemplified in the history and character of Lord Street.
- 3.6 As a popular seaside town Southport is one of the region's major destinations attracting visitors for days out, short breaks and seaside holidays from around the country. Southport is home to Britain's oldest intact iron pleasure pier, and the second longest, as well as boasting long, sandy beaches close to the town centre.

## Demographics

- 3.7 Southport is home to around a third of the Sefton population and whilst the local authority has seen a fall in its population since 2001, Southport has seen a small increase in its own population (90,381 at 2011).
- 3.8 Key demographic facts for Southport include:
  - The Southport Central Area falls mainly within the Duke's ward boundary which has a population of approximately

13,333 people. Of this total population, just 9.2% are aged between 16 and 24 years old compared to 19.5% of 60 – 74 year olds. This compared to the rest of Sefton; 10.6% (aged 16 – 24 year olds) and 17.2% (60 – 74 year olds) shows that the central Southport area has a lower proportion of younger people and a higher number of older people compared to the rest of Sefton.

- The proportion of people in privately rented accommodation is higher than the rest of Sefton.
- Levels of deprivation have generally been falling in Southport. The proportion of people living in deprivation is also much lower than the average for the rest of Sefton. However the two central wards Dukes and Cambridge which cover the town centre have 5 Lower Super Output Area (LSOA's) in the top 20% most deprived in the UK. Unemployment is relatively low in Southport at 3.6 % (April 2015-Mar 2016 Annual Population survey).
- Educational attainment is higher in Southport than the national average with Primary school outcomes above Sefton and national averages for achieving Level 4+ in reading, writing and mathematics. Southport Secondary schools achieve outcomes higher than the national averages for percentage of pupils achieving 5A\*- Cs at GCSE including English and Mathematics.



### Visitor Economy and the Town Centre

3.9 Whilst there is no doubt that consumers have tightened their belts over the last six or seven years, there are elements of the tourism and leisure industry that have remained resilient, with certain sectors and organisations even thriving. In terms of the Southport visitor economy:

- Steam research undertaken on behalf of Sefton Council suggests that around 690,000 tourists stayed in Southport in 2015 (for at least one night) which is 11,000 more than the 2014 figure. In the years between 2009 and 2015, the number of tourists staying in Southport has been relatively stable. Tourists stay in Southport for an average of 3.8 nights, although this varies depending on the type of accommodation used (shorter stays in hotels and guest houses and longer stays in self-catering accommodation such as apartments, caravans and lodges). These staying tourists spend an average of £195.89 per visit (2015) which varies depending on the type of accommodation used (higher spend per night in hotels compared to those staying in self-catering accommodation or with friends and relatives). Day visitors spend on average £30.57 per visit.
- Tourists staying in Southport in 2015 generated £336m of expenditure in the economy. This represents an increase of almost 6% from 2014. So despite a small increase in the number of staying visitors to Southport, the expenditure of those visitors has increased, partly through inflation but also through an improvement to the quality of the offer (particularly hotels).

3.10 This reflects a broader societal shift that has taken place over the last 20 - 30 years. Leisure, recreation, tourism and culture were once seen as 'discretionary spend items'. Today, however, they are viewed by many consumers as essential. Taking short breaks, eating out and visiting attractions have become a normal part of life for many people in a way that wasn't seen 30 years ago.

3.11 The visitor economy (including business tourism) is a significant element of the economic future of Southport. However, notwithstanding its seaside location continued success in the visitor economy is and will continue to be inextricably linked to the vitality of the town centre, which itself is strongly linked to meeting more day to day needs of the resident population. Understanding and developing this dual and complementary role of the town centre is key.



## Location and Accessibility

### Southport in the regional context

- 3.12 Southport is well connected to other towns within the Sefton local authority area which includes Bootle, Formby and Crosby to the south connected via the A565.
- 3.13 Southport lies on the A565 which is the main access route from both the north (A59 and Preston) and the south (to Liverpool) and is approximately 20 minutes' drive-time, along the A570 (Ormskirk and St Helens) from the M58 and M57 motorway and approximately 30 minutes from the M6 motorway using the same route. On days which attract higher numbers of visitors such as special events, these arterial approaches, which act as key gateways into Southport, experience queuing and delays.
- 3.14 The population living within an hour's drive time of Southport is around 2.24 million (930,000 households). This includes the population urban centres of Liverpool and Merseyside, Wigan, Preston and Warrington.
- 3.15 The population living within a two hour drive time catchment is around 7.6 million (3.18m households). This incorporates all of Lancashire, Greater Manchester, Cheshire as well as parts of Staffordshire, North Wales, West Yorkshire and Cumbria.
- 3.16 Sefton Council has undertaken some traffic modelling with a view to progressing further studies relating to options for improving access by road to Southport from the east.
- 3.17 Merseyrail run fast and frequent services between Liverpool South Parkway (for Liverpool John Lennon Airport), Liverpool City Centre and Southport. Arriva operates the Manchester to Southport service. The railway station operated by Merseyrail acts as an important anchor in drawing footfall through the primary shopping areas of Chapel Street, Lord Street and the market area. Southport Pleasureland Theme Park and the rest of the facilities in the Marine Park area are a reasonable walking distance (approximately 10 minutes walk) from the railway station.
- 3.18 Aspirations to improve the Manchester to Southport service form part of a 30 year Long Term Rail Strategy. This represents a firm commitment by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, Sefton Council and Merseytravel, to fashion improvements to the sub-regional and regional rail networks including Southport where a business case can be made. The framework supports improvements to the rail service in the form of shortened journey times, frequency of services, improvements to rolling stock, and station improvements.
- 3.19 Improvements to the station environment are supported. This may be achieved by bringing key stakeholders with operational responsibilities together in pursuing an improved visitor and commuter experience at Southport Station.



Regional Context Plan

### Pedestrians

- 3.20 The Chapel Street area has been pedestrianised; it links London Street to the north and Eastbank Street to the south. Pedestrian linkage between the train station, Chapel Street, Eastbank Street, London Street and Lord Street is of good standard with wide footways and signal crossings on Lord Street.
- 3.21 The historic high street of Lord Street also accommodates significant traffic flows which limits pedestrian movement to two main crossing points, detracting from the free flow of people from Chapel Street (the 'day to day' shopping town centre) and Lord Street (the 'leisure shopping destination'). Lord Street does have broad footpaths which enhances pedestrian movement along each side of the street.

### Cycling

- 3.22 Opportunities to improve routes for cyclists in and around Southport town centre are identified through the Framework. These are mainly along east-west routes through the town from the Tulketh Street area right the way through Lord Street, into the Marine Park area and on to the sea wall.
- 3.23 There is a good level of provision in the Marina and Promenade areas where off-street, traffic free routes are provided. New routes around Marine Lake would give further reasons for cyclists to visit the area.
- 3.24 Cycle hire is available at both the railway station and the Eco Visitor Centre.

### Bus Network

- 3.25 Southport has an excellent bus network that presently provides very good links to almost all parts of Southport, as well as good inter-urban links to Preston, Chorley, Wigan, Liverpool and Leyland. A bus interchange operates on Lord Street.

### Car Parking

- 3.26 Parking and accessibility improvements are suggested later in this Framework document. On a day to day basis Southport is reasonably well provided for in terms of the amount of parking. However on street parking in the prime shopping areas is limited. Some larger car parks are either not ideally located or are not of the best quality. Approach signage for car parking is based on steering the visitor towards the Park and Ride, but does not bring any clarity to the occasional visitor who may wish to access parking nearer the town centre.
- 3.27 Parking does come under pressure on sunny days in the summer particularly at weekends. Park and ride areas, the beach, and open areas at Marine Park are used to accommodate parking for key events, notably the Air Show.

### Natural Environment

- 3.28 Southport's town centre located on the Ribble estuary is within easy reach of a natural coastal habitat of European and international significance, which affords an important part of the broader Southport offer. The beach is a significant asset and promotion of the natural coast is crucial to maintaining Southport's varied 'offer'.

- 3.29 Southport's development through the years has been closely linked to the changing coastline. The 'boulevard' design of Lord Street evolved because the early landscape influenced development of the town with the first houses being built on the higher, drier land each side of a seasonally flooded dune slack. The expansion of the town's seaward edge is due to both man's intervention and the natural process of accretion. Engineering interventions continued at various stages until as recently as 1976 (section south to Weld Road) and all the 'resort zone' coast defences were consolidated by the construction of the new seawall along this line in the late 1990's.
- 3.30 Southport beach is going through natural change and the beach height is increasing, causing vegetation to colonise. This is due largely to the town's location on the Ribble Estuary at the historical overlap between saltmarsh and sand dunes. Whether this very significant challenge and change to perception and image of Southport is acceptable needs to be positively and proactively addressed. This natural change could be embraced and capitalised on to create a natural coast, with opportunities to create natural wildlife habitat and related visitor attractions. However this would change the role and character of the beachfront permanently and risk losing the seaside image of the town and damaging the value of the visitor economy. The commercial impact of the changing coastline if no options are available to manage the loss of a sandy beachfront should therefore be carefully considered.

### Planning Policy Context

- 3.31 The Framework aligns with the emerging Local Plan policies, specifically the Central Area and Seafront Area policies. These policies support regeneration and economic growth in respect to the future of retail and leisure sectors and in recognising that more residential accommodation can help sustain the centre.
- 3.32 The Local Plan promotes Southport as both the main retail and tourist centre in the Borough and as England's 'Classic Resort'. Strengthening the retail offer of Lord Street and introducing new residential development to the area would help to reinvigorate the area by providing an increased, diverse demographic and footfall to the area.
- 3.33 The Southport Seafront area of the town (beachfront and promenade for the purpose of this Framework document) is very much about an improved visitor economy and by achieving this, proposals for leisure, hotels, conference and events facilities, and new and improved visitor attractions are supported by local planning policy. Given the historic assets in Southport, the whole of Lord Street and the Promenade which includes Southport's pier are designated as Conservation Areas.

### Southport Business Improvement District (BID)

- 3.34 A 'Yes' vote was given to the BID in 2014. The BID represents over 900 businesses within Southport. A manifesto has been prepared by the BID with the aim of bringing in more events, shoppers, visitors and investment into the town.
- 3.35 The BID board has been fully engaged throughout the process of preparing this document. This Framework acts to inform and support the aspirations and objectives of the Southport BID that are set out in the BID Action Plan and manifesto covering the next 5 years.

### Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and Local Economic Partnership

- 3.36 The Liverpool City Region Growth Strategy 2016 sets a out a number of growth sectors. Key for Southport is the visitor economy where the objective is to create a 'thriving and vibrant destination for business and leisure visitors' but also in terms of Low Carbon Energy, Digital and Creative and Financial & Professional Services. The Growth Strategy confirms that Liverpool City Region's Cultural and Tourism offer is the strongest outside of London. Whilst Liverpool is the 'main attack brand' this is supported by Southport – England's classic resort and England's Golf Coast.

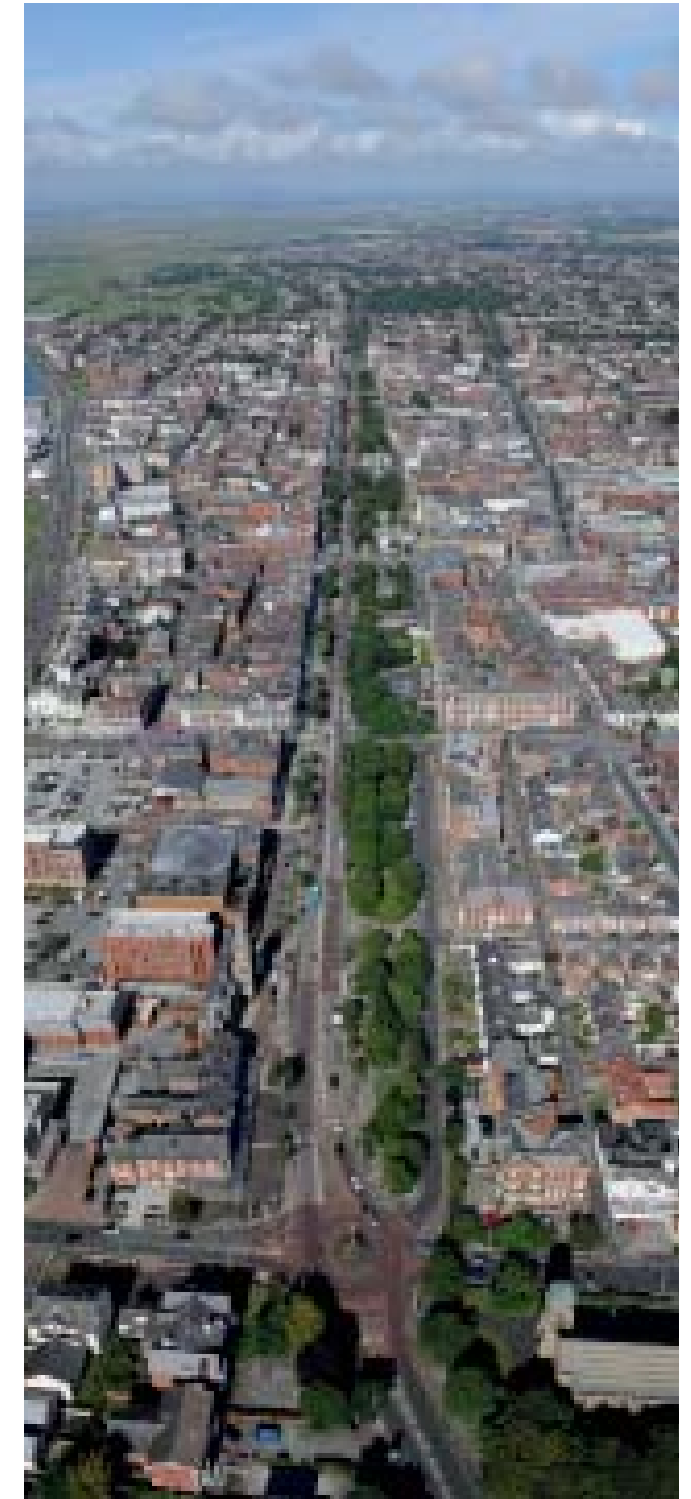
- 3.37 The Liverpool City Region Visitor Economy Board highlights Southport as both a nationally and internationally recognised destination. The LEP Strategy and Destination Management Plan (November 2014) sets out an Action Plan for jobs and growth in the region based around the visitor economy. Southport is very much integral to this action plan and, as part of the vision the seaside town will build on its reputation as England's Classic Resort and as a successful national conference destination. Southport's golfing offer is also significant in attracting high spending staying visitors to Southport.

- 3.38 One of the specific aims of this Framework is to attract investment to improve the quality and range of hotels, restaurants, attractions, conference facilities, exhibition and cultural venues and major events. This includes strengthening Southport's position as a national conference centre able to host major corporate, public and association events through the on-going implementation of the Southport conference plan.

- 3.39 The LEP wants to develop Southport as a major destination brand in the region and identifies areas in Southport where planned capital investments are aimed. The particular areas which very much fit in with the proposals in this document include:

- Restoration of Lord Street as a prime location for retail and leisure.
- Southport Golf Links and Fairways Park and Ride.
- Comprehensive development of the Marine Park site to provide a regional visitor attraction.

- 3.40 In raising the profile of Southport the action plan of the Major Event Group Partners will continue to develop fresh events and bid to host national and international events that could take place in the coming years.



# 4. Southport: Existing Character

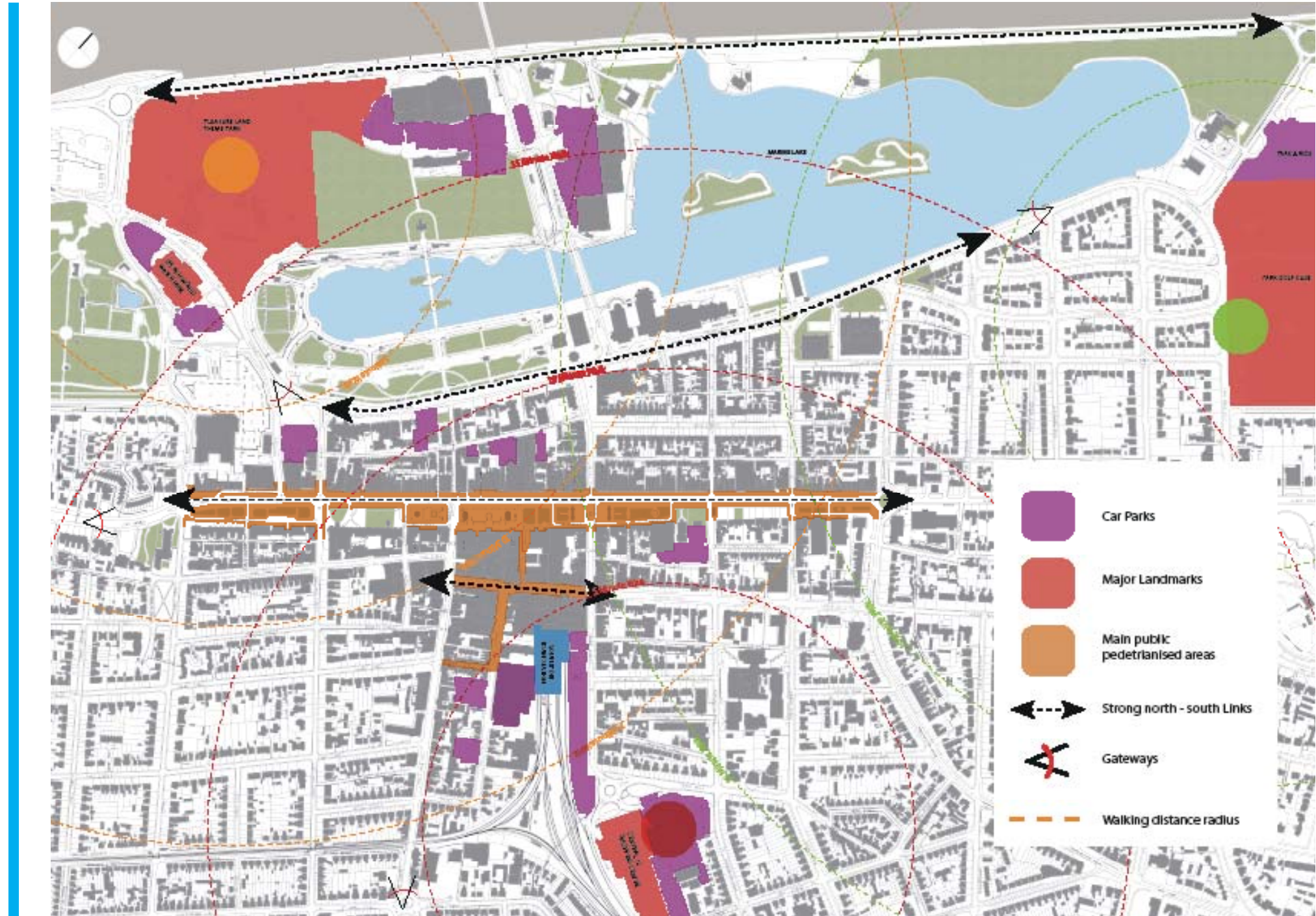
4.1 This section of the Framework document considers the key elements of the townscape and spatial character of Southport as a basis for establishing the principal opportunities for developing a coherent spatial framework for the town.

## Overview

4.2 Southport is characterised by its role as a major seaside town in the north west of England and in the context of Lord Street, its historic high street. This unique iconic feature is accompanied by a network of distinctive shopping arcades and the more modern retail areas of Chapel Street which accommodates a number of national multiples occupying larger format stores (including Boots and Marks & Spencer). These assets make Southport a prime shopping destination for the north of Sefton and the wider area.

4.3 North-south links characterise the predominant vehicular and pedestrian movements along the linear routes of Lord Street and the Promenade across the central area of Southport.

4.4 North-south routes are clearly defined showing vehicular and pedestrian movement is mainly along Lord Street, Chapel Street, the Promenade and Marine Drive.



North-south routes

- 4.5 East-west routes are not as clearly defined. Better connectivity on these routes through public realm improvements is considered as part of this framework.
- 4.6 Distinct areas have been identified with their own unique character and qualities. These are:
  - The Beachfront and Promenade;
  - Historic High Street of Lord Street;
  - Modern High Street of Chapel Street and out of centre retail; and
  - Residential areas predominantly between Lord Street and the Promenade.
- 4.7 The Beachfront and Promenade provide a premier visitor destination, comprising a number of attractions (Southport Pleasureland, Splashworld, the Marine Lake and Kings Gardens, the open spaces of Princes Park, Victoria Park, the Ramada Plaza and Southport Theatre and Convention Centre). The arterial routes of the Promenade and Marine Drive form a ring road around this area and the adjacent Ocean Plaza.
- 4.8 The retail core of the town comprises the historic Lord Street. The seaward side is characterised by its tree-lined, broad paved, canopied boulevard of independent shops, hotels, coffee shops and restaurants occupying buildings of varying architectural appearance. The opposite landward side of Lord Street, in contrast is occupied by large civic-type historical buildings edged with scenic gardens and public space. This includes the Town Hall and the extensively refurbished Atkinson. This side of Lord Street is mainly in commercial use with a few retail units

- and a number of residential sections interspersed throughout.
- 4.9 Chapel Street is a section of Southport's primary retail core. It is more modern in appearance and contains a number of high street brands and national retailers with Southport Market on the adjacent King Street. Chapel Street is fully pedestrianised and is the gateway into the town for many rail users. A number of indoor shopping arcades including Marble Place, Wayfarers Arcade and Cambridge Arcade are intertwined between the two retail areas of Chapel Street and Lord Street providing key east-west linkages through the retail core.
- 4.10 Central 12 Shopping Park, located to the south east of the traditional shopping core, is anchored by an Asda store alongside a number of other national stores, which although 'out of centre' in nature, is within the existing town centre boundary.
- 4.11 The largest food store in the town centre is Morrisons on Duke Street. Sainsburys on Lord Street, Lidl on Virginia Street and Iceland on King Street make up the majority of remaining convenience offer in Southport. The town centre Market Hall opens six days a week and accommodates a variety of independent retailers.



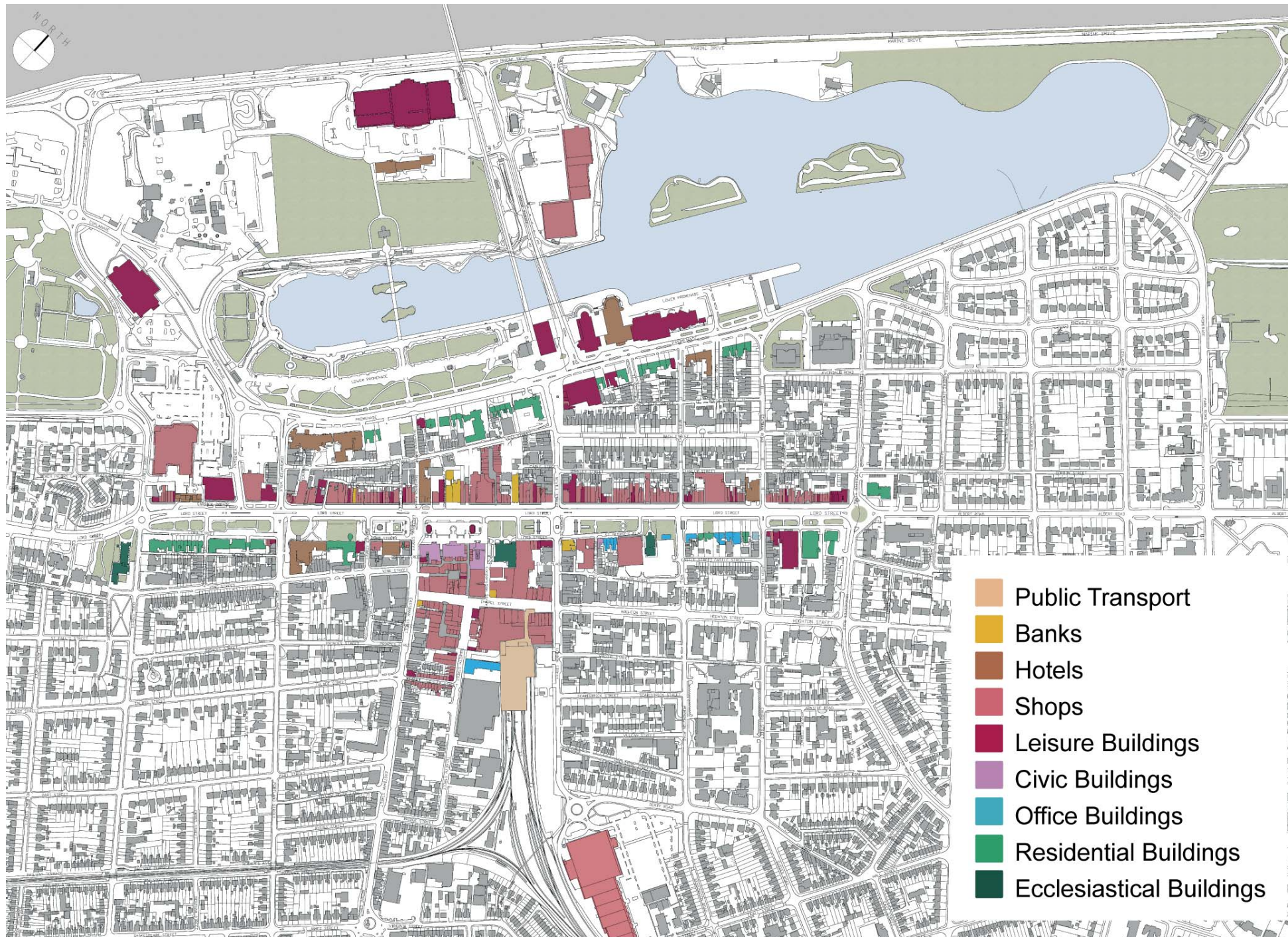
Views of pedestrian links between Chapel Street and Lord Street



Views of pedestrian links between Chapel Street and Lord Street

- Public Transport
- Main public pedestrianised areas
- Strong North-South Links
- Pedestrian Links Between Chapel Street and Lord Street

East-west routes



Land use plan

- 4.12 The Beachfront and Promenade comprise the majority of Southport's key visitor and largely outdoor leisure attractions.
- 4.13 Although Southport has a strong professional and financial presence, there is no identifiable office zone perhaps with the exception of Houghton Street. There are some office buildings on the southern side of Lord Street and in the streets off Lord Street such as Gordon House on Leicester Street.
- 4.14 Residential properties are interspered with commercial uses in the centre area with particular concentrations between Lord Street and Promenade. Many of these have been converted from guest houses and B&Bs.

#### Land Ownership

- 4.15 The Council owns land and property in Southport and two significant development opportunities are Marine Park and Southport Golf Links and Fairways Park and Ride site. The Council owns the surface level car park which forms part of the Tulketh Street development opportunity and Victoria Baths. The remaining development opportunities are in private ownership. Lord Street buildings are in multiple ownerships.



### Conservation and Listed Buildings

- 4.16 There are two Conservation Areas that recognise the historic and architectural interest of buildings and the environment in the Southport Central Area; these are Promenade (which includes the pier) and Lord Street Conservation Areas. Lord Street was one of the earliest to be designated as a Conservation Area in 1973. Lord Street is one of Sefton’s key assets and many of the buildings within it are listed as being of national importance.
- 4.17 The historic Victorian canopies of Lord Street are an important iconic heritage asset in Southport but some are in a poor state of repair. Improvements to these canopies would contribute to a visually vibrant street-scape for visitors to the area and more generally support investor confidence.
- 4.18 The Seafront area also contains important heritage and environmental assets. Much of the Seafront is within the Promenade Conservation Area and contains a number of listed buildings and registered Parks and Gardens of Special Historic Interest.
- 4.19 Lord Street and the Promenade Conservation Area Appraisals have previously been carried out by Sefton Council in 2005 and 2008 respectively, but updated versions are currently being prepared including a boundary review. These are expected to be adopted in 2016. Following this Management Plans will be prepared.
- 4.20 Both Conservation Areas were identified as being at risk by the Council and were published on Historic England’s national register in 2014. This is largely due to vacancies within buildings, lack of

maintenance, (particularly with the canopies) condition of the public realm and a loss of historic detail. It is recognised through this Framework that Southport’s built heritage is important to the economic wellbeing, tourism function and branding of the town.

### Public Realm and Key views

- 4.21 Central Southport around Lord Street and the Promenade Conservation Areas has previously undergone a number of major regeneration projects. A Townscape Heritage Initiative provided a grants programme for business premises in 2008, Kings Gardens restoration was completed in 2014 and refurbishment of the Atkinson and Southport Market is complete. Previous public realm schemes have included Chapel Street, Nevill Street (partial), and improvements to the south side of Lord Street.
- 4.22 Consideration of key views and vistas in the Southport Central Area is important in ensuring the quality and attractiveness of the area is enhanced. Identifying key views is also a useful exercise in assessing the context within which proposals for key development sites are identified, particularly in terms of scale, height massing and design.
- 4.23 Key views that need to be protected include:
  - Lord Street (north-south)
  - Promenade (north-south)
  - Scarisbrick Avenue (east-west)
  - Chapel Street (north-south)
  - London Street – Lord Street (Junction) - Nevill Street - Promenade (east-west)

4.24 Any proposals that are developed should seek to protect and reinforce these views.

### Summary

- The spatial element of this Framework is aimed at linking together assets more effectively by improving the legibility and accessibility through public realm schemes and other town centre initiatives such as a car parking, signage and strengthening gateways into Southport.
- The theme of adding to Southport’s depth and diversity has been outlined in this document. For example; improving the profile for food and drink, providing additional quality hotel accommodation, discovering opportunities for creative industries in association with Southport College, enhancing visitor attractions and encouragement to the housing market will all contribute to Southport becoming somewhere people want to live, work, visit and spend time.



# 5. Spatial Framework

- 5.1 The Framework continues the theme of Southport as England's Classic Resort, with an emphasis on achieving a 'quality' experience in terms of the retail, cultural, leisure and a diverse events offer.
- 5.2 The approach taken is one of building on the undoubted assets that the town has and the objective to 'fill in the gaps' both in the offer and spatially, taking account of the scale of the beachfront and legibility issues. This will include enhancing Southport's profile and connectivity between assets and growing a more diverse offer in order to attract a broader demographic of visitors, including young adults and families, alongside the regular visits by the resident population.
- 5.3 The Spatial Framework outlines complementary initiatives that can help strengthen existing assets and the visitor offer.

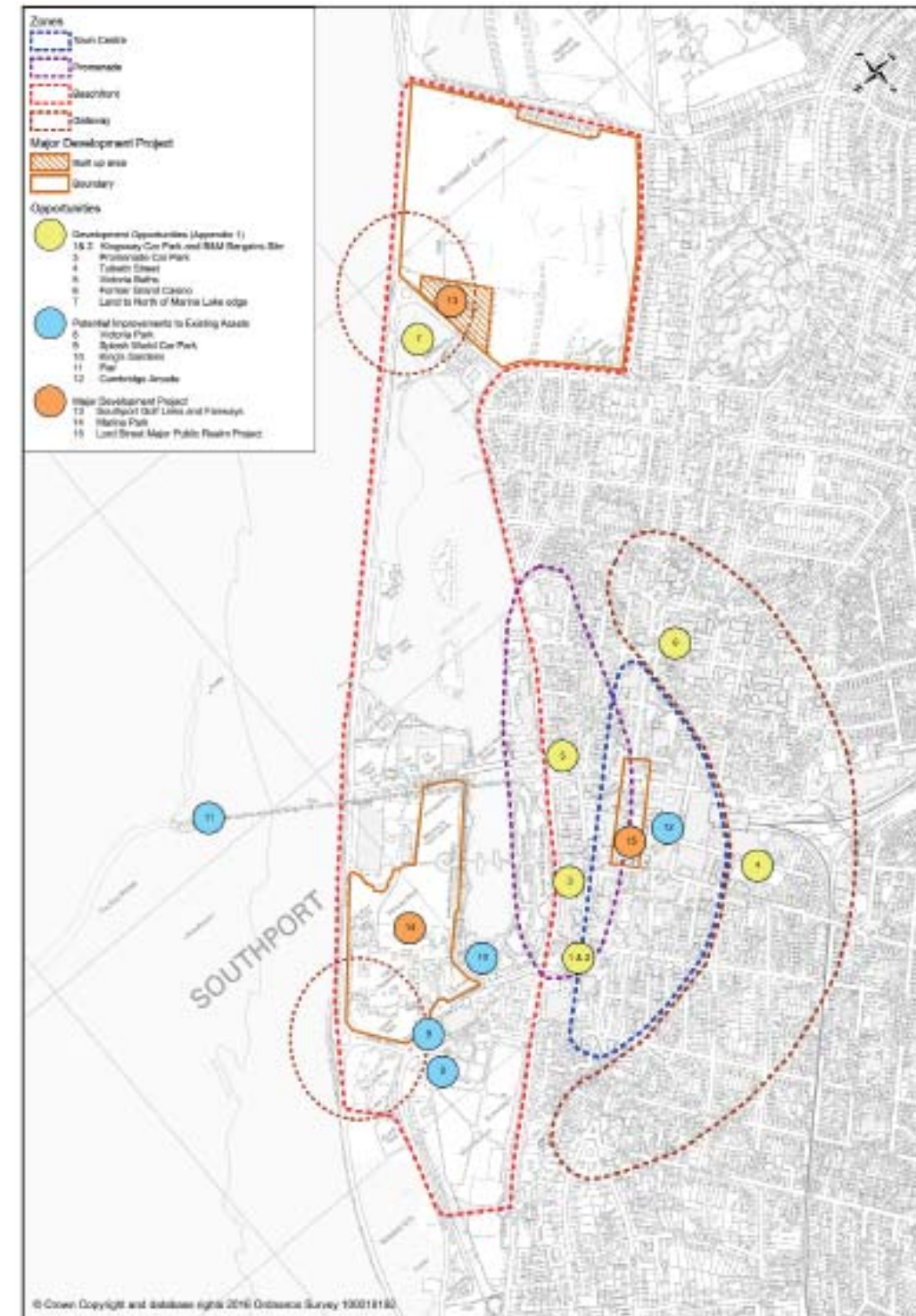
## Spatial Framework

- 5.4 This works on three levels:
  - **Zones:** This helps to provide a basis for describing function and linkages within the town and reference future priorities to help with decision making as well as the approach to the public realm, signage and car parking management. The four Zones are 'Gateways', 'Town Centre Core', 'Promenade' and 'Beachfront'.
  - **Development Opportunities:** A number of development opportunities are set out in Appendix 1. In addition three major projects Marine Park, Southport Golf Links/Fairways site and Lord Street Public Realm are described in the main body of this document. Collectively they contribute

to the role of the development zones (see Spatial Framework diagram).

- **Town Centre Management:** This is a broad heading which is intended to encompass other initiatives outside of development projects such as events, signage, car parking management and so on. Further examples of expanding the leisure 'offer' can be found in Appendix 2.

- 5.5 The remainder of the Development Framework considers each of these elements in turn.



Spatial Framework

5.6 The Spatial Framework diagram includes the following Zones:

- **Gateways** – defined by Eastbank Street, Tulketh Street, Southport Railway Station to the east, with principal gateways also north and south of Lord Street and the Coastal Road. Improvements to the overall ‘welcome’ such as quality of the environment, signage and car parking is an important focus for attention, as the gateways offer the first impression of Southport to visitors.
- **Town Centre Core** – centred on Chapel Street, Central 12 and Lord Street provide for the day to day retail and service needs of Southport. Improved links into Lord Street offer a strong leisure, retail and visitor experience. The retail circuit between Chapel Street and Lord Street should be strengthened.
- **Promenade** – The Promenade area is quintessentially Southport – capable of providing the more genteel element of the classic resort experience: restaurants and cafés, hotels, retail, points of interest, places to dwell and to undertake more gentle pursuits. Again Lord Street is the front door to this zone, and the Promenade links the retail core with the Beachfront, whilst Nevill Street and of course the Pier provide key east-west linking elements. The emphasis here again is the rejuvenation of Lord Street; linkages and movement, repairs to the urban form through the redevelopment of key frontage sites and the rediscovery of key assets, including Kings Gardens. Critically there will be a strong relationship between the retail core and Promenade focussed around Lord Street and the interconnecting streets such as Scarisbrick Avenue and Nevill Street.

- **Beachfront** – Beachfront offers the more active part of the Classic Resort experience and is the gateway for many new visitors entering the town from the coastal road. This large, expansive area is presented as a single, coherent beachfront leisure environment with a wealth of leisure and recreation facilities including Pleasureland, Marine Park, Marine Lake, Southport Pier, Victoria Park, Kings Gardens, Fairways (and golf course), and of course the beach.

5.7 Within this Spatial Framework (identified on the Spatial Framework Diagram) a number of development opportunities and town centre initiatives have been considered in respect to future investment.

### Development Opportunities

5.8 Several development opportunities in Southport exist which could make a contribution to the economic growth of the centre. They represent a mix of development uses and would, if brought forward, support footfall generation in the heart of the town and could incorporate improvements to off street parking. These have been considered in consultation with Sefton Council and private land and property owners. Deliverability, viability and their contribution towards the overall vision and objectives of the Framework have been considered. These are detailed in Appendix 1 and included in the Spatial Framework Diagram. The sites include:

- Tulketh Street surface car parks
- Kingsway Car Park and B & M Bargains Site, Lord Street
- Promenade Car Park
- Former Grand Casino, Lord Street

- Victoria Baths, Promenade
- Land north of the Marine Lake edge

### Southport Beachfront and Promenade

5.9 The Beachfront and Promenade together comprise key visitor and largely outdoor leisure assets. There is the beach itself, Southport Pleasureland, Kings Gardens and Marine Lake, Victoria Park, Splashworld, Ramada Plaza Hotel, Southport Theatre and Convention Centre and the Pier. The scope for further improvement to a number of these existing assets is suggested (see Spatial Framework diagram).

5.10 Importantly the Beachfront zone includes two Council owned sites; Marine Park and the Southport Golf Links/Fairways site, representing major development opportunities.

### Town Centre Core and Management Initiatives

5.11 This broad term comprises a major public realm proposal in the central area of Lord Street and ‘town centre management’ activities including:

- Gateways, signage and car parking
- A public realm strategy
- An events strategy
- Southport Market
- Creative Industries
- Visitor Accommodation



Exemplar images

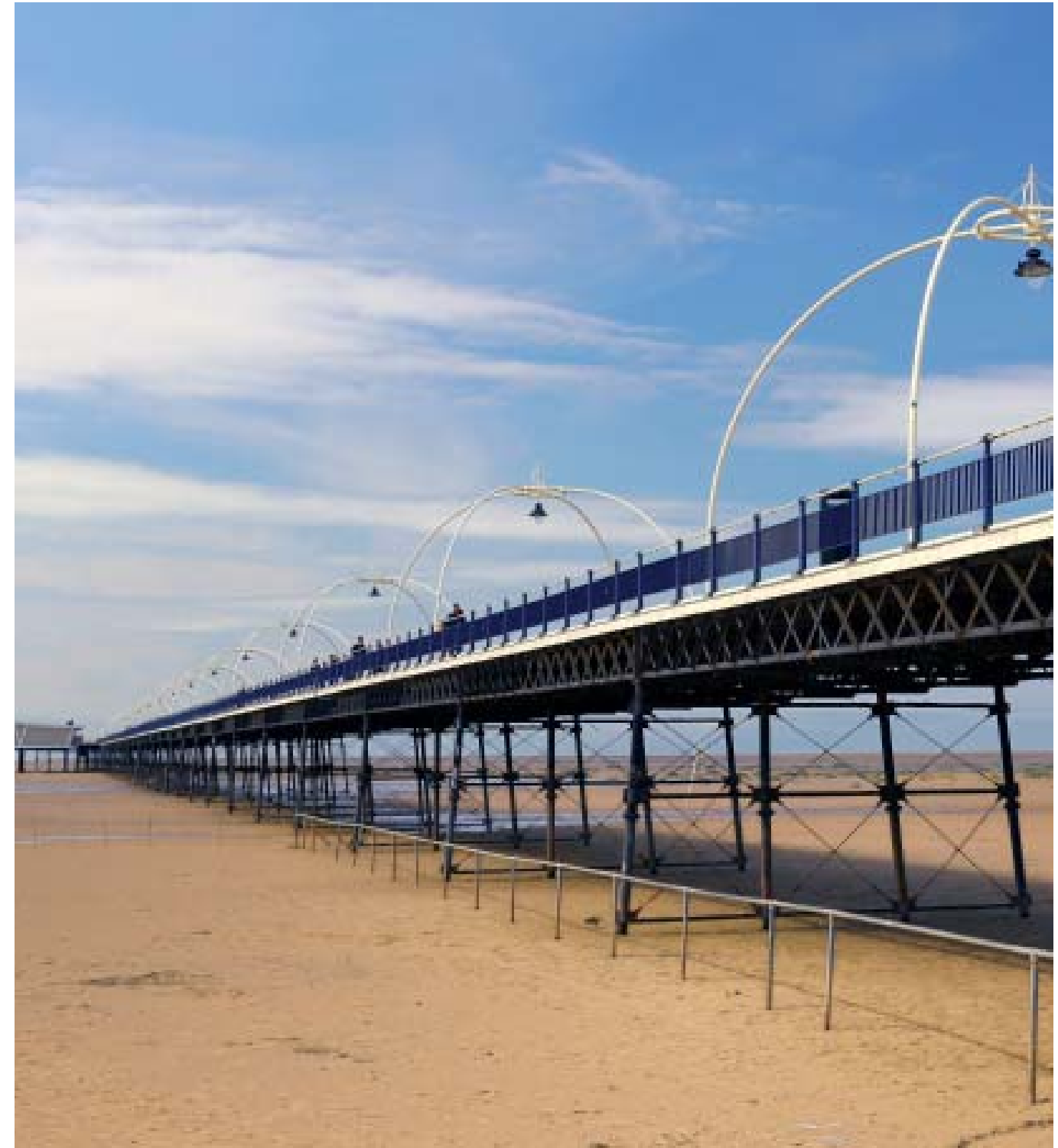
# 6. Southport's Beachfront and Promenade

- 6.1 Across the Beachfront and Promenade zones improvements to key visitor infrastructure such as family focused accommodation, events management plan, consistent signage, access linkages and parking will create a coherent and appealing seafront for visitors and residents to enjoy.
- 6.2 Although not strictly part of the Marine Park development site, the adjacent Kings Gardens, Marine Lake and the Pier are also considered to be part of an extended Marine Park offer within the Beachfront and Promenade zones. Marine Lake provides powerboat, pedalo and rowing boat hire plus a paddle steamer during the summer season and is used by sailing clubs.
- 6.3 The Pier in its current form delivers a limited seasonal visitor experience. An enhanced retail and leisure offer and improved overall visitor experience, such as green tourism during winter months and remodelling the end pavilion, would extend the seasonality of this asset and footfall generally within the beachfront.
- 6.4 Should the southerly edge of Kings Gardens including the old pumping station and bowling greens become available there is the potential for an enhanced or new leisure offer to take full advantage of the lakeside setting.
- 6.5 To the rear of Splashworld the car park site has potential if it becomes surplus to requirements for alternative future development.
- 6.6 Victoria Park is used primarily for events which include the Southport Flower Show, British Musical Fireworks Championships,

the Southport Food Festival and the RAF Woodvale Rally. The Trust which operates the site has indicated that there is the possibility to develop the corner of the park directly adjacent to Marine Park for suitable uses. The development of family accommodation such as holiday chalets would tie into other developments in this area.

## Marine Park

- 6.7 The Marine Park site currently comprises:
  - The Pleasureland theme park which is the 'anchor' leisure operator on the site;
  - Miniature lakeside railway;
  - Princes Park public gardens with a small pitch and putt facility;
  - A number of small seasonal attractions and facilities such as a go-kart track and ice cream stalls;
  - The lifeboat house (which is not normally open to the public).
- 6.8 The vision for the future of the Marine Park site is to pursue an anchor leisure attraction of regional significance that will attract families and add to the critical mass of Southport's Visitor offer. The likely way of achieving this is to retain a theme park attraction. It's anticipated that the business case for significant theme park (amusement/fairground) investment will need to be tested. Additionally there is an expectation for multifunctional all year round entertainment.





Marine Park illustrative proposals

**Southport Golf Links and Fairways Park and Ride (Major Development Project)**

6.9 Southport Golf Links is a high quality and popular 18-hole municipal golf course to the north of the town centre. Adjoining the Council owned golf course to the south is the 2.5 ha Council-owned former Fairways Park and Ride site. Given its close proximity to the adjoining golf course, adding to the existing golfing offer through high quality visitor accommodation (including hotel and self-catering accommodation), associated parking and other complementary leisure facilities to support the existing golf course is an obvious opportunity. Land in private ownership around the Marine Lake edge may also provide scope for alternative visitor accommodation in the form of glamping or other similar uses.



Fairways illustrative proposals

### Attractions and adding to the leisure offer

- 6.10 The visitor attractions sector in the UK is large and fragmented. There are all manner of attractions encompassing museums, art galleries, heritage attractions, historic properties, theme parks, zoos, wildlife attractions, science centres, gardens, steam railways, cathedrals and more. Some attractions receive millions of visitors annually whilst some receive hundreds. Some attractions have free admission whilst some charge for admission. Some attractions receive public subsidy whilst others rely entirely on earned income. Some attractions are run for profit whilst some are not. This disparity of scale, ownership, operation and finance means that there is no single picture for the future potential of the sector.
- 6.11 Unsurprisingly in the current economic climate there is very little investment in new attractions which require public funding, such as museums, science centres and galleries. Most development in these areas is being funded by the Heritage Lottery fund and is supporting existing facilities.

### Amusement Park and Leisure Offer

- 6.12 Similarly, there is little new development in the UK in major commercial attractions such as theme parks and aquaria, although existing sites, particularly the bigger ones with over 500,000 visitors annually will have an investment plan which includes regular small scale investment and periodic major investment. However the current Pleasureland operator, has communicated an ambition to provide significant investment

in the development of the theme park (fairground) offer.

- 6.13 There are many examples of theme parks which utilise water and several case studies are outlined along with other commercially based attractions in Appendix 2 of this document.
- 6.14 The greatest area of growth is in smaller scale commercial activity based attractions such as adventure golf, permanent or temporary zip wires, freestanding high ropes courses and freestyle trampolining. Skate parks are also worth considering. New development is expected to be clustered around the Marine Park to create a critical mass of family entertainment.

### Visitor Accommodation

- 6.15 There is a good mix of hotel accommodation in Southport with a number of 4-star hotels which collectively have around 240 rooms (Ramada Plaza, Formby Hall and The Vincent). These relatively recent additions complement the more traditional 3-star and 2-star hotels such as the Royal Clifton, the Prince of Wales, the Scarisbrick, the Talbot and the Bold (which collectively have around 400 rooms). In addition, there is a Premier Inn and now a Travelodge within Southport which provide around 200 budget accommodation rooms. There is a further provision in guest houses and bed and breakfasts (B&B's). The B&B offer within the town is declining, as properties are converted to residential use, particularly in the Bath Street area. Driving up quality and adding to the boutique accommodation offer will improve the guest accommodation mix and will complement the independent

restaurant offer within the town. Bed occupancy is already well above the city region average for Southport's four-star hotel accommodation and further four-star accommodation is required in order to grow the visitor economy and attract the business conferencing sector.

- 6.16 A key trend in recent years has been the rapid growth of glamping (a term used and associated with what many consider as luxurious camping) ready-erected, fully-equipped tents, yurts, tipis and other unusual forms of camping and caravanning accommodation. As a new form of accommodation they have attracted significant media coverage and wherever they have opened such accommodation operations have quickly attracted strong demand.



Exemplar images

### Activities

6.17 At present a range of watersports are offered to visitors including the hire of pedalos, motor boats and power boats. The Lake is also used by some watersports clubs for activities including sailing and water-skiing. Opportunities to increase the range of water based activities on the Lake should also form part a longer term plan. It is unlikely that Sefton Council would be able to secure interest from major new commercial operators at the current time since there are very few looking to develop this type of activity in the UK at present. (With a few notable exceptions, most water sports activities are run on a small scale by independent operators). The business case opportunity could become more attractive however as part of the wider cluster of activity which is being proposed for Marine Park which should be explored at this time.

6.18 Water based rides could form the scope of future theme park investment and the use of the lake as a feature can be considered in the redevelopment of the Marine Park site. A suggestion has been made to animate the lake with lighting and lasers.

### Tidal Lagoon

6.19 The potential for major investment in tidal lagoons around the British Isle's is ambitious. The Liverpool City Region identified Low Carbon Energy as a growth sector, with tidal energy a noted ambition.

6.20 A tidal lagoon could be both a form of sustainable energy and a catalyst for regeneration within Southport, providing:

- Clean, renewable and predictable power

connected to the National Grid

- An important contribution towards national carbon emission reduction targets
- Significant employment and value creation
- Community and tourism opportunities in sports, recreation, education, arts and culture
- Conservation, restocking and biodiversity programmes
- Coastal flood protection

6.21 This Framework document proposes that Sefton Council explores all opportunities and engages in dialogue with the city region and BEIS in order for it to be part of the development of a future programme of schemes. The potential for and nature of a tidal lagoon will be dependent on a range of factors including marine engineering and conservation issues

### Southport Beach

6.22 The coast is accreting and Southport beach is going through natural change, whereby, as the beach height increases vegetation also colonises. At Southport this is predominately salt marsh and this is largely due to the town's location on the Ribble Estuary.

6.23 Decisions will need to be taken regarding the future of Southport beach and whether it should be part of a revised beach management plan which takes into account the beach at Ainsdale, with Ainsdale promoted to visitors for sea bathing (and coastal gateway hub) and Southport promoted as a recreational beach. At Southport there is no managed 'patrolled bathing area' in place unlike Formby and Ainsdale and bathing water is currently below the 'Excellent'

standard in respect of the Bathing Water Regulations 2013.

6.24 In the late 1990's, the Council made the decision to cease treatment of beach vegetation which had been taking place for a number of decades north of the pier. Although the top of the beach is changing, an area of sandy foreshore is still available for beach recreation and at the time of writing, the main beach is largely unaffected. However, under certain weather and tidal conditions the top of the beach can be affected by deposition of mud as was experienced prior to the 2014 and 2015 Airshows and in 2016 the level of mud was significant. The top of the beach is used for parking and during airshows customer viewing, catering and attractions. Light aircraft also uses a section of the beach to land and this is becoming increasingly difficult to achieve. Vegetation growth has also severely reduced beach parking options for the Airshow and continues to reduce the flying display line that in turn is having a detrimental impact on the event. The increased colonisation of vegetation and mud deposition is expected to increase, which will bring with it economic consequences for this major event in the future.

6.25 From this perspective, maintenance of the beach is essential in order to maintain a section of it as a sandy beach. Potential solutions to actively manage or retain a proportion of sandy beach, may lead to a mixture of habitats, including sand dunes. It is important to note that the beach vegetation is afforded protection as an important habitat and any proposals would have to be considered under the Habitat Regulations 2010 (as amended). Despite the challenges associated with holding events, there is an

opportunity to introduce something different to the beach that will attract visitors and give something unique to Southport that people will go home and tell their friends, family and colleagues about. Appendix 2 illustrates several case studies; a giant deckchair on Bournemouth beach, sculpture trails in Barcelona and even closer to Southport, the Anthony Gormley statues at Crosby.

### The Wider Natural Coast

6.26 Sefton's natural coast should be seen as an important part of the broader Southport offer and complement the traditional family seaside provision as well as having the potential to attract visitors in the low season. There is scope to promote the natural coast ecology offer within Southport itself and along the Sefton coast. Opportunities to increase destination potential at Marshside through an RSPB visitor centre on or near the former sandwinning plant may be an option. Alternatively, a green visitor offer could be considered closer to the town, either on or near the pier.



### Events

6.27 The objective should be to protect and develop Southport's successful events programme and to develop a number of sustainable new events which appeal to new markets. Appendix 2 includes a number of case studies relevant to both the Beachfront and Town Centre environment.

### Summary

- Develop a Beach Management Plan that supports Southport's aspirations and complements the wider coastline.
- Develop the natural and green tourism offer within the town including the low season offer.
- Expansion of the successful events programme to attract a new and different market segment to the town.
- Explore opportunities and produce a roadmap for the development of the Marine Park and Fairways sites, including provision of a theme/amusement park.
- Explore opportunities to increase the provision of high quality family and business tourism accommodation. Encouraging a wide range of provision including four-star hotels, boutique B&B's and 'glamping'.



# 7. Southport Town Centre Core

## Lord Street – Public Realm, Heritage and Movement

- 7.1 Lord Street has traditionally been one of the most renowned shopping streets of North West England but like many other town centres has experienced lower levels of footfall, increasing numbers of vacant units, competition from large out of centre retail destinations and the growth in online shopping.
- 7.2 Along with the beachfront area, Lord Street is one of Southport’s unique selling points - something that sets Southport apart from other town centres and seaside towns. Lord Street must therefore exploit this uniqueness in any proposals for the street.
- 7.3 The Framework sets out a high level plan for Lord Street and the town centre. The focus is on a key section of Lord Street that is likely to include Eastbank Street and Scarisbrick Avenue as well as Market Street to integrate Southport Market into the retail core more effectively, and then up to London Square and Nevill Street. The objective is to draw people into the town centre, through a quality environment with public spaces for events, where people can spend time for leisure, businesses are encouraged to embrace digital technologies for the high street, opportunities for a diverse range of uses exist and where entrepreneurs are encouraged in new start-ups, potentially linked to Southport College.

## Heritage

- 7.4 Proposals for Lord Street should be sensitive to its conservation area designation and to the rich heritage that this popular visitor destination is recognised for. Following the Council’s decision to put Lord Street and Promenade conservation areas on Heritage England’s (HE) At Risk Register (HAR), partnership working between the Council and HE could prove fundamental in supporting key projects identified for Lord Street; retaining the historic fabric of the area and with the aim of improving the condition of the two conservation areas of Lord Street and Promenade, which removes them from the HAR register.
- 7.5 As part of the events strategy, a separate heritage-based programme could include a town centre trail to promote the architecture and history of the town centre and Lord Street in particular which could possibly tie in with the Open golf tournament at Birkdale in 2017.
- 7.6 It is recommended that the Council, with the backing of Heritage England, propose and support a Heritage Partnership Agreement, perhaps in conjunction with a Local Development Order, to remove obstacles in order to facilitate the change of use of upper floors along Lord Street for example to residential.
- 7.7 This intervention should also be applied to the ground floor units themselves where rationalising the floor plates of units would help ensure that vacant premises appeal to a wider range of retailers by offering flexibility in these units. This will need to be aligned with a retail review looking at gaps in provision, void management and how

retail complements the overall offer of the town. Enforcement action on listed building owners in Lord Street may be necessary in order for improvements to be made to frontages.

- 7.8 The listed canopies which adorn the majority of buildings on Lord Street are in a variable condition. Therefore a management agreement is necessary and the appointment of a contractor to manage the cleaning and maintenance of these canopies jointly so that they are brought up to a standard which reflects the quality of this historic area.

## Public Realm Strategy

- 7.19 Lord Street has always been, and must continue to be, Southport’s jewel in its crown. Efforts must be made to improve the public realm on Lord Street to underline its role as a focal point for events and other activities.
- 7.10 Between London Street/Nevill Street and Eastbank Street/Scarisbrick Avenue a concentrated plan is proposed to establish a ‘cultural heart’ for Lord Street. The emphasis is on creating a shared civic space that will draw footfall to the area, grow events and link with Southport Market in expanding the ‘food and drink’ offer of the town centre. This space will showcase Lord Street to its full potential, raising its profile as a destination by enhancing the tourism potential and local economy of Southport. Importantly traffic movement will be maintained.

- 7.11 As part of these improvements, scheme concepts could include:
  - Providing a balance between pedestrian priority and vehicular traffic to improve the pedestrian experience, and to access both sides of Lord Street.
  - Delivering a place of character using high quality materials which would include substantial vegetation and ecology in order to create a unique identity.
  - Using water as a key feature, responding to context and providing a culturally focussed dynamic attraction.
- 7.12 Lord Street is an important economic driver and external funding opportunities for heritage and the public realm should be investigated. This may include Heritage Lottery and LCR Growth Fund. Schemes developed should include a phased approach to revitalising Lord Street and exploring a range of ideas linked to remodelling, diversification and business support initiatives.



Lord Street illustrative proposals

### Movement

- 7.13 The town centre, in particular Lord Street, should achieve a more cohesive pedestrian layout in order to ensure optimum access and movement, whilst retaining vehicular movement through the town. Opportunities for cyclists, building on Southport’s status as a ‘cycle town’, should be explored. The priority should be to enhance east-west movement between the retail core of Chapel Street and Lord Street and then on to the leisure area of the Promenade and Marine Park. The focus for this is the central stretch of Lord Street between Eastbank Street and London Street by way of improving movement and accessibility. Enhancing these linkages and improving movement helps to create a sense of place while still respecting and enhancing the context and character of the town’s built heritage, particularly Lord Street.
- 7.14 This significant public realm proposal for Lord Street would include unifying paving material between building frontages along with associated upgrades to traffic control on pedestrian crossings between Eastbank Street and Scarisbrick Avenue and London Street and Nevill Street. These crossings aim to improve the experience of pedestrian movement across the town. Proposals should ensure that the town centre is accessible and vibrant with a balance between pedestrian priority, traffic capacity and safety. Transport stakeholders will need to be closely involved in proposals to highlight any impact on all road users.

### Streetscape

- 7.15 A strong Council commitment to street clutter reduction is necessary. Lord Street, London Street and Nevill Street (East-West through Lord Street) in particular are very cluttered which impacts on the quality of these important links through the town centre and reduces legibility and the quality of the views and vistas from one area of the town centre to the other.
- 7.16 Removing clutter will help reduce the perception of barriers and impeded vision. Examples for Lord Street include fixing street lights to buildings, reducing the size of signage and a review of the need for guardrails. Such steps will also improve the physical character and context of the streets, buildings, spaces and local landmarks such as the Monument on Lord Street.
- 7.17 Within the central area of Lord Street a redesign could be applied transforming how this space is arranged and used realising the aspirations and potential of this site into an enduring landscape that is a positive addition to the urban fabric. The objectives for the central zone should be to create a place which is:
- **Connected** – to both its physical and social context
  - **Accessible** – easy to reach, pedestrian focused and inclusive to all
  - **Legible** – intuitive and easy to understand
  - **Coherent** – with a strong, simple design aesthetic and palette of materials which unifies the space

- **Appropriate** – to the civic context and to use
- **Flexible** – non-prescriptive, allowing people the freedom to use the space in different ways
- **Robust** – physically and in terms of the design concept
- **Comfortable** – a pleasant microclimate, safe from traffic, noise or fear
- **Vibrant** – a public space with active edges which attracts visitors and is safer
- **Delightful** – with sensory interest from texture, colour and features

- 7.18 Proposals could consider different types of contemporary lighting and a high quality palette of street furniture that creates inviting pockets of intimate social space. Simple paving emphasises the direction of movement. Clear movement routes are defined with street furniture grouped to maximise movement.

### Improving dwell time

- 7.19 Improving dwell time through the centre of Southport could be achieved through the inclusion of community focussed spaces. These would include the opportunity for playable streets, outdoor markets, cafes, performance and places for visitors to simply be.
- 7.20 The public realm improvements will regenerate the town’s retail core, creating a contemporary space that is a destination in its own right. The success of a place is influenced by the quality and range of seating, providing a place people want to stay therefore, supporting the surrounding retail and town centre events.

- 7.21 Contemporary signage for clear way-finding could incorporate digital technologies into the fabric of proposals. Public transport information totems could provide up to the minute, live information on bus services in the town centre.

### Lord Street Bus Issues

- 7.22 In terms of bus routing in the Central Lord Street Area, services may be split into two main types:
- **Lord Street Services:** Those travelling on Lord Street in the Central Area with an origin and destination south of Eastbank Street and north of London Street / Neville Street:
  - **Eastern Services:** Those that only travel in the Central Area of Lord Street emerging and departing Lord Street on Eastbank Street and London Street.
- 7.23 The ambitious proposals for Lord Street will need careful consideration and detailed discussions with the major transport and other key stakeholders as part of any pre-development work, including Merseytravel and the bus operators.

### Summary

- Develop a management solution for Lord Street's historic canopies.
- Develop a grand public realm project for Lord Street that is capable of delivering a quality open retail and leisure environment for visitors and residents.
- Investigate a Local Development Order that will reduce the number of constraints on the upper floors of buildings to encourage residential and office uses above. In conjunction with exploring opportunities to increase the number of people living within the town.
- This Local Development Order will reduce the constraints on flexibility of ground floor units that could potentially attract a wider range of occupants.
- Complete the review of Southport's Conservation Area Appraisals



Exemplar images

# 8. Town Centre Management and Initiatives

8.1 In addition to physical development opportunities, the Framework suggests a holistic approach to the integration and management of the town centre and in particular Lord Street, by introducing a number of complementary initiatives aimed at raising the profile of Southport and providing a quality experience that encourages visitors, communities, business and key stakeholders to keep coming back.

### Car Parking and a Signage

8.2 On a day to day basis Southport is reasonably well provided for in terms of the quantity of parking. However on-street parking in the prime shopping areas is limited and the quality of car parking provision throughout the town and the associated signage for visitors could be improved.

### Car Parking

8.3 The team has consulted the BID on parking issues in Southport and there is concern from some BID members on a lack of parking availability in Southport. Lord Street has been identified by the BID as an area particularly sensitive to this issue. There is a view that parking restrictions on length of stay in the Lord Street area deter shoppers.

8.4 New parking meters have recently been installed in the Lord Street area by Sefton Council and once the meters have been established for a period of time more information will be available on parking patterns in the town centre. Sefton Council has agreed to analyse the data captured in relation to stay duration and number of vehicles once it is available with a view to

informing and reviewing parking restrictions that will potentially extend short stay times for on-street parking Lord Street area.

### Signage

8.5 The question of whether Southport has enough car parking spaces to meet demand in the town centre is not the issue. Rather the challenge is the variable quality of the existing provision and how residents and specifically visitors to Southport are informed about where to access provision.

8.6 The current parking signage strategy directs visitors towards the Esplanade Park & Ride. Individual signage to other car parking facilities in the town centre exist thereafter, indicating spaces available.

8.7 The car park names displayed on some car parks do not indicate to people visiting Southport infrequently in what area car parks are located and what they should be used for e.g Long stay/short stay. For example visitors would not know that London Street, Tulketh Street and Central 12 are the main town centre car parks.

8.8 The Framework suggests a review of car park signage and the potential to group Southport town centre and out of town centre car parking facilities into three zones. It is recommended that operators and owners of private car parks in Southport are consulted on this should Sefton Council decide to proceed with the development of this initiative.

8.9 The car park zones will be given generic names that visitors to the area can clearly understand;

- **Coastal Parking** – Coastal Road Area (including Esplanade P&R)
- **Promenade Parking** – Marine Area
- **Town Centre Parking** – Lord Street and Chapel Street Area

8.10 Once visitors have been directed to the general zone, more localised car park signs would direct people to specific car parks within the zone.

8.11 The table below details the car park zone identified for the main car parks located in Southport.

Car Park Zone		Car Parks
1	Coastal Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Esplanade P&amp;R</li> <li>■ Dunes Leisure</li> <li>■ Marine Park</li> <li>■ Splash World</li> <li>■ Old Pleasure Land Site</li> <li>■ Ocean Plaza Retail</li> </ul>
2	Promenade Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Morrison's</li> <li>■ Kingsway</li> <li>■ B&amp;M</li> <li>■ Kings Gardens</li> <li>■ Floral Hall</li> </ul>
3	Town Centre Parking	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Tulketh Street surface car park</li> <li>■ Tulketh Street Multi-storey</li> <li>■ Central 12</li> <li>■ London Street Southport Train Station</li> </ul>

8.12 The Framework suggests the remodelling and refurbishment of existing car parks to create more attractive, efficient and user friendly parking facilities. There is a requirement for a comprehensive parking review.

8.13 The approach in respect to signage can be summarised as follows:

- There is potential to categorise Southport town centre and Southport out of town centre car parks into three zones, with legible zone names.
- Provision of smaller localised car park signs within each car park zone will direct vehicles to individual car parks.

- Rationalisation of car park signs along arterial routes and in the town centre will result in clear and direct information for visitors and a reduction of street clutter.

### Events Strategy

- 8.14 Southport has an extensive and successful events programme which is key driver for day and staying visitors to the town. Sefton Council's event team organise the annual Southport Airshow, the British Musical Fireworks, a major food and drink festival and a new Southport Festival that builds on the Jazz Festival offer to include literature, poetry, and visual arts in partnership with the Atkinson and other venues. The BID organise 'Spookport' for a week over Halloween and Christmas markets and the Christmas lights switch on.
- 8.15 A number of independently organised events take place, including a Comedy Festival, and on Victoria Park, the Southport Flower Show and RAF Woodvale Rally. Unlike in many local authority areas, the Southport events programme is based on a robust and sustainable business model which is largely independent of Council funding requirements.
- 8.16 The town should protect its current events programme and the public spaces which are used to house them.
- 8.17 The town should look to build on its strength and reputation as an events destination by developing one or two major new events while looking to expand current events which will bring new visitors to the town.
- 8.18 These events will need to be financially viable through sponsorship or commercial income but may require pump prime funding initially.
- 8.19 The new events should focus on:
- Increasing the appeal of the destination to the family market.
  - Exploiting the recent major investment in the Atkinson and the proposed development of the creative and design industries sector through cultural programming.
  - Uniting the town's heritage with its contemporary offer through events which use the heritage in a contemporary way.
- 8.20 Appendix 3 outlines a number of relevant case studies. New events could include:
- A Lord Street centred 'Street Games' event combining urban activities, street performance and street art.
  - An enchanted town event which unites the town's heritage and contemporary offer through illuminations, projections, performances and music.
  - A balloon festival over Southport's beach aimed at the family market would add to the 'Air Show' theme that the town is well known for.
  - An annual beach sculpture event.



Exemplar images

**A Modern Market Hall/ Food and Drinks offer**

**Food and drink**

- 8.21 Locally sourced, high quality food and drink is now expected by visitors to any destination. Unlike many towns and cities (particularly those with major retail developments), Southport’s restaurant scene is characterized by a largely independent offer. Whilst there are a handful of chain/branded restaurants such as Pizza Express or Frankie and Benny’s, there are many more independent restaurants. Tripadvisor lists 239 restaurants in Southport.
- 8.22 Promotion of locally sourced produce is now seen by many destinations as an important part of creating local distinctiveness. Within Southport’s restaurants and cafes there appears to be limited promotion of local food and drink.
- 8.23 Southport’s Food and Drink Festival, which takes place over three days in May at Victoria Park, attracts around 40,000 visitors. The free event showcases the best of local produce with demonstrations, tasting sessions, food and drink stall and a children’s area.
- 8.24 The town should build on the popularity of the event by encouraging restaurants and hospitality outlets to source locally and be explicit about the food which is produced in Southport. The town should consider nurturing a network of local Southport producers who develop and promote a local food brand. This could be linked to the development of the Market Hall.

**A Modern Market Hall**

- 8.25 Markets can be a major motivating factor for people to come to a town centre. The presence of a regular traditional market can add diversity to the retail offer of a town centre and can act as a catalyst for other more specialist markets to come to the area including farmers markets, artisan markets, continental markets, Christmas markets and night markets. Appendix 3 of this document includes Altrincham Market Hall as a Case Study.
- 8.26 Southport Market Hall has potential to significantly develop and diversify its offer.
- 8.27 Opportunities to host events in the market would also add to Southport’s portfolio of ‘event ready’ facilities and should be considered within an events strategy. This could be varied and relevant to the whole community, old and young including a teenage market, student market stalls and local music festivals. Themed weekend markets covering regional food producers, vintage fashion and furniture, house & garden and contemporary craft would add to the versatility of the market.
- 8.28 Public realm improvements to King Street and Market Street will enable activities associated with the Market Hall to utilise this outdoor space for large scale outdoor markets, events and other uses associated with a revitalised market hall.



Exemplar images



**Creative and Design Industries**

- 8.30 Creative and Design industries refer to a range of economic activities which are concerned with the generation or exploitation of knowledge and information; activities which are becoming an increasingly important contribution to the economic well-being and diversification of our town centres.
- 8.31 Such activities include advertising, architecture, crafts, design, film, media production, music technology, television, photography, games design and animation, publishing, museums and galleries, digital design and creation in manufacturing, and business management/enterprise. These are important sources of job creation for the UK and are key government and LEP priorities (Visitor economy, Advanced Manufacturing, Creative and Digital, Financial and Professional).
- 8.32 Many educational establishments have begun to seek opportunities for their students to build on their ideas and concepts and begin to think commercially about their products/services with the aim of improving entrepreneurial skills in a realistic work environment whilst also strengthening the range of local employment opportunities and links for progressing learners.
- 8.33 Southport Colleges proposed “Centre for Innovation in Technology, Engineering and Design (CITED)” would be built around these concepts both in terms of the colleges main site facilities, extension into the town, and the links developed with businesses and the community as laid out in this framework. A number of potential locations have been discussed. This is in addition to facilities for

- which there are existing strong links with the college such as the Atkinson.
- 8.34 Discussions with the college also explored Enterprise Hubs and Fab Labs (Fabrication Laboratory).
- 8.35 It is recommended that Sefton Council, working in partnership with the Southport BID, needs to ensure that vacant and underused units within the town centre where appropriate are proactively marketed with the potential to be utilised as pop-up shops for Southport College, new and existing businesses in Southport and elsewhere, the third sector and to encourage outside investment from businesses potentially looking at relocating in Southport. For more information about this and case studies relating to Fab Lab and Enterprise hubs please see Appendix 3.



Newspaper article

### Digital Technologies

- 8.36 As well as the growth of online shopping, the application of digital technology to retailing is continuing to grow and expand. It is vital that Southport begins to take steps through the Framework and the BID Action Plan to incorporate digital technologies in the town centre experience.
- 8.37 There are a variety of ways of embracing digital technologies in Southport and ensuring that the town centre has the necessary infrastructure in place so that businesses can offer Wi Fi to their customers if they wish to do so. The Southport BID sets this out as a priority in its Manifesto.
- 8.38 In addition to WiFi, the BID manifesto considers a number of digital technologies that would ensure Southport is at the forefront of this revolution on our high streets and the businesses and retailers in the town centre are able to gain an in-depth understanding of shoppers and create a picture of who their customers are, of their existing shopping patterns and likely future needs. Lord Street also has a large number of independents who should also be encouraged to embrace such technologies. Some examples that businesses may wish to consider include:
- **Social Media** - It is almost a given that one of the first points of any digital technology strategy for a business is the use of social media. Facebook, Twitter, SnapChat, Pinterest, Vine and Periscope are just a small list of social media platforms that businesses are utilising as a tool in reaching new customers.
  - **'Beacons Technology'** – using Bluetooth

technology to transmit messages to customers through their smartphone informing them of offers, vouchers and information on products sold within their businesses.

- **'Cloud Tagging'** allows a customer to potentially create an online shopping list in-store. Customers are able to scan products and email themselves a shopping list which they can then make purchases from the online store. In effect, the store acts as a 'showroom' and allows shoppers the option of shopping across multiple channels. Only recently, Sainsburys has launched a 'shop-and-go' service that will allow customers to complete their entire in-store shopping trip using their mobile phone.
- **Virtual Platforms** – stores such as B&Q have introduced technology which allows customers to virtually plan their renovation project in-store and online. Items can then be transferred in-store so customers are able to buy the products needed.
- **Store Apps** - The use of the smartphone is becoming more popular than laptop and desktop uses in the home. Retailer apps allow customers to shop on the go or from wherever they are so purchase can be made 24/7.
- **Click and Collect hubs** - for both food and non-food. Research has suggested that click and collect services are likely to generate more footfall and linked purchases by shoppers using such a service.

8.39 Digital opportunities extend well beyond retail, particularly the digital and creative sectors. Southport has good Superfast broadband provision but to ensure that

businesses (not just retail) are in a position to take full advantage of digital opportunities going forward, the town should aim for Ultrafast broadband provision. A strong digital infrastructure will enable Southport to explore a range of opportunities, such as Bournemouth's digital beach.

### Summary

- Consider how both car parking and signage will improve the clarity of the area and ensure visitors are directed to the areas of Southport they wish to access without difficulty. Protect the existing events programme and build on Southport's strength and reputation as an events destination by developing one or two major new events which will bring new visitors to the town.
- Improve on Southport's 'Food and Drink' offer by encouraging businesses to introduce more locally sourced food into their businesses and promote the unique bar and restaurant offer in the town.
- Revitalise Southport Market as a place that has the flexibility to introduce opportunities for a number of uses relating to food, drink, entertainment and shopping that are attractive and thriving to a wide demographic in Southport. Improvements to the outdoor space of the market will ensure that the market and activities associated with the market can expand into this space.
- Southport must embrace 'omni-channel' shopping and digital technologies becoming more popular with town centres and the high street. This will ensure Southport is at the forefront of the digital high street and that the evolving needs of shoppers are catered for.
- Develop and promote the creative sector in partnership with Southport College and local businesses which may be in the form of an Enterprise Hub, Fab Lab and/or pop-up shops underpinned by an excellent digital infrastructure– that can support diversity in the town centre.

# 9. Making it Happen

9.1 This section of the document summarises the potential delivery path for implementation of this Framework and in particular, the key development sites and complementary town centre initiatives. It sets out the development context, broad principles and process of delivery.

9.2 It is important that all stakeholders understand how the 'Classic Resort' vision is being developed through this Strategy. The position must not be seen as old or 'retro'. Stakeholders need to be reminded of the basis for the position and its contemporary relevance.

## Town Centre Initiatives

9.3 Southport Town Centre is fortunate to have an established Business Improvement District and Southport Tourism Business Network. This gives the local business community the opportunity to have their say on where money raised from the BID levy will be spent over the coming years. Other funding opportunities to be explored include Heritage Lottery and the Liverpool City Region Growth Fund.

## Visitor Economy Section

9.4 Tourism remains a key pillar of Southport's economy. In 2015 staying visitors generated £336m into the economy, continuing the year on year increase over the last 6 years. An increased spend per visitor is due in part to inflation, but also to the increase in the number of higher quality accommodation providers which have opened in the resort. Occupancy levels in these 4\* and 4\*+ hotels in Southport is consistently above the national average, suggesting that there is potential for growth at the higher quality end of the market including boutique provision.

Nationally increasing demand for non-serviced accommodation also indicates that there is further potential for a range of high quality self-catering accommodation. This strategy has identified a number of potential development sites for additional visitor accommodation.

9.5 Whilst the number of staying visitors has remained static the number of day visitors has declined by around 10% over the same period. It is likely that the opening of the Liverpool One shopping centre has been a large factor in this, reducing the number of people who travel to the town for 'special shopping trips'. Whilst it is not realistic for Southport to compete with Liverpool in terms of scale of its retail offer, Lord Street does continue to provide a more distinctive retail experience which will appeal to a different target market. Retaining a focus on Lord Street through the delivery of this strategy will remain key to addressing the decline in day trips.

9.6 Alongside Lord Street, Pleasureland remains a key visitor draw to Southport. Proposals for both the Marine Park and the Southport Golf Links and Fairways Park and Ride, set out in detail in the Spatial Framework, will be essential to the medium and longer term future of the resort.

9.7 Southport needs to commission a Destination Management Plan which includes a review of the branding strategy. The future tourism delivery structure also needs to be addressed in light of the changing national requirements. The potential for the creation of a sustainable Destination Organisation which delivers the Destination Management Plan and works alongside partners within the Liverpool City Region should be considered.



**Market Context**

9.8 A review of the property market was completed as part of the baseline analysis. It was a high level overview of the commercial and residential property market context for the Framework and development sites. The conclusions of the property market review were:

- That further understanding was required in terms of the capacity to deliver additional convenience retail in Southport. Consolidation of the primary retail core would improve the vitality and viability of the existing retail facilities in the primary shopping area.
- A review of existing provision of leisure/ gym within Southport has identified the potential demand for a new gym facility in the area.
- That opportunities for new hotel facilities to support business conferencing and family stacations was important.
- Providing a range of restaurants could help improve the night time economy. Gaps in provision should be identified and Southport should then aim to differentiate its offer compared to local neighbouring towns and nationally as a resort.
- Consideration of future potential for the Marine Park and Pleasureland area was strategically important.
- Existing demand for larger offices spaces is fairly limited in Southport therefore smaller Grade A offices to support new start-up and local businesses may be more deliverable within the town centre.
- Opportunities for new residential development that would be suitable for a diverse age profile including young people and families as well as improving

accommodation for the elderly is important.

**Land Ownership**

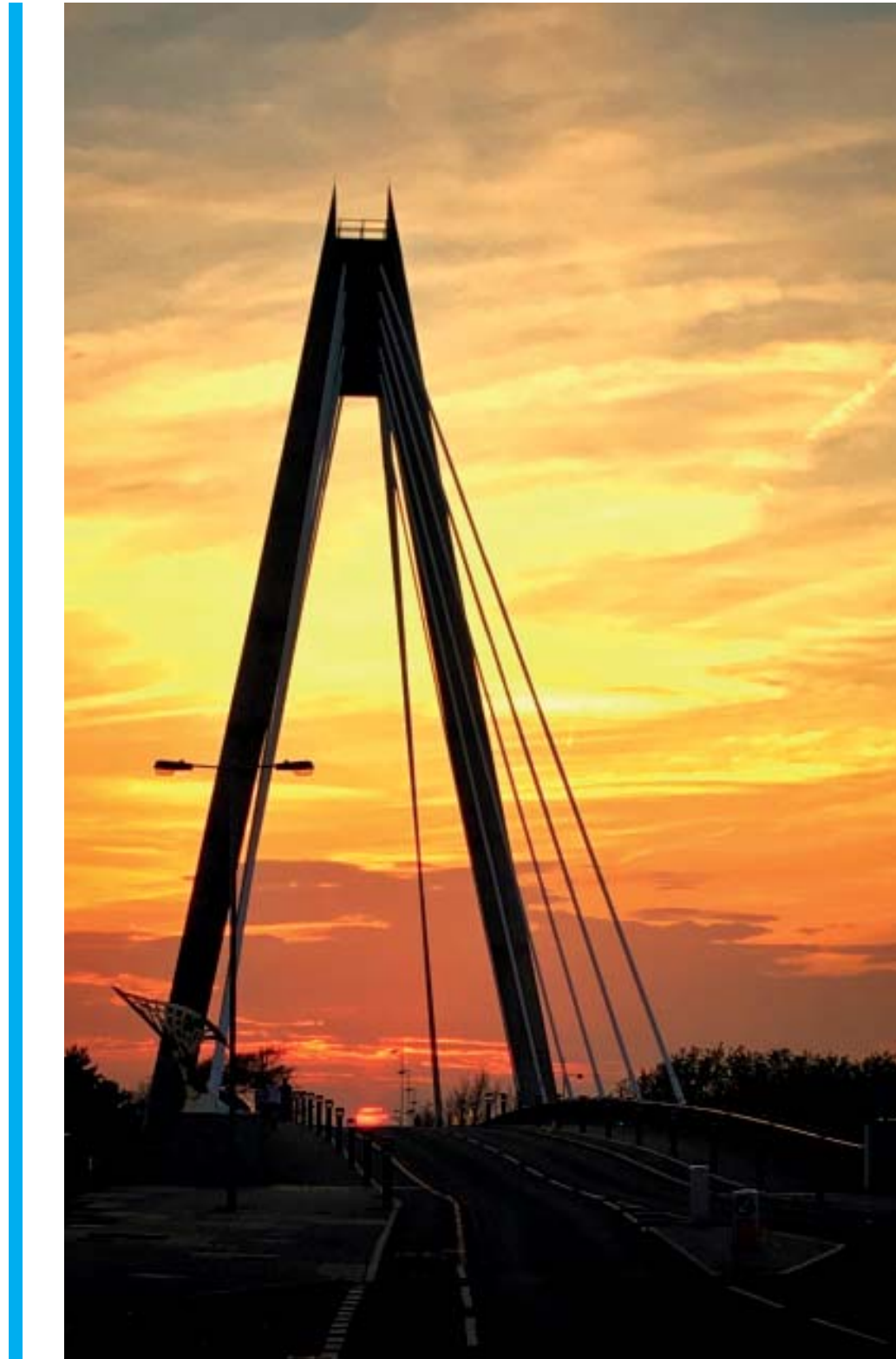
9.9 In addition to Marine Park and Southport Golf Links and Fairways Park and Ride, a number of other sites within Southport are in various ownerships including the Council. Consultation with private landowners (or their agents) through this process has confirmed the commitment of landowners to the Development Framework and the potential for development. Opportunities exist for investors, developers and potential occupiers. It is reasonable to expect that the market is strong enough to drive the delivery of a number of these sites, although several are constrained by availability, and challenges around habitat conservation designations and listing status for example.

9.10 Appendix 1 Development Options of the Framework sets out some brief suggestions for a number of sites, listed in paragraph 5.8 of this Framework.



# 10. Conclusions & Recommendations

- 10.1 This Framework provides a high level and ambitious concept for future investment in Southport Town Centre emphasising its role as a major tourist seaside town. The Beachfront and Promenade will be the focus for new and improved leisure attractions.
- 10.2 People have come to expect more from their town centre than just a shopping destination; expectations are of a much more diverse offer than that previously associated with the traditional town centre.
- 10.3 This town centre evolution has already begun in Southport and is being supported by the Business Improvement District. As part of this evolution, food and drink, creative industries, events, culture, leisure, and creating places to meet and socialise with friends, family and colleagues are all part of this complementary town centre offer which are identified in the Framework.
- 10.4 Development opportunities are identified which, along with improved connectivity between key assets through public realm improvements focussed on Lord Street – will contribute to the Southport ‘Classic’ Resort aim.
- 10.5 The Council, in partnership with the Southport BID, will sometimes lead and sometimes facilitate implementation of proposals. Other partners in the business, public and voluntary sectors will also have a role in supporting initiatives.
- 10.6 The Council should develop an Action Plan around initiatives identified through this Framework on a short, medium and longer term basis.



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# Southport Development Framework Appendices

October 2016

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Agenda Item 4

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Appendix 2: Case Studies: Attractions - Adding to the Leisure Offer

Appendix 3: Case Studies: Events and Town Centre Initiatives



# Appendix 1: Development Opportunities

## Sites

As noted in the Framework, the brief identified development sites for particular consideration through this commission. Meetings or discussions have been held with the owners of each of these sites or their agents. Through this consultation process a small number of additional sites have also been identified. The characteristics of these sites and potential for development are summarised for each site in turn below.

1. Tulketh Street & surface car parks
2. Kingsway Car Park and B & M Bargains Site, Lord Street
3. Promenade Car Park
4. Former Grand Casino, Lord Street
5. Victoria Baths, Promenade
6. Land north of the Marine Lake edge

## 1. Tulketh Street & surface car parks

Tulketh Street is an area of the town centre that historically included a mix of retail (including a former supermarket) and other town centre related uses. The area adjoins a key gateway to the town (the railway station) and accommodates an ageing multi-storey car park and two Council owned surface level car parks and a number of vacant commercial properties. The area fronts onto Chapel Street, a busy and successful shopping street. It also adjoins local independent businesses on the rest of Tulketh Street and popular Wesley Street. The site area falls wholly within the town centre boundary (Southport Central Area). A large proportion of the site is also defined as Primary Retail Frontage so a proposal for retail uses and other main town centre uses would be consistent with current planning policy

The area is important for parking and adjoins a key gateway into Southport. However by road this site underperforms due to lack of visibility from Eastbank Street, which is the main route by road into Southport from the East. Tulketh Street would benefit from a comprehensive approach being taken in regards to its future. However, there is no apparent demand from major occupiers that would anchor a comprehensive redevelopment. The former supermarket with the upper multi-storey car park has now been bought by Sports Direct. A Sports Direct Fitness, Flannels and USC have been proposed.

Longer term if a high quality parking facility could be achieved this would enable a positive first impression for visitors to Southport, particularly given that the existing car park is very dated. This could help support the destination appeal of Southport and possibly reduce people

circulating Southport looking for spaces. Quality and accessible parking close to the town centre could facilitate aspirations for the rethinking of Lord Street (discussed later) and how traffic flows through the town.

This area is viewed as having long term development potential, which would include a mix of town centre uses, improved environment around the station and an enhanced gateway role. Comprehensive redevelopment of the site is unlikely to be possible in the short to medium term given multiple ownerships and recent acquisition by Sports Direct.

If developer interest can be harnessed, the Council will actively consider the role, use and potential disposal of its property assets to facilitate the creation of a viable scheme and business case. A development brief could be prepared to promote this area of the town to investors.



Tulketh Street Area

## 2. Kingsway Car Park and B & M Store, Kingsway

Kingsway / B&M Bargains are two adjoining sites, the B&M Bargains store and car park and a vacant parcel of land currently used on an informal basis for car parking. Neither site currently offers a quality use nor is the site very attractive in what is a fairly prominent location on the corner of Lord Street, Kingsway and the Promenade. The two sites are in different ownership and there is no apparent interest with the landowners to marry the two sites. The two sites are therefore considered separately.

Owners of the Kingsway Car Park site have considered redevelopment of the site for commercial units at ground floor with a number of upper floors for apartments that would respond to the significance of the site as a gateway to the town centre and would provide a new landmark development. It would appear that the site is available in the short term.

B&M Bargains has a lease with the freehold owner of the site. It is understood that B&M Bargains would be willing to assign the lease to a third party to facilitate a retail led development scheme.

The Investment Framework is supportive in principle of the type of development potential suggested for the Kingsway and B&M Bargain's sites. These types of uses are in accordance with the town centre policies. However it's recognised that any re-development of the B & M Bargain's site is very much dependent on the vacation of the site by the current occupier and the revocation of the existing covenant if a food retail store is to be promoted



Kingsway Car Park and B&M Store

## 3. Promenade Car Park

Southport Promenade dates from Victorian times and includes a mix of hotel, B&B sea front commercial and residential property. The Promenade Car Park has operated for some time as a surface level car park. The neighbouring site on Scarisbrick Avenue was redeveloped in 2011 to provide a mixed use development of 19 apartments above commercial units at ground floor level.

Along with the car park, there is also scope to include the adjoining derelict property (13 Promenade) within any future redevelopment. Both are privately owned and the car park is managed on behalf of the owners.

The site area falls within the town centre boundary (Southport Central Area) and proposals for new hotels and residential are considered acceptable in principle. Given the prominent location on Southport's Promenade, the site has the potential for a budget hotel, aparthotel or as an apartment scheme that could provide approximately 80 units over four storeys.

New residential uses that are suitable for young people and families will attract a wider demographic and provide additional footfall to the rest of Southport. Redevelopment would involve the loss of town centre parking spaces and it may be necessary to realise the impact this may have on town centre provision. Public realm improvements on Scarisbrick Avenue would create a more attractive route for new residents onto Lord Street.

The redevelopment potential for the Promenade Car Park site is dependent on the current owner deciding to either bring forward a scheme or to dispose of the site for development purposes. The Council will continue to engage with the owner of the site to consider its potential for development purposes



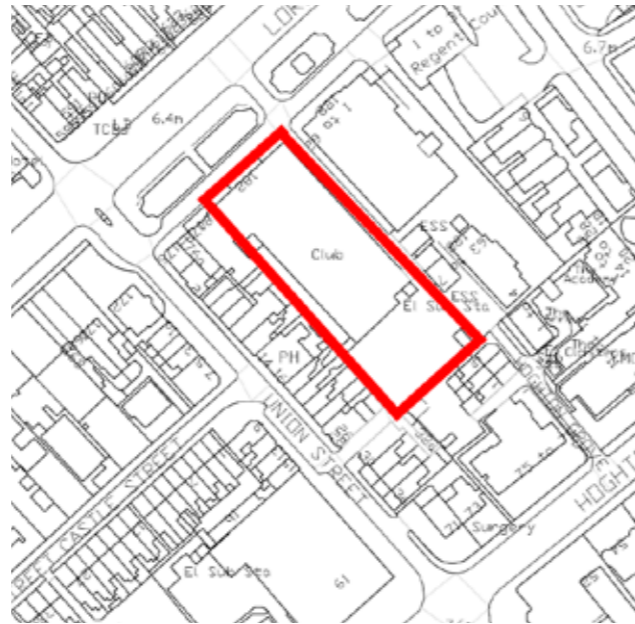
Promenade

#### 4. Former Grand Casino

The former Grand Casino is grade II listed and occupies a prominent position on Lord Street, within a Conservation Area. The building has lain vacant for some time and is now suffering as a consequence. It is in need of repair and securing suitable reuse is important.

The building would lend itself to alternative commercial uses, potentially including other leisure uses (health and fitness, cinema, bar / restaurant), managed work or studio space and or community uses. These types of uses would be consistent with local planning policy. Public realm improvements in the public space in front of the building would improve access and the attractiveness of the site.

Investment in the refurbishment of this building by the owner to bring it up to a decent standard may help to attract market interest from potential occupants. The costs of converting the building would be costly. At this point in time the ability of the property owner to deliver refurbishment and conversion of the building remains uncertain.



Former Grand Casino, Lord Street

#### 5. Victoria Baths

Victoria Baths situated in a prominent position on Southport's Promenade is Grade II listed and was originally constructed in 1870. Only part of the building is used as a private leisure club whilst the rest remains vacant. The building should be promoted for suitable appropriate uses that can safeguard the future of this important historic building. Leisure entertainment uses such as food and drink and accommodation would be acceptable. Ideally a proposal should be developed for the whole of the building.

#### 6. Land north of the Marine Lake edge

This privately owned site around the lake edge to the north of the town, is the subject of a number of planning policies that look to protect the natural landscape. The Investment Framework has suggested the potential for scoping alternative family friendly visitor accommodation in the form of cabins, lodges and camping pods or 'glamping' which could potentially be delivered as a component of the wider ambition for the beachfront and have less of a development impact (see page 20).



Victoria Baths

# Appendix 2: Case Studies: Attractions - Adding to the Leisure Offer

## Case Study Theme Parks

**Darien Lake in New York** This amusement park is built around a manmade swimming lake, which has been developed and expanded over many years. The park is currently operated by Premier Parks LLC and includes an amusement park, waterpark, campsite and lodges. The amusement park offers around forty rides including Shipwreck Falls, one of three water rides which take advantage of the lake theme. Other rides, such as the Boomerang Coast to Coaster, take advantage of the lake to provide dramatic views.

**Flamingo Land** has developed Flip Flop, an 'extreme' ride built over a large manmade lake within the heart of the park.

## Case Study freestyle trampolining

**Jump Nation** is located in Manchester has 130 interconnected trampolines to form one large bounce park. Participants can improvise their own moves in the main arena, freestyle jumping from one trampoline to the next. Alternatively there are a number of team sports that can be played on super-sprung pitches including dodgeball, basketball and football.

**Airspace** is another freestyle trampoline site which has been developed in Glasgow by the owners of Go Ape. Both concepts require large warehouse style spaces. The Airspace centre in Glasgow cost £2m to fit out. A company in North Wales has established a similar concept (Bounce Below) by transforming an underground slate mine with trampolines and bouncy nets

## Case Study Adventure golf

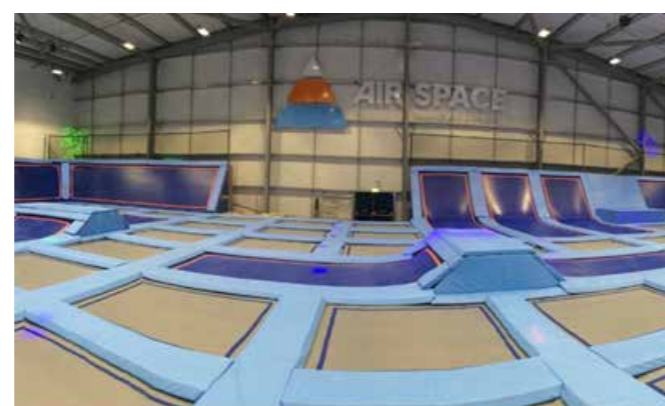
This is a more substantial and themed version of crazy golf or mini golf with animatronic characters, sound effects and lighting. The target audience is families with children aged 4 – 14 and the sessions usually last for 90 minutes. There are many single site operators engaged in Adventure Golf with a number of specialist suppliers.

**Burhill Golf and Leisure** (BGL) Is an operator with a number of Adventure Golf sites (in addition to 11 formal golf courses and a number of hotels). BGL is looking to expand significantly its portfolio of Adventure Golf sites and has set up a new division with the aim of rapidly expanding this part of its business. BGL has developed four Pirate Island Adventure Golf sites (Milton Keynes, West Yorkshire, Woking and Nottingham) and is actively seeking well-located sites, primarily close to town centres to develop further adventure golf sites.

**Championship Adventure Golf** Is an operator in New Brighton and is Wirral's premier, all weather, outdoor, floodlit, family golfing attraction where each of the 18 holes are inspired by the World's Greatest Golf Holes! There are two courses to choose from.

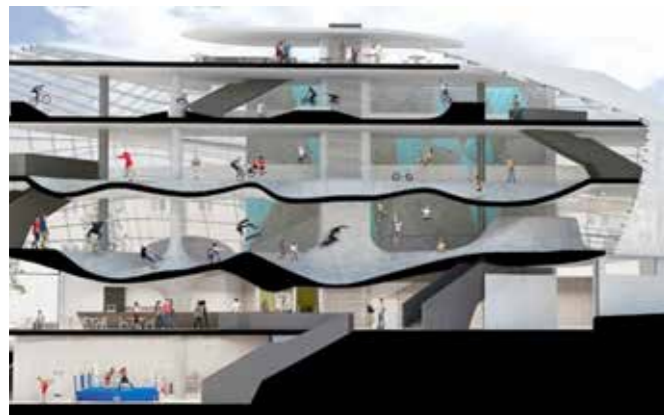
## Case Study Indoor Activity Parks

Multi-purpose indoor activity parks are becoming more popular and proving more viable than singular use indoor activity areas. **XC in Hemel Hemstead** offers a multi-use indoor activity centre with a skatepark, climbing walls, high ropes, caving and a place to eat. Such places also offer corporate packages for team building activities as well as hosting events which can be holiday themes such as Halloween and Christmas.



### Case Study Indoor Skate Park

**Folkestone's** proposed £10m Multi-Storey Skatepark has been approved to be built by Shepway District Council. Guy Hollaway Architects and Maverick Skateparks scheme involves floors of skateable structures a new development for the Roger De Haan Charitable Trust. The skatepark, that will be built inside two layers of perforated mesh for ventilation, will also host climbers and bouldering, a café, boxing club and more and will take between 18 months and 2 years to build. Watch this space.



### Case Study Indoor Skate Park

**Rockreef Activity Centre** in Bournemouth operates on Bournemouth Pier and includes a zip wire to the beach, caves, climbing wall and high rope walking.

Zip World is located in Snowdonia and features a pair of One-mile long zip lines which begin 500 feet in the air and reach speeds of up to 100 miles per hour.

The Eden Project in Cornwall also features a zip wire attraction. It is operated by Hangloose Adventures. The zip wire reaches speeds of 60 miles per hour from a starting height of 300 feet travelling over half a mile.



### Case Study temporary urban beach

**Liverpool** hosted 'The Beach' at Chavasse Park which held daily activities, such as interactive radio shows, sandcastle-building workshops, family fun and games, and a beach party on Saturday afternoons.

Temporary urban beaches that have proved attractive for places around the UK such as Camden, Cardiff Bay, and Castlefield in Manchester, and further afield in Barcelona.



### Case Study – Glamping

**Feather Down Farms** ([www.featherdown.co.uk](http://www.featherdown.co.uk)) is a concept that has been operated in the UK since 2005 by the Feather Down Farm Days Company as a seasonal luxury camping holiday option. The tents provide spacious, ready-to-use camping accommodation including beds, bedding, a toilet, wood-burning cooking stove, cool chest and cooking equipment

The team behind Feather Down Farms launched a sister company, Country Retreats [www.featherdown.co.uk/country-retreats](http://www.featherdown.co.uk/country-retreats), in November 2014 aimed at other land and country estate owners that want to provide canvas lodges and/or fully collapsible log cabins and become part of The Country Retreats Collection.



**Case study – Water-based Activities**

**Salford Community Leisure** which is separate from Salford City Council is a community benefit society with charitable status and has lots to offer for watersports and adventurous activities at Salford Quays which include wakeboarding, dinghy sailing, open water swimming, windsurfing, canoeing and kayaking.

**Case Study - Tidal Lagoon**

In **Swansea Bay** the Tidal Lagoon proposal is being promoted as offering;

- Clean, renewable and predictable power connected to the National Grid
- An important contribution towards national carbon emission reduction targets
- Significant employment and value creation

- Community and tourism opportunities in sports, recreation, education, arts and culture
- Conservation, restocking and biodiversity programmes
- Coastal flood protection

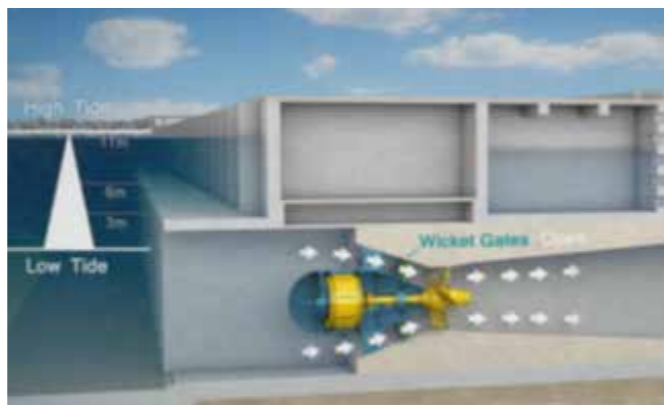
Swansea Bay’s ambition is for the lagoon to become a major attraction and recreational amenity. It is committed to showcasing tidal range technology and providing a unique venue for opportunities in the arts, culture, education, recreation and conservation.

They believe there is significant potential for the tidal lagoon to become a foundation venue for local and national sports use. This includes cycling, walking, angling and running around the lagoon wall, as well as open water swimming, rowing and sailing within the lagoon itself.

**Case Studies - Active Beaches**

**Sculpture by the Sea** - This is the largest of its kind in Australia, and takes place at the beach in **Sydney and Perth**. Initiated in 1996, the exhibition, currently at its 18th year, is spread over two kilometers from Bondi Beach to Tamarama Beach featuring over 100 sculptures by artists from 16 countries.

**La Barceloneta beach**, Barcelona - This sculpture is called Homenatge a by German artist Rebecca Horn



# Appendix 3: Case Studies: Events and Town Centre Initiatives

## Case Study events

**Portsmouth Street Games** was the first outdoor festival of its kind in the UK. The event showcased the region's finest street performers and street art talents, many with national prominence. The event, which was a collaboration between the event organisers and local traders and retailers, demonstrated how urban events can contribute to regenerating urban spaces. Street Games was commissioned by Portsmouth Cultural Trust and was supported by the Arts Council England as well as a range of private sponsor.

The event featured a range of street activities including free running, BMX and mountain biking and skate boarding. Visitors also enjoyed a programme of street dance, live music and a street style arts & crafts market with a variety of food offers and family activities. The centre piece of the event was a life size New York subway train replica that acted as a graffiti canvas for the street art element of the Games, curated by local and internationally known artists.

**Wolverhampton's 'In to the Light Enchanted City'** was a celebration of the city's heritage and contemporary culture. It featured magical illuminations, large-scale projections, fireworks, fire sculptures, lighting, film, live music and performances spread across the city centre. Over two weekend nights in October 2013, from dusk until 10pm, it attracted an audience primarily made up of families and young people

**The Singapore Musical Fountain and light show** spans the waterfront event plaza with 18 individually controlled fountains reaching up to 20 metres in height that work in conjunction with independent tilt mechanisms to create a wide range of stunning liquid patterns. The fountains are illuminated by submerged high powered multi-coloured custom LED technology. This comprises a high powered multi-coloured moving searchlight located on the waterfront; featuring six high powered Stella-Ray and Light-Ray Laser Systems.

The **Bristol International Balloon Fiesta** is Europe's largest hot air balloon festival. The free event takes place over 4 days in August in Ashton Court Country Park on the edge of the city. Now in its 38th year, the event attracts around 100 hot air balloons from all over the world and 500,000 visitors from the city and beyond.

**The Fernley** is a new community event held for the first time on New Years day 2016, for individuals, teams and families, involving a run, walk or even swim around Marine Lake and the Pier. The Fernley is a chance to honour local heroes, raise money, make history, and have fun whilst doing it. It commemorates one of the largest lifeboat disasters ever; the tragic loss of 27 lifeboat men, 14 lost from Southport and 13 from St Annes, Lytham who launched to save the stricken 'Mexico' boat on 9th December 1886. The Fernley also aims to recognise one of Southport's greatest benefactors, John Fernley, who built schools, colleges, observatories and gifted the Southport lifeboat.

**Southport Half Marathon a 10k race and a Family Mile** are regular events, where the traffic free routes incorporate the Beachfront offer including use of the Marine Lake. The annual Southport Triathlon also takes place based at the Waterside Lodge.



**Case Studies A Modern Market Hall/ Food and Drinks Offer**

**The Grade II Listed Altrincham Market hall** dates back to 1870 when Altrincham was Cheshire’s main market town. The hall itself had fallen into a state of disrepair, and like many other markets had declined both economically and culturally due to the opening of the Trafford Centre, and so it was in need of renovating in order for it to fulfil its potential of being a modern market hall.

Trafford Council invested £600,000 into the renovation works and appointed a new market hall Manager whose vision was a modern market hall that was all about creating an impermanence facility with the ability to change and recreate and create different experiences for visitors.

The new market hall has combined tradition, high quality independent traders, customer convenience and new technology (by installing

high speed WiFi). The idea was to create a ‘total experience’ – shopping, eating, drinking, and entertainment; utilising local traders and goods and many who visit Altrincham will agree, it has created an infectious ‘buzz’ in the town centre again enticing visitors who wouldn’t ordinarily have been there.

This in turn, has had a positive impact on businesses and shops around the market and for the town centre as a whole, generating footfall to the area meaning people are staying for longer when they visit Altrincham and so spending more money in doing so.

**Case Studies – Creative and Design**

Southport College has a long history and is a provider of vocational and academic education in the Creative industries and design sector and aims to develop further opportunities for students, and local employers and community groups to support development and sustainability of the town and its wider support industries.

Southport College in supporting its objectives is aiming to develop CITED - “The Centre for Innovation in Technology, Engineering and Design” through a staged approach during the next two years focusing on Computer Aided Design and Manufacturing, and Creative Arts - Design and Production. The investment framework supports this approach and provision of a network for employers, the community, visitors and students, where they can pitch, design and develop ideas and access shared services. This approach provides a focal point for engaging the next generation in the Creative and Design industries through links with current primary and secondary school students.

Concepts related to the creative and design industries would directly complement the existing education offer by providing additional spaces and activities throughout the town to support students in developing their employability and enterprise skills further, whilst extending opportunities by providing products and services to employers,

community groups, and customer stakeholders (existing users, residents and visitors).

Central locations in Southport could be used to act as focal points to develop this activity whilst also promoting the College and its products/services to key stakeholders. The spaces would provide excellent opportunities to support the extension of the courses being taught at the college in the course areas outlined above.

**Enterprise Hubs and fab labs**

These are creative spaces for designers and entrepreneurs to pitch, test and develop ideas and bring them into service. An example of a Fab Lab is a fully equipped fabrication workshop to stimulate the conversion from ideas and concepts into a manufactured prototype or product. The main beneficiaries of a Fab Lab are the local community of all ages where using the equipment and ‘learning through play’ develops a spirit of creativity, design and manufacture. Entrepreneurs and businesses are also a key market for a Fab Lab to support product design, prototype development and manufacture. By providing resources and equipment, a Fab Lab can greatly assist in reducing the overall costs of entrepreneurs and businesses.

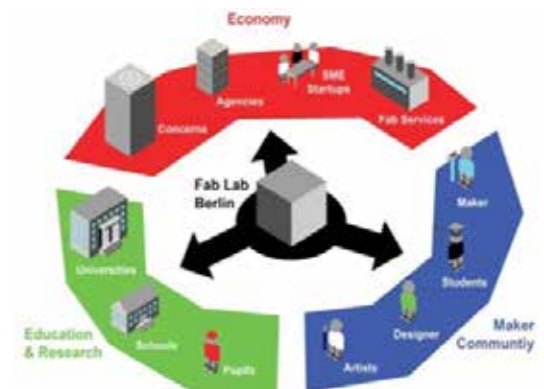
The Fab Lab concept derived from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in 2005 and has spread worldwide. In the UK there are currently eleven Fab Labs and more are in the pipeline. The Manufacturing Institute (TMI) in Trafford Park has the agreement with MIT to develop a network of Fab Labs across the UK and Ireland. How does it work?

Fab Labs are essentially learning spaces that are open to anybody, containing the workspace and equipment for people to use, and staffed by people with the required skills and expertise. Entrepreneurs and businesses can use the facilities, equipment and staff expertise to develop their ideas into prototypes and products.

**Trafford College** along with primary and secondary schools located in and around the town provide a catchment of potential users for a Fabrication Laboratory (Fab Lab) in Altrincham. The estimated net cost of the Altrincham Fab Lab is £469,000 over a three year period and its understood will be financed from a combination of funding including the Council, developer contributions and grants such as the High Street Renewal Award.

The Enterprise hub concept could extend the facilities at Southport College through facilities in the town through an enterprise desk set up in the Atkinson, exhibition spaces, market stalls, utilising vacant units in the town centre, and establishing linkages with key events and projects in Southport.

An example of such a use is the **Manchester Craft and Design Centre**, Northern Quarter which provides an alternative shopping experience and contains coffee shops, restaurants, bars and independent retailers.





**The Escalator (Innovation Loft) New York** is fronted by a coffee shop but throughout the rest of the premises lays a community of start-ups and networking space to support entrepreneurs, corporates, innovators, and investors together with state-of-the-art event spaces and conference facilities adding to a multi-purpose, diverse function of the building



### Pop-up Shops

A pop-up unit is where a short-term lease (usually for a period less than six months) is agreed between a landlord and a business or community project, enabling them to use a vacant, underutilised buildings for a short period of time. They can be utilised for a number of activities including retail, art galleries and community projects.

Established businesses can use the pop-up concept as a means of testing a new business direction or market opportunity and a tool for increasing brand awareness and brand loyalty amongst customers.

**Camden Collective Pop-Ups** (formed through funding from Camden Council as well as other public and private sector stakeholders) offers creative individuals and businesses the opportunity to showcase their ideas and products on Camden High Street. The Collective invests in vacant and under-used shops, turning them into vibrant, temporary spaces by curating an exciting programme of cultural and retail events. In the North West, Revolver Retail based in Liverpool City Centre works in partnership with the Liverpool Business Improvement District in bringing together retailers looking for short term retail space or pop up stores and landlords with space to fill. Revolver Retail provides an end to end solution for the growing market for pop up stores and short term leases.

### A hive of innovation and creative start-ups to rival anything happening in Shoreditch

**S**HOPPING in Camden Town has traditionally had a touch of the Jekyll and Hyde about it. Head north out of the tube into the riot of market stalls, one-off fashions, tribal furniture and vegan cafes. Or take off to the south and the first impression is of the predictable Anytown UK: M&S undies, Argos flatpacs and Maccy Ds coffee. But the road to Mornington Crescent is changing fast. Rundown retail units have been commandeered by Camden Collective, the dynamic local organisation who've operated a wildly successful programme offering pop-up shop and office space to the area's young creative community.

The latest project, just two minutes from the tube at 159 High St (hence the name) is properly ambitious. A couple of months ago the large three story building had rain pouring through the roof, a depressingly vacant double shop front and several hundred pigeons-in-residence.

Today, the ground floor buzzes with human rather than avian life. Art is for sale, displayed on beautifully exposed brickwork, fashion hangs from repurposed pallets, accessories spill from inside crates, the aroma of super-strong coffee pervades. Upstairs, desks are filled with enthusiastic

twentysomething teams working on mind-bending projects. It's quieter, as everyone seems completely absorbed in their tasks, but there's not a vacant chair going. A side room is packed with people deep in a computer coding lesson, while in a meeting area the talk is of textiles.

The Collective have worked with sustainable design experts Build is Everything to transform the whole unloved space into a hotbed of optimism and genuine opportunity. Their clever, open-plan layout at street level aims to encourage

collaboration between fledgling business-owners, who are getting the finest leg-up imaginable with this ready-made, affordable high street shop space. It's making this strip of mobile phone stores and Prets infinitely more interesting too. Everybody seems to be winning, in fact.

But despite all the structural improvements, Collective don't have the space for long. You'll only catch it here until October, when, like all the best creative projects that burn swiftly but brightly, this ambitious pop-up will vanish. **Tom Kihl**

*Art is displayed on beautifully exposed brickwork, fashion hangs from repurposed pallets, accessories spill from crates, the aroma of coffee pervades*



### Meet the stallholders...

**CLIME-IT BROTHERS** is a Camden-based social enterprise that runs empowerment workshops on climate change, and sells clothing via a stall at Collective 159. The 25-year-old owner, Mubarak, jumped at the chance.

"I've lived in Camden all my life and it's always felt so vibrant, with a healthy mix of rich and poor too," he says, "but I've seen a lot of problems here with opportunities for young people. This space allows us to build the direct link between our workshops and meaningful employment."

Christabel, who offers on-trend 'superfood fingerfood' served on her own designs of crockery and salvaged furniture is similarly enthusiastic, while coming from a very different perspective.

"I enjoy the buzzy mix of customers from the creative companies around here like MTV and ASOS, who always make for an interesting chat. So many high streets feel monopolised by huge big brand stores, but here we're creating a unique retail and dining experience where you can buy truly one-off gifts."

Sara, Italian owner of artisan shoemakers Portamento, also sees huge benefit in being part of the un-drabbing of lower Camden High Street.

"Feedback has been really great as people are happy to have something different from the usual markets going on here," she says. "Camden is really changing. We have a stall in Dalston too, but people in east London are a bit too used to getting all sorts of new things. People here are genuinely excited."



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**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Skills)

**Date of Meeting:** 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Subject:** Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes – Introduction of the Business Case

**Report of:** Head of Regeneration & Housing

**Wards Affected:** Linacre, Derby, Litherland, Cambridge, Dukes, Kew, Church, Blundellsands & Victoria

**Is this a Key Decision?** Yes

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

Yes

**Exempt/Confidential**

No

**Purpose/Summary**

To provide information on Selective and Additional HMO Licensing of private rented sector housing, and how this will be considered for Sefton.

**Recommendation(s)**

That Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider

- (1) That Selective and Additional HMO Licensing is the right approach to the private rented sector in Sefton.
- (2) That appropriate areas of the borough have been identified for Selective and Additional HMO Licensing.
- (3) That the approach to levying of Fees is appropriate.
- (4) That the draft licence conditions are appropriate to meet the schemes objective of improving standards in the private rented sector.

**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		X	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		X	
3	Environmental Sustainability	X		
4	Health and Well-Being	X		
5	Children and Young People		X	
6	Creating Safe Communities	X		

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7	Creating Inclusive Communities		X	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	X		

## Reasons for the Recommendation:

To allow adequate scrutiny of the approach being considered for engagement with the private rented sector in Sefton.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

Additional resources will be required to operate the proposed schemes. The schemes will be costed and the licence fees set to make the schemes self-financing. Hence the schemes are dependent on fee income levied.

### (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:

### Legal

Part 2 & 3 of the Housing Act 2004 sets out the legislative framework for Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing. Section 80 of the Housing Act 2004 allows the local authority to designate the area of their district or an area in their district as subject to selective licensing. Section 56 of the Housing Act 2004 allows the local authority to designate the area of their district or an area in their district as subject to additional licensing.

### Human Resources

Additional staff resources will be required to operate the scheme over their 5 year period. The cost of these staff will be incorporated in the setting of licence fees.

### Equality

- |    |  |                                     |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 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:

Selective & Additional (HMO) Licensing schemes are new areas of work. The introduction of the schemes would introduce more proactive engagement with private landlords rather than the traditional reactive way of working. The schemes will create

an increased level of work for the Council's Housing Standards and Legal Services Teams.

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

The proposals will be the subject of an extensive public consultation exercise in 2017.

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 4356/16) has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications. Given Overview and Scrutiny Committee consider the approach to levying of Fees is appropriate, Cabinet will receive a future report providing details of the scheme and details of the actual level of fees we propose to charge.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 3639/16) has been consulted and has no comments to make.

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

These are outlined in 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:** Neil Davies

**Tel:** Lead Officer Tel; 934 4837

**Email:** Lead Officer Email; neil.davies@sefton.gov.uk

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## **1. Introduction/Background**

### **1.1 Sefton Context**

Sefton's private rented sector (PRS) has increased by 64.4% between 2001 and 2011. This shows a significant and continuing growth. In 6 wards located in Southport (4), Waterloo (1) and Bootle (1) the PRS exceeds the national average [2011 census]. A well-managed PRS plays an important role in meeting the Borough's housing needs. However, the short-term nature of tenancies brings it challenges especially when those properties are not well managed. Increased anti-social behaviour and poor property condition are a growing concern. The 2014

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house condition survey found that 24.4% of privately rented property failed to meet the decent homes standard, compared to 15.8% of all private properties in Sefton. This is largely due to the fact that the PRS is generally unregulated.

## 1.2 Sefton 2030 Vision & Housing Strategy

Since January 2016, the Council has been consulting and leading on developing a new Vision for the borough. The process has helped us understand what matters and to be ambitious for the Borough and its communities in the future. A number of themes began to emerge, which were then developed into the Vision & Outcomes Framework. The introduction of the proposed Licensing schemes can help contribute to the delivery of the Framework. As part of the Sefton 2030 vision there is a significant ambition to improve living conditions and attract investment to improve the prosperity of Sefton. As part of our commitment to the success of this we want the licensing of privately rented properties to improve confidence in the private rented sector and help improve the prospects for the whole area.

Our new Housing Strategy (2016-20) seeks to;

***“Continue to make Sefton a great place to live, by ensuring that people can access high quality housing appropriate for their needs”.***

The Strategy recognises the contribution the private rented sector can play, but also the need to improve standards in this sector.

1.3 In December 2015, The Cabinet Member Communities and Housing considered a report seeking approval for the allocation of funds from the Community Transition Fund, and gave approval to provide £250,000 to support the development of a selective licensing scheme in Sefton, as detailed within that report.

## 2. What is Licensing?

**Selective licensing** is a power that the local authority has under the Housing Act 2004. It allows the Council to designate an area within the borough that requires all private landlords and managing agents who operate within the area to have a license for each property. In order to be granted a license, landlords would have to meet certain criteria, which would include passing a fit and proper person test and providing information about their management arrangements. Landlords would be required to adhere to license conditions set by the Council.

Prior to April 2015, local authorities had powers to introduce selective licensing of privately rented homes in order to tackle problems caused by either:

- (i) low housing demand
- (ii) significant anti-social behaviour.

With effect from 1 April 2015, a new Government General Approval came into force. Local authorities are required to obtain confirmation from the Secretary of State for any selective licensing scheme which would cover more than 20% of their geographical area or would affect more than 20% of privately rented homes in the local authority area.

If the local authority makes two or more designations at the same time, each of which account for less than 20% of the area or private rented stock, but cumulatively account for more than 20% of either, all of the schemes will need to be submitted to the Secretary of State for confirmation.

As well as the 2 existing criteria, additional criteria for making a scheme are also now in force. A designation may be made to combat problems in an area also experiencing:

- poor property conditions,
- an influx of migration,
- a high level of deprivation or
- high levels of crime.

**Additional (HMO) Licensing** will operate in the same way and alongside the existing Mandatory HMO Licensing scheme that already operates across the Borough. Mandatory licensing requires that a certain type of HMO must have a license. These are those that comprise 3 storeys or more, house 5 or more people who form 2 or more households and do not have all facilities within a self-contained unit, i.e. bathroom or kitchen. (The Government has recently begun consulting on extending the scope of Mandatory licensing, but there are no proposals at present to include poorly converted blocks of flats (Section 257 HMOs), of which Sefton has many). The same process will be followed for the Additional HMO scheme as with the existing Mandatory scheme, with the same legal obligations and penalties for failing to comply with the scheme requirements.

Additional HMO Licensing will require **all** privately rented HMOs, which are located within designated areas, to be licensed. Before making an additional HMO licensing designation for a particular area, a local authority must consider that a significant proportion of the HMOs of that description in the area are being managed sufficiently ineffectively as to give rise, or to be likely to give rise, to one or more particular problems either for those occupying the HMOs or for members of the public.

Currently there are 98 HMOs in the borough that fall under the Mandatory licensing scheme. It is estimated there are a further 200 HMOs in the 2 areas proposed for Additional HMO Licensing.

### **3. Alternative Options for engagement or regulation of the Private Rented Sector (PRS).**

#### ***Provide services at existing levels***

Sefton could continue solely with the current enforcement regime, linked with more assertive promotion of Accreditation. This option is unlikely to have significant impact due to Accreditation being a voluntary scheme, with only the better landlords usually obtaining accreditation status. Sefton has operated a Property Accreditation Scheme since 2013, this is a voluntary scheme whereby landlords sign up to a code of

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standards which sets a minimum standards for both property condition and management practice. Sefton has accredited 942 housing units equating to 129 individual properties (October 2016) since the scheme began. Whilst the scheme has been successful in accordance with the number of properties accredited, this represents less than 1% of the private rented stock in the borough.

## ***Expand the Current Enforcement Regime***

The Council currently has a reactive enforcement approach in relation to privately rented properties, dealing with cases as they present themselves. A more proactive approach could be taken to target the worst landlords. This would develop an outward facing image of enforcement in relation to rogue landlords. The Government advocate approaches which target 'rogue landlords'.

To practically do this would involve the need to increase the resourcing allocated to the Housing standards Team by a minimum of 3 additional posts at significant cost.

This is a more traditional enforcement approach and less of an enabling one than licensing would bring.

## ***Introduce a borough wide Selective Licensing Scheme***

The Council could consider introducing a borough-wide scheme. This is not recommended because the evidence is not sufficient to justify introduction for the whole district. Therefore, an application to the Secretary of State (who has to agree to the implementation of such a scheme) is unlikely to be supported.

## **4. Areas chosen for Licensing**

Selective licensing is proposed to be introduced in an area of Bootle. See map at Appendix 1.

Additional (HMO) Licensing is proposed in 2 areas of the Borough; one in central Southport and one in the Waterloo/Seaforth area. See map at Appendix 2.

Evidence needs to be gathered to prove the need for the scheme and extensive consultation is needed to seek the views of residents and landlords in the proposed area. The evidence for the proposed area usually needs to be compared with other areas and shown to be significantly worse.

For Selective Licensing in Bootle, evidence has been based on 4 of the 6 criteria; ie, *anti-social behaviour, housing conditions, deprivation, and crime*. A designation based on migration or low demand is not proposed. Only one criteria needs to be proved to make a designation lawful.

Evidence needs to be considered from a wide range of data sources before coming to conclusions.



## **The Bootle area is proposed for Selective Licensing as it suffers from:**

### **Deprivation**

- Being within the top 1-5% of the most deprived areas across the country
- Contains the highest rate of PRS properties across the Borough
- Suffers high levels of unemployment, low level educational achievement with low skill and low paid occupations
- Highest rate of lone parents across the Borough
- Average household incomes of £17,809 are the lowest in the borough and compare to an average £22,894 for the whole borough
- Over a third of people aged 16 and over in Bootle have no qualifications, compared to a quarter for the whole borough

Selective Licensing will help identify landlords and provide for a better relationship between the Local Authority and landlords to work together and help struggling households. By helping struggling tenants of private landlords there could be benefits for landlords too. If more households can be helped out of poverty, the prosperity of the area generally will improve making it a more attractive area to live which in turn should improve the popularity of housing in this area.

### **Property Conditions**

- Housing stock consists of predominantly Victorian terraced properties (52.1%) compared to the National average of 24.5%
- Majority of properties are within Council Tax Band 'A' (83%) far higher than the National average of 24.8%, or Sefton at 31%
- High rate of housing disrepair complaints, with enforcement action taken over property conditions
- Levels of non-decent homes of circa 26% are higher than the rate of all private housing in the borough of 15.8%
- The highest levels of fuel poverty are found in Bootle

Selective Licensing provides additional powers to help the Local Authority inspect and tackle poorly managed privately rented property. As around 25.5% (2015 estimate) of the accommodation in Bootle is in the private rented sector (national average 19.6%), improved management standards in this sector should contribute to an overall improvement in living conditions in the area, ultimately leading to a better quality of life for its residents.

### **Crime and ASB**

- Significant problem with Crime and ASB with all areas of Bootle being above Sefton's average

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- When crime across all wards is standardised per 1,000 population Linacre ward is the worst affected area with 137 crimes per 1,000 population; compared a borough wide average of 54.6 crimes per head of population.

Overall, Selective Licensing aims to improve premises conditions including the security of homes, as well as their management and occupation, and contribute to the community they are in. It will aid in protecting the safety and welfare of tenants, provide confidence in the rented sector, and put clear standards in place for the good of all. It will be more conducive to good landlords but provide an environment that is less opportunistic and attractive for poor and criminal landlords. It will also give the authority and landlords more powers in dealing with those tenants that chose to cause ASB.

## **Low Housing Demand**

In addition, low housing demand, although not a criteria Sefton has identified to base this business case on, it is worth noting that Bootle does demonstrate characteristics exhibiting low demand as identified within The CURS Report "Changing Housing Markets and Urban Regeneration In the M62 Corridor" (2001). This report identified a range of criteria that made an area vulnerable to housing market failure. Utilising a range of Indicators, including Indices of Multiple Deprivation, the CURS team plotted areas of potential housing market failure geographically. Significant parts of the south Sefton area were identified on the basis of the criteria as suffering from potential housing market failure.

The criteria and indices used can still be used to identify weak housing market areas that are more likely to suffer low demand. These characteristics still exist in Bootle today, which include;

- High levels of empty housing
- House prices low and stalling, with fewer transactions taking place in an area, compared to adjacent areas
- Monolithic housing provision, such as high concentrations of 'Back of pavement' 'two up — two down' Victorian terraced housing
- Little choice (in terms of housing type) within an area
- Unbalanced tenure provision
- Households mix within an area is unbalanced, eg a mix of younger, transient households or an ageing long term,
- relatively deprived population
- Poor quality housing in relatively poor condition

Therefore, the above data helps demonstrate that the legal test for designating Bootle for Selective Licensing has been met.

## **The central Southport and part of the Waterloo/Seaforth area are proposed for Additional HMO licensing**

An Additional (HMO) Licensing designation may be made "if a Local Authority considers that a significant proportion of HMOs of a defined description, in either a

designated area or across the whole of the Borough are being managed insufficiently enough to give rise to **one or more** particular problems either for those occupying the property or for members of the public.”

Evidence of poor management practices can be evidenced through issues that arise within the property such as poor conditions or within the local community including ASB and crime.

Parts of Waterloo/Seaforth and central Southport have high levels of deprivation, being within the worst 10% most deprived areas nationally. Both areas also have above the national average of flats/maisonettes within the PRS and have a significant stock of larger style properties that in recent years have been prone to conversion, to either bedsits or self-contained flats. Waterloo and Southport have also seen an increase in cases of overcrowding, although this is lower than seen nationally. The highest level of empty properties (over 24 months) are located in central Southport. Hence there is a strong correlation between these issues and the location of the PRS.

The highest rates of non-decent homes at 26% are recorded within areas of Southport [Stock Condition Survey 2014] and along with a higher number of service requests received by the Council regarding property conditions within Southport and Waterloo being well above the Sefton average (Over 66 service requests per 1000 households compared to the Borough average of 21.7 service requests per 1000 households). This highlights both areas as having poorer housing conditions, therefore, poor management practice.

Overall, Additional (HMO) Licensing can provide additional powers to help the Local Authority tackle poorly managed privately rented property. As around 43.4% of the private rented sector HMO accommodation across Sefton is in Waterloo and central Southport, the improved management standards in this sector should contribute to an overall improvement in living conditions in the area, ultimately leading to a better quality of life for its residents. It will help the areas to be more conducive to good landlords but provide an environment that is less opportunistic and attractive for poor and rogue landlords. It will also give the authority and landlords more powers in dealing with those tenants that choose to cause ASB.

Therefore, the above data helps demonstrate that the legal test for designating central Southport and Waterloo/Seaforth for Additional (HMO) Licensing has been met.

## **5. Fees to support Licensing schemes**

The costs of operation of both selective and additional licensing will need to be met from Fee income derived from landlords applying and obtaining a license from the Council. The Council needs to ensure fees are set an adequate level.

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In setting licence fees, the Council must follow certain principles established by the European Services Directive (ESD) and in particular that the fee must not exceed the actual and direct costs of processing an application, monitoring compliance and enforcing the scheme. The fee structure is also required to be reasonable and proportionate.

The licence fees will have to be based on an estimate of the number of properties that will require a licence. The calculated income stream cannot be guaranteed at this stage as it is dependent upon the number of applications received when the scheme is launched and reactively from then onwards. The fees will be subject to annual review to ensure recovery of all relevant costs to operate the schemes.

While it is possible to set a single standard fee charge, it is felt appropriate to set some differential charges, and introduce some incentives into the fee structure. This sort of approach has been adopted by other local authorities who have set up PRS licensing schemes.

It is proposed we offer 'discounts' as incentives for;

- Properties which are in the Council's Property Accreditation scheme
- Landlord who apply for a license 'early' to join the scheme (during the first 3 months of the scheme)

It is proposed we set 'additional' charges for landlords with properties that contain a higher number of units. So a landlord would pay the standard fee but an additional fee [on an increasing scale];

<b>In addition :</b>
7-12 units
13-20 units
21+ units

## **6. License Conditions**

Licence holders in both schemes will be required to comply with conditions on their licence. Some of these conditions are mandatory and have to be applied to each licence, as defined in the Housing Act 2004. Each licence will also have a further set of conditions that are specific to Sefton. A full set of conditions can be found at Appendix 1 (Selective and Additional HMO).

In summary, the main conditions we would require selective licence holders to:

- Provide gas safety certificates annually (if gas is supplied);
- Keep any electrical appliances and furniture provided in a safe condition;
- Provide smoke alarms and keep them in good working order;
- Issue residents with a written statement of the terms of occupation (e.g. a tenancy agreement or licence);
- Require references from prospective tenants;
- Provide electrical installation condition reports for the fixed wiring installations if requested by Sefton;
- Appropriately manage ASB, should it ever originate from their property;

# Agenda Item 5

- Limit occupation of the property to the numbers of persons and households specified in the licence;
- Make suitable arrangements for waste management;
- Make suitable arrangements for completing routine repairs and maintenance;
- Advise the Local Authority of any change in circumstances.

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## Appendix 1 – License Conditions

### **Selective Licensing Conditions**

#### **1 Fit and Proper Person**

**1.1** The licence holder must at all times be a fit and proper person to be the licence holder. The licence holder must notify the Local Authority within 7 days of a finding by any court that the licence holder or any person involved in the management of the house has committed any of the matters identified at 1.1 (a) to (c) below. In deciding for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004 section (3) (a) or (c) whether a person is a fit and proper person to be a licence holder or the manager of the house, the local housing authority must have regard to any offences as follows;

- (a) Any offences involving fraud or other dishonesty, or violence or drugs, or any offence listed in Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003
- (b) Any unlawful discrimination on grounds of sex, colour, race, ethnic or national origins or disability in, or in connection with the carrying on of any business.
- (c) Any contravention of any provision of the law relating to housing or of landlord and tenant law.
- (d) Any person involved in the management of the property has sufficient level of competence to be so involved.
- (e) Any person involved in the management of the house is a fit and proper person to be so involved.
- (f) Provision of adequate management structures and funding arrangements.

Our licensing conditions will be amended to reflect any legislative changes to definition.

#### **2 Mandatory Conditions – Schedule 4 of the Housing Act 2004**

##### **2.1 Gas**

If gas is supplied to the property, the licence holder must provide to Sefton Council a Gas Safety Certificate issued within the previous 12 months at the time of application and thereafter annually or on demand.

##### **2.2 Electrical Appliances**

The licence holder must keep all electrical appliances supplied in a safe condition and must supply to Sefton Council on demand a declaration by him as to the safety of such appliances.

##### **2.3 Furniture**

The licence holder must ensure that furniture made available by him (or if he is not the landlord, by the landlord) in the property is in a safe condition. All upholstered furniture and covers and fillings of cushions and pillows should comply with current fire safety legislation. A declaration as to the safety of such furniture must be provided to Sefton Council on demand.

## **2.4 Smoke Alarms**

The licence holder must ensure that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are installed in the property in accordance with condition 2.5 to comply with The Smoke & Carbon Monoxide alarm (England) Regulations 2015 and keep each alarm in proper working order. The licence holder must supply Sefton Council, on demand, a declaration as to the condition and positioning of such alarms.

## **2.5 The Licence holder must ensure that:**

- 2.5.1 A smoke alarm is installed on each story of the premises on which there is a room used wholly or partly as living accommodation (including a bathroom or lavatory); and
- 2.5.2 A carbon monoxide alarm is installed in any room which is used wholly or partly as living accommodation (including a bathroom or a lavatory) and contains a solid fuel burning combustion appliance.
- 2.5.3 The licence holder must ensure that all alarms are in proper working order at the commencement of any new tenancy or licence.

## **2.6 Terms of occupation**

The licence holder must supply to the occupiers of the house a written statement of the terms on which they occupy the property (a suitable tenancy agreement).

## **2.7 Tenant references**

The licence holder must demand references from persons who wish to occupy the house, prior to a tenancy being granted. The landlord should ensure that the occupier will be a suitable tenant. If there is a risk [eg due to previous ASB] that a tenant may cause a nuisance within the home or neighbourhood, that measures are put in place to mitigate those risks. The licence holder must retain all references obtained for the duration of the licence

## **3. Sefton Council Licensing Conditions**

### **3.1 Tenancy Management**

The licence holder will provide the tenant with an information pack containing the following documents:

- (a) A true copy of the licence to which these conditions apply;
- (b) A notice with the name, address, daytime and emergency contact number of the licence holder or managing agent; (*This information is*

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*also to be provided to Sefton Council*) Any changes in contact details should be provided to occupiers and Sefton Council within 7 days of the changes.

- (c) True copy of current gas safety certificate
- (d) True copy of current energy performance certificate (*Certificate must be provided to Sefton Council within 28 days on demand.*)
- (e) Statement of the terms of occupation
- (f) Details of arrangements for the storage and disposal of waste;
- (g) Tenants responsibilities in the storage and presenting of refuse for disposal.
- (h) Details explaining how the tenant can make a complaint in relation to matters concerning their occupation and how the licence holder/manager will deal with such, including the timescales for completion of repair works.
- (i) Where a deposit has been taken in connection with the tenant's occupation of the property, information on the prescribed form required by s213(5) Housing Act 2004. (*This information must be provided to Sefton Council within 28 days on demand.*)
- (j) A user manual/written instruction for the correct operation and setting of the fixed form of heating.

## **3.2 Property Management**

- 3.2.1 The licence holder must ensure that any remedial works to rectify disrepair issues identified are undertaken within a reasonable period of time, and within the timescales notified to the occupiers under condition 3.1(h). The works must be carried out by competent and reputable persons.
- 3.2.2 The licence holder must ensure, insofar as reasonably possible, that emergency works necessary to protect the security of the property are undertaken within 24hrs of notification e.g. damage to windows/entrance points to the property.
- 3.2.3 Where Sefton Council has reasonable grounds for believing that the electrical installation may be in need of repair or upgrading, it may demand from the licence holder an Electrical Installation Condition Report carried out by a competent electrical engineer who is a member of one of the 6 current organisations authorised to self-certificate. Such reports should not be more than 5 years old.
- 3.2.4 Should the Electrical Installation Condition Report specify the installation to be unsatisfactory then the licence holder must ensure that the works necessary to bring it up to a satisfactory condition are completed as soon as possible but within a reasonable timescale depending upon the nature of the problem.
- 3.2.5 The licence holder must ensure that as well as the declaration and Mandatory condition of providing annual Gas Safe Certificate, landlords of a property also have further duties under the Gas Safety (Installation and use) Regulations 1998, whereby they are required to provide on-going maintenance of the gas installation Landlords/Licence holders should not assume that by carrying out annual gas safety checks will be sufficient to provide effective maintenance;



advice of a competent person should be sought. All such maintenance works to be carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer.

- 3.2.6 As far as is reasonably practicable, the landlord/licence holder shall not allow the property to become overcrowded.
- 3.2.7 The licence holder must provide adequate facilities and amenities (such as toilets, baths, showers, washing and cooking facilities) as per the number of occupiers. All facilities and any equipment provided including cupboards, shelving or fittings etc. must be maintained in good repair and working order as far as is reasonably practicable.
- 3.2.8 The licence holder/manager shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the property is free from any pest infestation at the start of a tenancy and where necessary ensure that a treatment programme is carried out to eradicate the pest infestation. Record of such treatment programmes must be kept and provided to Sefton Council within 28 days on demand.

### **3.3 External areas, refuse & waste**

The licence holder must ensure that:

- (a) The exterior of the property is maintained in a reasonable decorative order and state of repair;
- (b) At the commencement of a new tenancy any gardens, yards and other external areas within the curtilage of the house must be in a reasonably clean and tidy condition and free from rodent infestation, and
- (c) Suitable and adequate provision is made for storage of refuse generated in the property and that occupants use receptacles provided by Sefton Council for storage prior to collection. (wheeled bins or refuse sacks)
- (d) The wheeled bins or plastic refuse sacks (if wheeled bins are not provided) must not be presented for collection for a period of more than 12 hours prior to collection.
- (e) Any new occupant of the building is notified of the date of collection for the wheeled bins/refuse sacks.

### **3.4 Security**

The licence holder must ensure that:

- (a) The security provisions for the access to the dwelling (including but not limited to locks, latches, deadbolts and entry systems) must be maintained in good working order at all times.
- (b) Where window locks are fitted, the licence holder will ensure that keys are provided to the relevant occupant.
- (c) Where a burglar alarm is fitted to the house, the licence holder must provide the occupant with instructions on how to operate the alarm and how to report a fault with the system and must inform the Local Authority of the key holder contact details.
- (d) Where previous occupants have not surrendered keys, the licence holder will arrange for a lock change to be undertaken, prior to new occupants moving in.

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- (e) Where alley gates are installed to the rear of the licensed property, the licence holder must at the time of letting, provide all new tenants with the appropriate alley-gate key and replace any such keys prior to any tenancy starting.

## 3.5 Training

The Licence Holder and/or Manager shall undertake property management training courses where required to do so by Sefton Council.

## 3.6 Absence

The licence holder is required to have in place suitable emergency and other management arrangements in the event of their absence. The name and contact details of the licence holder and/or manager must be supplied to each occupier and must also be on display in a prominent place

## 3.7 Compliance Inspections

The licence holder must allow the Council to undertake compliance checks. Council Officers will give the licence holder at least 24 hrs notice of these checks and produce valid authorisation at the time of the visit.

## 3.8 Anti-Social Behaviour

The licence holder must:

- (a) Take reasonable and practical steps to reduce or prevent anti-social behaviour by persons occupying or visiting the house and the use of the premises for illegal purposes.
- (b) The licence holder must ensure that any tenancy agreement granted after the issue of this licence includes the following clause within the tenant's obligations:

**“Nuisance and Anti-social Behaviour:** Not to cause, or allow household members, or visitors to engage in anti-social behaviour, which means any conduct causing or capable of causing a nuisance or annoyance to the landlord, other occupiers, neighbours or people engaging in lawful activity within the locality”

The property must be regularly monitored between tenancies to ensure that it does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or other local residents.

- (c) Effectively address all problems of anti-social behaviour resulting from the conduct on the part of a tenant, occupiers, or visitors to the premises by complying with the “ASB information for Landlords” pack or an equivalent process.
- (d) Provide on demand a written action plan to Sefton Council outlining procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour. This must be reviewed periodically and submitted to the Council on demand.
- (e) Obtain tenant references prior to granting a tenancy as to previous tenancy conduct, including behaviour of the proposed occupier and household and be satisfied that the tenant is not likely to cause any anti-social behaviour.

- (f) Co-operate with Sefton Council, Merseyside Police and other agencies in resolving complaints of ant-social behaviour.
- (g) Undertake an investigation of any complaints of anti-social behaviour regarding their tenants. Written records of these will be required.
- (h) Provide the occupiers of the property with written confirmation detailing arrangements in place to report nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

### 3.9 HMOs

Licence Holders for premises that are 'Houses in Multiple Occupation' (HMOs) as defined in sections 254 and 257 of the Housing Act 2004, must comply with the following regulations and standards;

- i. *'The Licensing & Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Other Houses (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations 2006'* – Statutory Instrument (SI) N° 373, as amended by Regulation 12 of SI N° 1903:2007.
- ii. *'The Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006'* – SI N° 372: 2006
- iii. *'The Licensing & Management of Houses in Multiple occupation (Additional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2007'* – SI N° 1903
- iv. *'The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015'*
- v. *'Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998'*
- vi. *'The Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations 1988'*
- vii. *'Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994'*

The above standards and requirements are summarised in this authority's ['Approved Standards for Houses in Multiple Occupation'](#)

### 3.10 Variations

The licence holder must inform the Council, in writing, of any changes to the occupation, ownership or management or material changes to layout of the property, as listed below within 14 days of the change occurring:

- a) Changes in the number of persons to occupy the licensed premises
- b) Changes in the ownership of the property
- c) Licence holder change of address or contact telephone number
- d) Manager change of address or contact telephone number
- e) Change of manager
- f) Appointment of manager
- g) Changes to the layout, amenity provision or fire precautions.

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## **Additional (HMO) Licensing Conditions**

### **1 Fit and Proper Person**

**1.1** The licence holder must at all times be a fit and proper person to be the licence holder. The licence holder must notify the Local Authority within 7 days of a finding by any court that the licence holder or any person involved in the management of the house has committed any of the matters identified at 1.1 (a) to (c) below. In deciding for the purposes of the Housing Act 2004 section (3) (a) or (c) whether a person is a fit and proper person to be a licence holder or the manager of the house, the local housing authority must have regard to any offences as follows;

- (a) Any offences involving fraud or other dishonesty, or violence or drugs, or any offence listed in Schedule 3 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003.
- (b) Any unlawful discrimination on grounds of sex, colour, race, ethnic or national origins or disability in, or in connection with the carrying on of any business.
- (c) Any contravention of any provision of the law relating to housing or of landlord and tenant law.
- (d) Any person involved in the management of the property has sufficient level of competence to be so involved.
- (e) Any person involved in the management of the house is a fit and proper person to be so involved.
- (f) Provision of adequate management structures and funding arrangements.

Our licensing conditions will be amended to reflect any legislative changes to definition.

### **2. Mandatory Conditions – Schedule 4 of the Housing Act 2004**

#### **2.1 Gas**

If gas is supplied to the property, the licence holder must provide to Sefton Council a Gas Safety Certificate issued within the previous 12 months at the time of application and thereafter annually or on demand.

#### **2.2 Electrical Appliances**

The licence holder must keep all electrical appliances supplied in a safe condition and must supply to Sefton Council on demand a declaration by him as to the safety of such appliances.

#### **2.3 Furniture**

The licence holder must ensure that furniture made available by him (or if he is not the landlord, by the landlord) in the property is in a safe condition. All upholstered furniture and covers and fillings of cushions and pillows should comply with current fire safety legislation. A declaration as to the safety of such furniture must be provided to Sefton Council on demand.

## **2.4 Smoke Alarms**

The licence holder must ensure that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms are installed in the property in accordance with condition 2.5 to comply with The Smoke & Carbon Monoxide alarm (England) Regulations 2015 and keep each alarm in proper working order. The licence holder must supply Sefton Council, on demand, a declaration as to the condition and positioning of such alarms.

## **2.5** The Licence holder must ensure that:

- 2.5.1 A smoke alarm is installed on each story of the premises on which there is a room used wholly or partly as living accommodation (including a bathroom or lavatory); and
- 2.5.2 A carbon monoxide alarm is installed in any room which is used wholly or partly as living accommodation (including a bathroom or a lavatory) and contains a solid fuel burning combustion appliance.
- 2.5.3 The licence holder must ensure that all alarms are in proper working order at the commencement of any new tenancy or licence.

## **2.6 Terms of occupation**

The licence holder must supply to the occupiers of the house a written statement of the terms on which they occupy the property (a suitable tenancy agreement).

## **3 Sefton Council Licensing Conditions**

### **3.1 Tenancy Management**

The licence holder will provide the tenant with an information pack containing the following documents:

- (a) A true copy of the licence to which these conditions apply.
- (b) A notice with the name, address, daytime and emergency contact number of the licence holder or managing agent (*this information is also to be provided to Sefton Council*). Any changes in contact details should be provided to occupiers and Sefton Council within 7 days of the changes.
- (c) True copy of current gas safety certificate.
- (d) True copy of the current Electrical Inspection Condition Report (EICR) that must not be more than 5 years old .

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- (e) True copy of current energy performance certificate where applicable. *(Certificate must be provided to Sefton Council within 28 days on demand).*
- (f) Statement of the terms of occupation.
- (g) Details of arrangements for the storage and disposal of waste.
- (h) Tenants responsibilities in the storage and presenting of refuse for disposal.
- (i) Details explaining how the tenant can make a complaint in relation to matters concerning their occupation and how the licence holder/manager will deal with such, including the timescales for completion of repair works.
- (j) Where a deposit has been taken in connection with the tenant's occupation of the property, information on the prescribed form required by s213(5) Housing Act 2004. *(This information must be provided to Sefton Council within 28 days on demand).*
- (k) A user manual/written instruction for the correct operation and setting of the fixed form of heating.

## **3.2 Property Management**

- 3.2.1 The licence holder must ensure that any remedial works to rectify disrepair issues identified are undertaken within a reasonable period of time, and within the timescales notified to the occupiers under condition 3.1(i). The works must be carried out by competent and reputable persons.
- 3.2.2 The licence holder must ensure, insofar as reasonably possible, that emergency works necessary to protect the security of the property are undertaken within 24hrs of notification e.g. damage to windows/entrance points to the property.
- 3.2.3 The licence holder must provide on demand an Electrical Installation Condition Report (EICR) carried out by a competent electrical engineer who is a member of one of the 8 current organisations authorised to self-certificate. Such reports should not be more than 5 years old.
- 3.2.4 Should the Electrical Installation Condition Report specify the installation to be unsatisfactory then the licence holder must ensure that the works necessary to bring it up to a satisfactory condition are completed as soon as possible but within a reasonable timescale depending upon the nature of the problem.
- 3.2.5 The licence holder must ensure that as well as the declaration and Mandatory condition of providing annual Gas Safe Certificate, landlords of a property also have further duties under the Gas Safety (Installation and use) Regulations 1998, whereby they are required to provide on-going maintenance of the gas installation Landlords/Licence holders should not assume that by carrying out annual gas safety checks will be sufficient to provide effective maintenance; advice of a competent person should be sought. All such maintenance works to be carried out by a Gas Safe registered engineer.
- 3.2.6 As far as is reasonably practicable, the landlord/licence holder shall not allow the property to become overcrowded.
- 3.2.7 The licence holder must provide adequate facilities and amenities (such as toilets, baths, showers, washing and cooking facilities) as per the number of

occupiers. All facilities and any equipment provided including cupboards, shelving or fittings etc. must be maintained in good repair and working order as far as is reasonably practicable.

- 3.2.8 The licence holder/manager shall take reasonable steps to ensure that the property is free from any pest infestation at the start of a tenancy and where necessary ensure that a treatment programme is carried out to eradicate the pest infestation. Record of such treatment programmes must be kept and provided to Sefton Council within 28 days on demand.

### **3.3 External areas, refuse & waste**

The licence holder must ensure that:

- (a) The exterior of the property is maintained in a reasonable decorative order and state of repair;
- (b) At the commencement of a new tenancy any gardens, yards and other external areas within the curtilage of the house must be in a reasonably clean and tidy condition and free from rodent infestation, and
- (c) Suitable and adequate provision is made for storage of refuse generated in the property and that occupants use receptacles provided by Sefton Council for storage prior to collection (wheeled bins or refuse sacks).
- (d) The wheeled bins or plastic refuse sacks (if wheeled bins are not provided) must not be presented for collection for a period of more than 12 hours prior to collection.
- (e) Any new occupant of the building is notified of the date of collection for the wheeled bins/refuse sacks.

### **3.4 Security**

The licence holder must ensure that:

- (a) The security provisions for the access to the dwelling (including but not limited to locks, latches, deadbolts and entry systems) must be maintained in good working order at all times.
- (b) Where window locks are fitted, the licence holder will ensure that keys are provided to the relevant occupant.
- (c) Where a burglar alarm is fitted to the house, the licence holder must provide the occupant with instructions on how to operate the alarm and how to report a fault with the system and must inform the Local Authority of the key holder contact details.
- (d) Where previous occupants have not surrendered keys, the licence holder will arrange for a lock change to be undertaken, prior to new occupants moving in.
- (e) Where alley gates are installed to the rear of the licensed property, the licence holder must at the time of letting, provide all new tenants with the appropriate alley-gate key and replace any such keys prior to any tenancy starting.
- (f) All final exit doors must be provided with a secure lock. Any doors fitted with a lock, including final exit doors from the building or any that form

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part of the means of escape in the event of a fire, must be capable of being opened from the inside without the use of a key.

## 3.5 Training

The Licence Holder and/or Manager shall undertake property management training courses where required to do so by Sefton Council.

## 3.6 Absence

The licence holder is required to have in place suitable emergency and other management arrangements in the event of their absence. The name and contact details of the licence holder and/or manager must be supplied to each occupier and must also be on display in a prominent place

## 3.7 Compliance Inspections

The licence holder must allow the Council to undertake compliance checks. Sefton Council Officers will give the licence holder at least 24 hrs notice of these checks and produce valid authorisation at the time of the visit.

## 3.8 Anti-Social Behaviour

The licence holder must:

- a. Take reasonable and practical steps to reduce or prevent anti-social behaviour by persons occupying or visiting the house and the use of the premises for illegal purposes.
- b. The licence holder must ensure that any tenancy agreement granted after the issue of this licence includes the following clause within the tenant's obligations:  
  

**“Nuisance and Anti-social Behaviour:** Not to cause, or allow household members, or visitors to engage in anti-social behaviour, which means any conduct causing or capable of causing a nuisance or annoyance to the landlord, other occupiers, neighbours or people engaging in lawful activity within the locality”

The property must be regularly monitored between tenancies to ensure that it does not cause a nuisance to neighbours or other local residents.
- c. Provide new occupants with a tenancy agreement that includes clauses that allow the licence holder to take steps to tackle anti-social behaviour.
- d. Effectively address all problems of anti-social behaviour resulting from the conduct on the part of a tenant, occupiers, or visitors to the premises by complying with the “ASB information for Landlords” pack or an equivalent process.
- e. Provide on demand a written action plan to Sefton Council outlining procedures for dealing with anti-social behaviour. This must be reviewed periodically and submitted to the Council on demand.



- f. Obtain tenant references prior to granting a tenancy as to previous tenancy conduct, including behaviour of the proposed occupier and household and be satisfied that the tenant is not likely to cause any anti-social behaviour. If there is a risk [eg due to previous ASB] that a tenant may cause a nuisance within the home or neighbourhood, that measures are put in place to mitigate those risks.
- g. All references obtained must be retained for the duration of the licence.
- h. Co-operate with Sefton Council, Merseyside Police and other agencies in resolving complaints of anti-social behaviour.
- i. Undertake an investigation of any complaints of anti-social behaviour regarding their tenants. Written records of these will be required.
- j. Provide the occupiers of the property with written confirmation detailing arrangements in place to report nuisance and anti-social behaviour.

### 3.9 HMOs

Licence Holders for premises that are 'Houses in Multiple Occupation' (HMOs) as defined in sections 254 and 257 of the Housing Act 2004, must comply with the following regulations and standards;

- i. *'The Licensing & Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation and Other Houses (Miscellaneous Provisions) (England) Regulations 2006'* – Statutory Instrument (SI) N° 373, as amended by Regulation 12 of SI N° 1903:2007.
- ii. *'The Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (England) Regulations 2006'* – SI N° 372: 2006
- iii. *'The Licensing & Management of Houses in Multiple Occupation (Additional Provisions) (England) Regulations 2007'* – SI N° 1903
- iv. *'The Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015'*
- v. *'Gas Safety (Installation & Use) Regulations 1998'*
- vi. *'The Furniture & Furnishings (Fire)(Safety) Regulations 1988'*
- vii. *'Electrical Equipment (Safety) Regulations 1994'*

The above standards and requirements are summarised in this authority's 'Approved Standards for Houses in Multiple Occupation' [\[click to access\]](#)

### 3.10 Variations

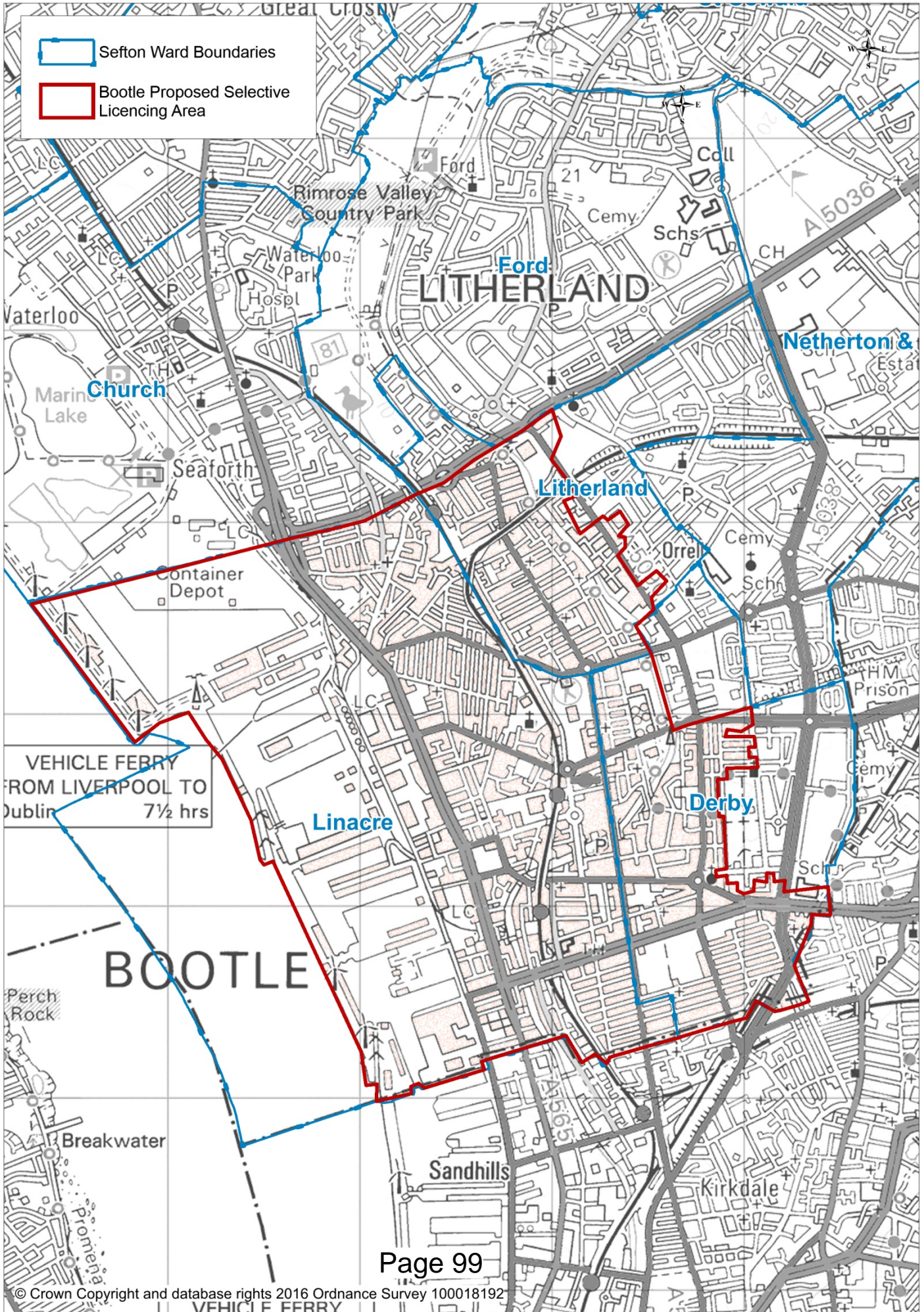
The licence holder must inform the Local Authority, in writing, of any changes to the occupation, ownership or management, or material changes to layout of the property, as listed below within 14 days of the change occurring:

- A) Changes in the number of persons to occupy the licensed premises
  - a) Changes in the ownership of the property
  - b) Licence holder change of address or contact telephone number

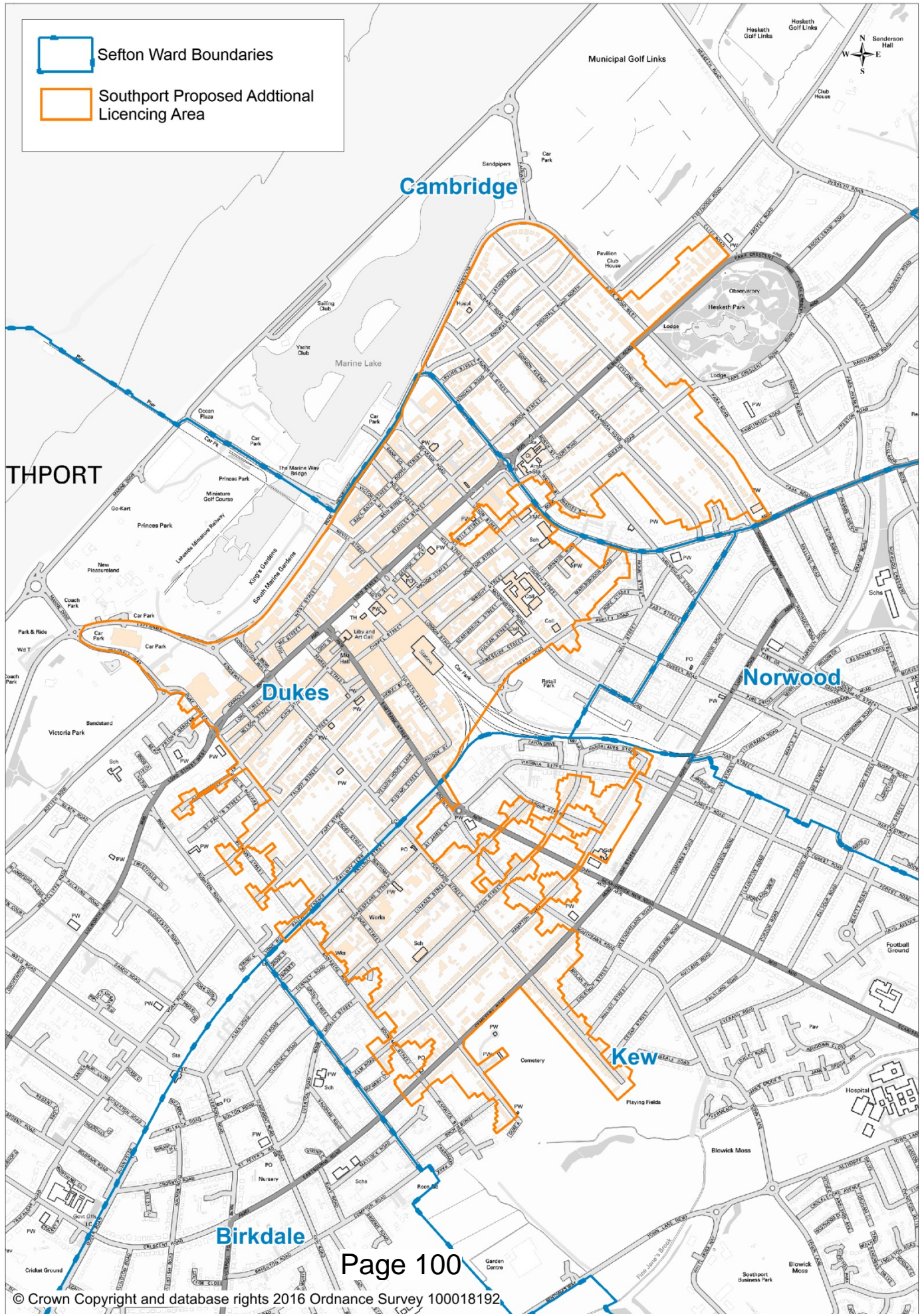
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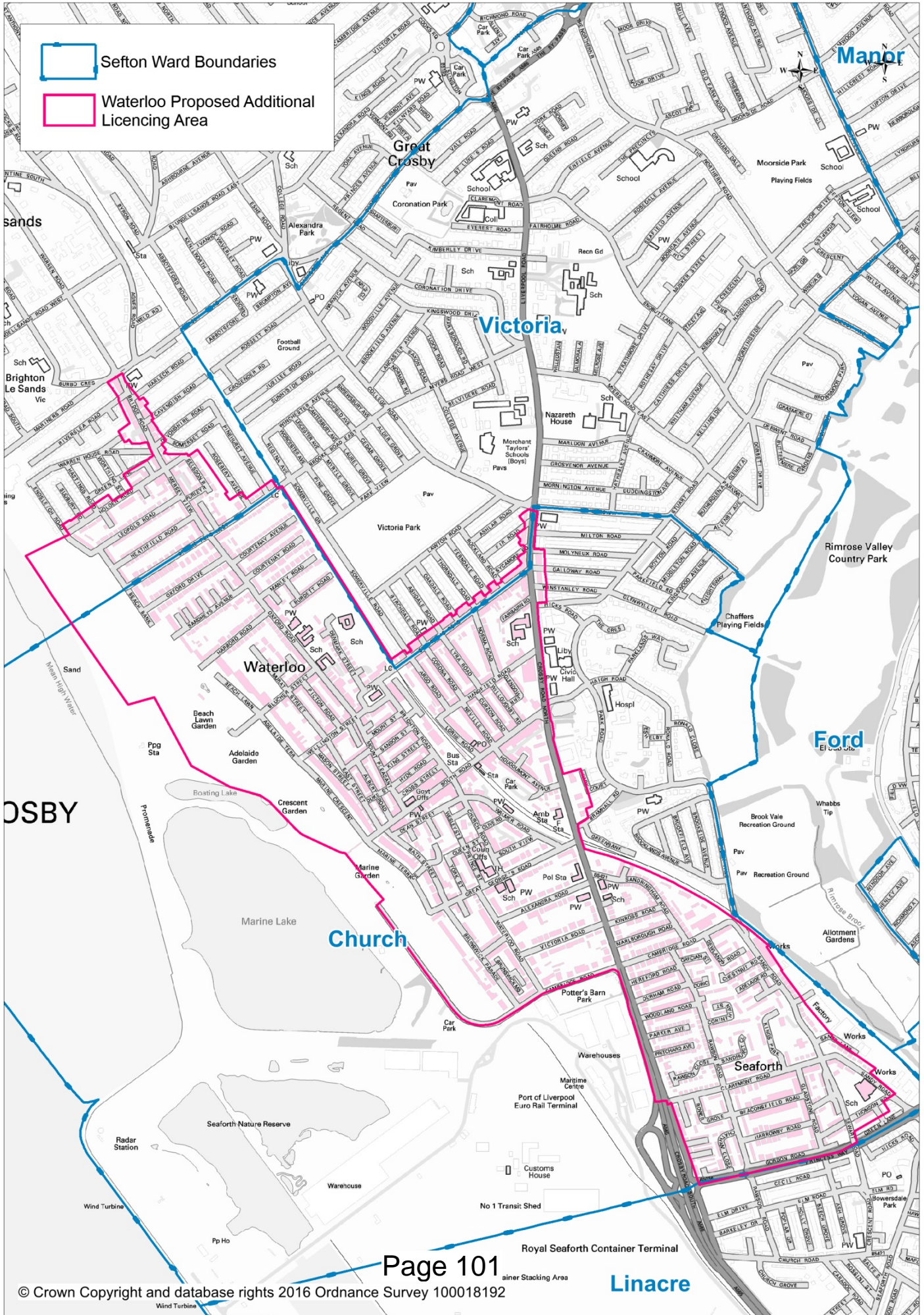
- c) Manager change of address or contact telephone number
- d) Change of manager
- e) Appointment of manager
- f) Changes to the layout, amenity provision or fire precautions.

Appendix 2 – areas identified for Selective and Additional HMO Licensing



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**Report to:** Overview & Scrutiny Committee  
(Regeneration & Skills)      **Date of Meeting:** 8 November 2016

**Subject:** Shale Gas working group – update on implementing recommendations      **Wards Affected:** (All Wards);

**Report of:** Head of Regeneration and Housing

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

## Purpose/Summary

To update Members on progress with implementing the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group.

## Recommendations

1. That Members are requested, in conjunction with Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control, to provide a view on the draft objectives for the Cross-Regulatory Working Group, membership and frequency of meetings.
2. That Members note that feedback is awaited from the Regulators on the draft objectives.

## 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	✓		

# Agenda Item 6

## Reasons for the Recommendations:

To advise Members of progress in implementing the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not to progress implementing the recommendations of the Members' working group

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

- (A) Revenue Costs - None directly.
- (B) Capital Costs - N/A.

## Implications:

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

<b>Financial</b>	
<b>Legal</b>	
<b>Human Resources</b>	
<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 of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

Implementing the recommendations of the Working Group will clarify Council expectations in relation to proposals for Shale Gas within the Borough, and in particular the role of a Cross-Regulator Officer Working Group.

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

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted (FD 4364/16) and notes the report indicates no direct financial implications for the Council.

Head of Regulation & Compliance has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated in the report (LD 3647/16).

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the meeting

## Contact Officer: Alan Jemmett – Director, Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service

Tel: 0151 934 4950

Email: alan.jemmett@eas.sefton.gov.uk

## Background Papers:

None



## 1. Background

1.1 Cabinet approved the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 3 December 2015 and the Head of Regeneration and Housing was assigned responsibility for implementation of the recommendations. On 14 July, Full Council passed a motion on Unconventional Gas Extraction (Fracking).

1.2 Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) received a progress update on 20 September 2016 and it resolved that:

- The draft objectives, membership and frequency of meetings of the Cross-Regulatory Working Group, be referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control and his recommendations be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee scheduled to take place on 8 November 2016;
- The Head of Regeneration and Housing or his nominated representative be requested to meet with partners as necessary to inform the scope and the terms of reference of the Cross-Regulatory Working Group; and
- The timetable associated with the actions, as detailed in the report, be noted.

1.3 On 5 October the Government approved the planning application in Lancashire the enable horizontal fracking to take place at Cuadrilla's Preston New Road site at Little Plumpton. Two other planning applications for monitoring arrays were also approved, one at Preston New Road and the other at Roseacre Wood. Subject to compliance to pre-commencement planning conditions, development may be expected to proceed at Preston New Road during 2017.

1.4 Also on 5 October, the Government agreed to re-convene the Public Inquiry to enable more evidence to be heard with respect to transportation issues for the Roseacre Wood site in Lancashire. An outcome is therefore anticipated later in 2017.

1.5 On 12 October 2016, Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive, Lancashire County Council, Oil and Gas Authority and Public Health England organised a "meet the regulator event" in Ormskirk. This is part of a wider engagement process to raise awareness of the role of regulators and is not specific to any development-proposal. A nominated officer took the opportunity to observe the event and to informally discuss with the Regulators, the benefits and challenges of shale development and the possible operation of a cross-regulator group in Sefton.

## 2. Update on Implementation of Actions

2.1 The draft objectives for the Cross-Regulator Working Group to encourage and facilitate co-operation between the main Regulators for on-shore oil and gas (shale) are as follows:

(i) – To inform what Sefton Council expects from Shale Gas and Oil development proposals to enable cost-effective, joined-up and robust Regulation.

(ii) – To provide a confidential mechanism for co-operation between Regulators in relation to Shale Gas and Oil development issues and proposals.

# Agenda Item 6

(iii) – To facilitate delivery of regulatory functions by informing the scope of the evidence and technical assessments required for Shale Gas and Oil development proposals.

(iv) – To provide a confidential mechanism to provide early feedback to Shale Gas and Oil development sector (normally the proposer or their nominated advisor) prior to commencement of formal planning or other regulatory processes and; provide an early opportunity for the Shale Gas and Oil development sector to reassure the Council and other Regulators on effects relating to safety, health, communities and the environment (amongst others’).

(v) – To raise awareness of the significant issues likely to be encountered within the Borough of Sefton and adjacent administrative areas and learn from experience elsewhere.

(vi) – To inform the scope of corporate communications from the Regulators in relation to Shale Gas and Oil generally and specific development proposals.

(vii) – To help ensure that the Regulators have access to the necessary technical capacity and resources to deliver effective regulation.

(ix) – To ensure that the practices, procedures, experience and knowledge is shared with adjacent administrative areas including other parts of the Liverpool City Region.:

- Inform pre-application discussions for proposed shale development, case by case;
- Avoid the duplication of regulatory processes and ensure that joined-up, effective regulation and planning control is delivered for the Borough;
- Ensure that the evidence upon which regulatory assessments are based is appropriate in detail and scope;
- Provide a means of open scrutiny and early discussion of issues and matters that need to be addressed as part of the decision-taking process.

2.2 Feedback is awaited from Environment Agency, Health and Safety Executive and Public Health England on these draft objectives. However, these organisations are welcoming of the principle of a Cross-Regulatory Group and the without-prejudice, proactive approach by Sefton Council. There are also understood to be keen to share experience and learning gained from other onshore oil and gas development projects including Lancashire and North Yorkshire.

2.3 Membership of the proposed Cross-Regulator Working Group will be drawn from a range of organisations such as Public Health England, Environment Agency and Health and Safety Executive and, Council Departments and Members as necessary. Table 1 provides more information.

2.4 It is suggested that, once the TOR have been agreed, the frequency of meetings will be determined by the need for technical input to inform regulation of development proposals, if and when and how quickly, they come forward.

2.5 To ensure appropriate Elected Member oversight and involvement it is recommended to O&S Committee that:

- The proposed Cross-Regulator Group meets in advance of O&S Committee to enable timely feedback;
- Briefings of O&S Committee take place in advance of normal business meetings to provide an opportunity for Members to receive training in relation to onshore oil and gas development and raise issues for consideration by the Cross-Regulator Group;
- The O&S Committee will provide oversight of the Cross-Regulator Group. Specifically the Cross-Regulator Group will provide regular update reports to O&S Committee including recommendations.

2.6 Further progress reports will be provided on actions 2 – 8 at future meetings.

**Table 1**

<b>Regulator</b>	<b>Main Regulatory areas</b>
Environment Agency	Environmental permits – mining waste, onsite and offsite (treatment and disposal), regulates all emissions to ground water and surface water resources, emissions to air, radioactive substances. Abstraction licences.
Health and Safety Executive	Well integrity (design and construction), independent well verification, safety of drilling, final well plugging and decommissioning.
Public Health England	Public Health and well-being.
Oil and Gas Authority	PEDL licences, hydraulic fracture plan (monitoring and seismicity), infrastructure, operator competence, and geology / subsidence / fracture propagation.
<b>Council Department</b>	<b>Main areas of responsibility</b>
Sefton Council Planning	Minerals Planning authority, Local Plan policies, validation list, statement of community involvement, landscape & visual intrusion.
Sefton Council – MEAS	Environmental regulation – protected sites / species, land contamination, compliance - HRA, EIA, archaeology, energy infrastructure, land use.
Sefton Council - Environmental Health	Dust, noise, land contamination, lighting.
Sefton Council – Coast & Flooding	Flood risk management, coast protection, ordinary watercourse.
Sefton Council – Economic	Jobs regeneration, supply chain.

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Development	
Sefton Council – Technical Services	Transport and access including Transport Impact Assessment.
Sefton Council – Public health	Public health, health impact assessment.
<b>And the following organisations on a case by case basis upon invitation:</b>	
Natural England	Protected sites and species including Natura 2000 sites
Hazardous Substances Authority (if not Planning authority)	Control of major hazards and issuing of hazardous substances consents.
Sefton Council – Corporate	Communications, media and public relations
British Geological Survey	Monitoring arrays, potential of resources.

### 3. Issues Raised by O&S Committee on 20 September 2016

- 3.1 A presentation will be made to O&S Committee on 8 November which will brief Elected Members on the issues and questions raised on 20 September 2016.

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny  
(Regeneration and Skills)

**Date of Meeting:** 8 November 2016

**Subject:** Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management – Annual Report

**Report of:** Head of Locality Services - Commissioned

**Wards Affected:** All

**Is this a Key Decision?** No

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

No

**Exempt/Confidential**

No

**Purpose/Summary**

The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 requires that arrangements be made to review and scrutinise the exercise by the Council as a Lead Local Flood Risk Authority of its flood risk management functions and coastal erosion risk management functions. This annual report satisfies that requirement.

**Recommendation(s)**

That Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills);

1. Review the report
2. That any comments from this committee be referred to the Cabinet Member (Locality Services) for consideration.

**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		✓	

# Agenda Item 7

## Reasons for the Recommendation:

To comply with the requirements of the Flood and Water 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?

(A) Revenue Costs

(B) Capital Costs

## Implications:

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 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:

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

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD4347/16) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD3630/16) have been consulted and have no comments on the report.

## 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 Council's ability to manage flood risk in the Borough and may result in sanctions from Government for failing to deliver statutory functions. It will also reduce the Council's ability to secure external funding.

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee/Council/Working Group meeting.

**Contact Officer:** Paul Wisse

**Tel:** 0151 934 2959

**Email:** paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk

## **Background Papers:**

The following papers are available for inspection by contacting the above officer(s).

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy, Investment Plan and Service Plan

<http://smbc-modgov-01/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=41245&Opt=0>

# Agenda Item 7

## 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (subsequently referred to as the Act) has placed a number of new duties on the Council as the Lead Local Flood Risk Authority; these have been previously presented to the committee. One of these is the requirement to make arrangements for Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review the Council's progress and it was agreed that this would be achieved through the provision of an annual report.
- 1.2 This report sets out progress that has been made in the last year, highlights key issues and sets out priorities for the coming years. Key items of work are detailed below.

## 2 Progress

### 2.1 Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy

- 2.1.1 This Strategy is a requirement under section 9 of the Flood and Water Management Act 2010. The Strategy was adopted by Cabinet on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015. This Strategy sets out how Sefton will deliver flood and coastal erosion risk management, what investment will be needed to deliver this and the manner in which this service will be delivered. It defines the outcomes, outputs and actions for this service area.
- 2.1.2 The Action Plan associated with this Strategy sets out the programme and nature of works. Progress made against the action plan is provided in appendix 1, please follow link the below to access the document:-

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2080&ID=2080&RPID=13357992>

- 2.1.3 The Investment Plan sets out how the actions will be funded and identifies potential funding sources. The updated Investment Plan is provided in appendix 2, please follow the link below to access the document:-

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2081&ID=2081&RPID=13358023>

### 2.2 Flood Risk Management

#### 2.2.1 December 2015 Flooding

- 2.2.1.1 The widespread flooding across the North West of England during December 2015 had a significant impact across Sefton. There was widespread flooding in all areas of Sefton. The timing of the flooding was particularly bad as it occurred on Boxing Day during the Christmas shutdown period and the weather warnings were only issued during Christmas Day. Despite this Sefton were able to provide a good response with the Emergency Duty Coordinator following the emergency plan. Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) officers were not formally called out as contractors provided the



primary response, however, team members did attend several sites to assess the situation and provide support.

- 2.2.1.2 Sefton had 16 properties flood internally and significant highway and garden flooding at disparate locations across Sefton. These internally flooded properties were eligible for grants from Central Government to undertake surveys to establish potential protection measures and to install this property level protection on their homes. We have assisted by arranging the surveys and advising homeowners on options to protect their properties.

## 2.2.2 *June 2016 Flooding*

- 2.2.2.1 Thunderstorms brought torrential downpours to Birkdale on the evening of the 5<sup>th</sup> June. It resulted in 6 properties being flooded in the area. Four of these were on Essex Road and have flooded previously. These properties have subsequently received some mitigation from United Utilities in the form of Property Level Protection. The Council is also looking at sustainable options to manage surface water in the area to reduce flood risk. Another property that has also previously flooded in the area will benefit from any works we undertake on Essex Road as it is further down the system. The other property that flooded was in a different catchment and flooded as the result of debris carried by the flood water, blocking a gully, preventing free drainage.

## 2.2.3 *Resilient Communities*

This area of work has been developed to help deliver Sefton Council's priorities to create Resilient Communities and Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy. These projects aim to support communities to become more resilient during flood events and to have an input in the decisions made about flood risk management. This has been extended to align with Sefton's 2030 Vision themes of Resilient People and Places.

### 2.2.3.1 Formby Flood Group

- 2.2.3.1.1 We have worked with Formby Parish Council to establish a community flood group to try to jointly manage flood risk and improve the health and wellbeing of the community of Formby supported by grant in aid secured from the Environment Agency. A number of initial meetings with the wider community were held to share understanding of the risk in Formby and identify key priorities the community wanted pursuing. From these initial meeting the community agreed that a smaller group should be set up to represent the wider community views and take actions forward.

- 2.2.3.2 The Formby Flood Group is currently working towards establishing itself as a constituted group, which will enable it to source a wider range of funding opportunities to work towards achieving the community priorities. This group haven't met since Spring, due to members other commitments taking priority, which has hindered progress but we have been assured meetings will re commence in the Autumn.

- 2.2.3.3 The group's main priority is community resilience and it is looking at administering a community stock of flood sacks and a mechanism to warn residents of potential flooding from rivers or rainfall in the area.

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## 2.2.3.4 Maghull Flood Committee

2.2.3.4.1 We have worked with Maghull Town Council to establish a community flood group in area supported by grant in aid secured from the Environment Agency. An advert was placed in the local newspaper inviting interested residents to help form a flood committee early in 2016. The committee has since met several times and a number of public engagement sessions have been run;

- Sefton Council held a drop in session specifically for riparian owners to raise awareness of their role and responsibility (example material is included in appendix 3), please follow the link below to access the document:-

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2082&ID=2082&RPID=13358085>

- The Committee undertook an online questionnaire to gather information from the community. This was followed by a meeting to discuss the results (appendix 4), please follow the link below to access the document:-

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2083&ID=2083&RPID=13358108>

- A public event discussing community resilience and how to prepare for flooding was undertaken in conjunction with United Utilities, the Environment Agency and the flood committee.

## 2.2.3.5 Thornton Parish Council

2.2.3.5.1 The main urban area of Thornton has a piped watercourse running underneath properties, roads, schools and farmland. A number of issues related to the maintenance of the watercourse by the riparian owners have been raised, especially where it passes under individuals' property. We have been working with the Parish Council to engage with these riparian owners to work towards an effective maintenance programme.

## 2.2.3.6 Blundellsands Ward Councillor

2.2.3.6.1 Cllr Roscoe approached the FCERM team for advice and assistance in developing an approach to community flood risk management in Blundellsands after becoming aware of the work in Formby and Maghull. We have provided advice and shared experiences of our work in Maghull and Formby to enable her to develop this theme in her area. Unfortunately due to resource commitments we are unable to provide further support at this time.

## 2.2.4 Staffing

2.2.4.1 The FCERM team have recruited to the vacant post of Principal Officer. This post supports the team leader in the delivery of the service. They provide the key link between strategic planning and operational delivery. A key piece of work undertaken has been clearly communicating the Council's vision, corporate priorities and Sefton's 2030 Vision to the team and demonstrating how our service area supports these. This supports staff during challenging times and ensures the service is outcome focussed. This work has provided a

clear line of sight and sense of purpose to tasks undertaken in the team and how everything we do ties into a much bigger picture and positive direction of travel.

2.2.4.2 As this was an internal candidate from within the team, this has left a vacant post that has resulted in a cascade of recruitment exercises due to subsequent internal recruitments. The team should have recruited to all vacant posts by the end of 2016.

2.2.4.3 Sefton Council has also secured funding from the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee to support the delivery of the Shoreline Management Plan in the North West in the form of a staff resource. This post will support local authorities and organisations across the North West from the Dee Estuary to Solway on the Scottish Border, to plan for the delivery of actions as set out in the Shoreline Management Plan. They will also provide a crucial link between the Shoreline Management Plan and the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme.

## *2.2.5 Developer's Pack*

2.2.5.1 The FCERM team have worked with the Highways Design Team in the development of their updated developer's pack. This has allowed us to set out the Council's requirements for flood risk management and drainage related highway development. There is a strong emphasis on the requirement for Sustainable Drainage Systems (SUDS) to manage surface water and minimise impact on existing systems.

## *2.2.6 Local Planning Authority*

2.2.6.1 As a statutory consultee for major planning applications (>10 properties or 0.5ha) we have commented on 50 major planning applications and, in addition, have commented on 266 minor applications since November 2015.

2.2.6.2 Over the last year we have reviewed our process dealing with planning applications and are making a number of changes to improve how we manage and respond to the increasing workload. This will improve response time and consistency.

2.2.6.3 We provided technical support and advice to the planning authority throughout the Local Plan enquiry. We attended the hearings and provided evidence to the inspector when required.

## *2.2.7 Nile and Pool Investigations, Southport*

2.2.7.1 Grant in aid secured from the Environment Agency to undertake investigations and studies into the two watercourses that serve Southport and Birkdale. These watercourses have largely been piped/culverted over time and have had numerous connections and disconnections made to them. The investigation work is helping to identify where further work is required to maintain the system, opportunities to restore the open watercourse and reduce flood risk. The initial desktop phase of the studies is largely complete which reviewed historic maps and previous surveys. The second phase involving

# Agenda Item 7

CCTV surveys of the piped/culverted network has been delayed due to a change in contractor but is due to start in November.

## 2.2.8 *Merseyside Natural Flood Risk Management*

2.2.8.1 £30k funding has been secured from Environment Agency to undertake this project. Sefton has entered into partnership with the Healthy Rivers Trust to delivery this project. The Trust has recently carried out similar projects in Lancashire and has the computer modelling systems in place to efficiently deliver this work. Initial outputs are due in December 2016 with the potential for small scale schemes to be delivered later this financial year. This will help deliver the Sefton Council 2030 vision for resilient people and places.

## 2.3 **Coastal Risk Management**

2.3.1 There have been no significant incidents of flooding or erosion along the coast. There has been the ongoing maintenance work and planning for future works as set out in section 3.3.

## 2.4 **Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme**

2.4.1 Sefton Council coordinate the monitoring programme on behalf of maritime authorities in the North West. The programme has secured grant funding for the continuation of the programme, from the Environment Agency, for another 5 year period from 2016 to 2021.

2.4.2 The programme employs 3 full time equivalents posts that bring additional benefits and skills into the council. The team undertake the coastal surveys for the Sefton area and have worked with colleagues across the North West to support their survey programmes. The skills and equipment used for the monitoring programme is also available for inland survey work to the FCERM team and wider Council.

2.4.3 Several contracts for regional survey work are in the process of being tendered for to cover the five year programme. Beach topographic surveys and hydrodynamic surveys have already been awarded. Sefton Council is currently procuring new survey equipment to support the delivery of its survey programme and wider in the region.

## 2.5 **Partnership Working**

### 2.5.1 *Merseyside Partnerships*

2.5.1.1 Sefton Council continues to work closely with other partners in Merseyside through the Merseyside Tactical and Strategic Flood Risk Partnership meetings. These meetings look at improving cross boundary working and improved efficiencies through partnership working. The Merseyside Strategic group also prioritises the Grant in Aid bids through the Local Choices and administers a £50k support fund. Cllr McKinley represents Sefton at the Merseyside Strategic Partnership and represents the Merseyside Strategic

Partnership at the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee as an elected member.

- 2.5.1.2 Sefton's Making Space for Water group brings together service areas and organisations with a role in flood and coastal erosion risk in Sefton. The group works at both strategic and operational levels facilitating closer working and improved cooperation and data sharing.

## *2.5.2 North West and North Wales Coastal Groups*

- 2.5.2.1 Sefton Council sit on the North West and North Wales Coastal Group to report progress on the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme. This group reports on the progress of the actions of the Shoreline Management Plan to DEFRA. It is also represented on the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. The group oversees two sub groups both of which Sefton Council are represented at.
- 2.5.2.2 Liverpool Bay Coastal Sub Group is now chaired by Denbighshire Council as Sefton Council stepped down due to other work priorities. The group supports the exchange of best practice and partnership working.
- 2.5.2.3 Northern Coastal Sub Group is attended to enable Sefton Council to report on progress of the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme. It also enables the wider understanding of coastal issues and exchange of best practice.

## **2.6 Key actions by other Flood Risk Management Agencies**

### *2.6.1 The Environment Agency*

- 2.6.1.1 The Environment Agency haven't taken any significant actions in Sefton over the last year as they have largely been dealing with the significant flood events that occurred during December 2015 in Lancashire, Cumbria and Manchester. They have continued with their annual maintenance programmes and have provided support when requested to the Maghull Flood Committee.

### *2.6.2 United Utilities*

- 2.6.2.1 United Utilities have entered into their new financial programme that covers the period 2015-2020. There is a switch in emphasis from large engineering schemes to providing mitigation measures to properties. The new programme allows for more flexibility in funding and opens more opportunities for co-operative schemes.
- 2.6.2.2 They have provided mitigation to a number of properties across Sefton to improve resilience to flooding.
- 2.6.2.3 They have undertaken a review of coastal erosion risk to their assets between Hightown and Hall Road, Crosby following the erosion events in winter 2013/2014. They are working with us to identify a way forward for this area and are likely to make a significant financial contribution to any works.
- 2.6.2.4 They have also provided advice and support to the Maghull Flood Committee when requested.

# Agenda Item 7

## 2.7 Performance Management

- 2.7.1 The inclusion of performance management into our delivery plan has been delayed. It was anticipated to have taken place earlier this year but has been delayed to align with departmental service reviews. These reviews are currently underway.

## 3 Priorities for 2017

### 3.1 *Supporting the Local Planning Authority*

- 3.1.1 With the anticipated adoption of the Local Plan the number of major applications is expected to increase in the coming months. A number of pre-application discussions have already commenced. As the LLFA we are statutory consultees on these major planning applications. As there are flood risk issues with the majority of the sites in the Local Plan it is critical that we resource this area appropriately to ensure future flood risk is managed sustainably within the site and no negative effects are felt by surrounding areas.

### 3.2 *Community Engagement*

- 3.2.1 Working with the communities should support longer term sustainable solutions and lead to more resilient communities and improved environments. However, there is a significant resource required to engage with and support these groups. The level of engagement has to be carefully managed to be effective and efficient and ensure our resources are being targeted to the area with the highest flood risk.

### 3.3 *Crosby Coastal Schemes*

- 3.3.1 The Crosby seafront is subject of three coastal schemes that need careful management to deliver works in the appropriate manner in the appropriate timescale.

- 3.3.1.1 The Alt training bank at the northern end of Crosby beach diverts the River Alt out into the Mersey shipping channel. The training bank has degraded over time and there is the existence of a breach developing. Should the breach enlarge the River Alt could take a more southerly course across Crosby beach and increase the risk of erosion to the existing defences.

- 3.3.1.2 The MEPAS rising main sewer that serves a large portion of Crosby runs along the section of Hall Road West towards Hightown behind the artificial rubble defences and under made ground, which is contaminated with asbestos. We are in discussion with United Utilities with regards to contributions to protect their sewer asset. As the coast erodes it puts the sewer asset under increasing risk but also releases asbestos. Currently work is being programmed for 2018/2019. This project needs to closely align with the Alt Training Bank as their proximity means there is an interaction between them.

- 3.3.1.3 The Crosby coastal defences that run from Hall Road, car park south to Seaforth docks are nearing the end of their life. Analysis of options is being undertaken to identify future solutions for this stretch of coastline. These need to be taken in a timely fashion as the lead in time for securing funding can be around 10 years. Due to the nature of the area it is likely that we will be unable to secure a significant contribution under flood and coastal erosion grant in aid and consequentially we will need identify alternative funding sources.

## 3.4 *Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy Review*

3.4.1 Our strategy runs for three years 2015-2018, as such the process of reviewing the strategy will begin in 2017. The review will include a consultation/engagement exercise and subsequent reports to this committee.

## 3.5 *Securing Capital Funding*

3.5.1 It is critical that a forward programme of capital investment is planned and bids for grant are made at the appropriate time. Sefton regularly bid into the Environment Agency 6 year programme for flood and coastal erosion risk management, but it is becoming increasingly hard to justify schemes. Other capital funding sources and partnership funding opportunities need to be explored and built into the forward programme.

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

**Date of Report:** 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Subject:** Monitoring Update on Town Centres

**Report of:** Head of Investment & Employment      **Wards Affected:** All

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

**Exempt/Confidential:** No

**Purpose/Summary**

In line with the Cabinet decision of 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015, to provide a periodic update on implementation of the recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Cross-Cutting Working Group on Town Centres.

**Recommendations**

That this report is noted.

**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		/	

# Agenda Item 8

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with a decision of Cabinet for an update report.

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

There are no financial implications arising from 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:

Not applicable.

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

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted and has no comments to make on this report as there are no direct financial consequences as a result of it. (FD 4357/16)

The Head of Regulation and Compliance has been consulted and has no comments on this report (LD 3640/16)

## Are there any other options available for consideration?

Not applicable.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

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

**Contact Officer:** Mark Long  
**Tel:** 0151 934 3471  
**Email:** [mark.long@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:mark.long@sefton.gov.uk)

## Introduction

1. On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Cabinet resolved to accept the Final Report of the Town Centres Working Group Final Report.
2. On 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015, Cabinet considered a report of the Director of Built Environment which provided details of the response of the Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Tourism to the recommendations of the Town Centres Working Group Final Report.
3. It was resolved that the comments of the Cabinet Member– Regeneration and Tourism be approved and reported back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills).
4. The Final Report recommended all its recommendations were monitored and brought back to Overview & Scrutiny every six months. The report below addresses all the recommendations made by the Working Group. Relevant officers have collaborated in the preparation of each response. A number of responsibilities have changed due to the Senior Management Review.
5. The report states where actions have been completed or are now redundant following other actions.

## Monitoring Update

**(1) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to review the Town Centre Strategies in order that there is a co-ordinated and systematic approach to Town Centre Development that links into other strategies across the Council.**

Following the Senior Management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Regeneration & Housing.

The town centre frameworks for Bootle and Southport have been drafted and presented to Cabinet at their meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> October. Whilst Cabinet approved the recommendations for both Frameworks the Southport Development Framework decision has been 'called in'. This will be addressed by the Overview and Scrutiny as a separate agenda item.

Work is progressing on bringing activity forward for Bootle town centre.

The Crosby Development Strategy recommendations were agreed by Cabinet at its meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> November and activity continues to be progressed. An SPD is in development.

**(2) That the Director of Street Scene be requested to produce individual cleansing programmes for each commercial centre across the Borough, recognising that one size doesn't always fit all.**

# Agenda Item 8

This request now sits within the remit of the Head of Locality Services Provision. Individual cleansing programmes for commercial centres were produced in 2015 by the Cleansing Services Section within Locality Services Provision. The commercial centres concerned include Bootle, Litherland, Netherton, Formby, Maghull, Crosby Village, Waterloo, Birkdale Village, Ainsdale Village and Southport. These programmes include Street Cleansing activities (both method and frequency) as well as Litter Bin, Graffiti Removal and 'Special Event' functions. The cleansing programmes have now been in operation for over twelve months, and have proved to be successful in presenting such high-traffic areas to a good standard of cleanliness. The relevant plans are available to share with all interested parties and stakeholders as required. Regular consultation is undertaken and feedback received from public, elected members, business owners and visitors. This information is used to review the frequency and effectiveness of the prescribed actions undertaken in each area.

**(3) That the Director of Built Environment, as part of any future Parking Review, be requested to investigate the possibility of undertaking a more focused and robust approach to a cost/benefit analysis. The Parking Review has now been completed.**

Agreed. Following the Senior Management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Regulation & Compliance.

**(4) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to investigate the work that has been undertaken by Maghull Community Enterprise in designing and opening a Pop-up Shop known as "The Emporium" with a view to designing a Sefton Model for Pop-up Shops in order that other Town Centres across the Borough could adopt a similar approach.**

Incentives to improve Sefton's principle and secondary centres have been offered in recent years:

- High Street Innovation Fund went to Crosby (£17,000), Maghull (£17,000), Southport (£49,000) and Waterloo (£17,000)
- As part of the Portas Pilots, Crosby, Maghull, Southport and Waterloo formed Town Teams, and all four were allocated £10,000 to help support the high street.
- The Council's Capital Fund has made further investments totalling £300,000 for non-Town Team projects in Marian Square, Linacre Rd, Ainsdale, Birkdale

The achievement of Maghull Community Enterprise in promoting pop-up shops is noted. Proposals we are aware of include::

- Pop-Up Shops in Southport BID through Southport Cultural Forum Ltd
- A "Strand By Me" Pop-Up Shop in Bootle Strand Shopping Centre hosted by Sefton CVS for local organisations
- In September/October 2015 Elandi (Bootle Strand owners) ran a 'Win a Shop' competition, with a prize of a retail unit in the centre, including free rent, rates and services charges. InvestSefton agreed to participate in the judging, and support the winning business if they needed help. A Business Growth Manager liaised with the Strand management and gave feedback on entries along with other judges including businesses in the centre. There was also the offer of

InvestSefton support for the winning business over a year, although this was not taken up.

- InvestSefton's Business Development Manager attended a meeting with Councillor McKinley to explore how it could support the development of a pop up shop in Maghull Square. The pop-up shop had already opened and it was occupied by 3-4 female led businesses. InvestSefton advised that one of our partner organisations (Women's Organisation) could be brought in to see how they could provide business support to these newly formed businesses.

It is important that these investments are evaluated so that the social and economic return is understood before financial commitments are entered into.

**(5) That the Director of Built Environment, as resources allow, assign appropriate Officers to the Town Teams across the Borough in order that those Officers may offer support and guidance in promoting and improving Town Centres, assets and tourist attractions associated with individual Town Centres across the Borough as a possible income generator.**

The Council currently employs two Locality Managers to track and support town centres. In addition, the Capital Fund has paid for three consultancy studies to inform investment plans for Bootle, Crosby and Southport. There are however significant budget constraints which may make for hard choices in future years.

**(6) That the Director of Built Environment (Regeneration) in consultation with the Director of Corporate Services (Neighbourhoods) be requested to engage with local businesses, the Community, Voluntary and Faith sectors to encourage the development of the Borough's Town Centres with a view to evidencing engagement with those groups to develop a proposed work programme that is effective and inclusive.**

The three Town Centre Strategy/Frameworks prepared a consultation and engagement plan and worked with the Council's Public Engagement and Consultation Panel. The consultants undertook an analysis during the preparation of the report.

**(7) That an Officer and Member Working Group be established consisting of Officers from Built Environment (Regeneration) and Corporate Services (Neighbourhoods) and Members along with any other relevant Officers to take the task of Town Centre Development forward.**

The Cabinet Member will consider the need for a stakeholder group.

**(8) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to draft clear criteria to support Community Social Enterprise that reduce bureaucracy and create a greater understanding and empathy towards local business to include a consideration of rate rebates for social enterprises equivalent to registered charities when additional social value and support for community development can be clearly demonstrated.**

# Agenda Item 8

The Council has adopted a Procurement Strategy which aims to support local businesses and SME's specifically by making it easier to do business with the Council. In addition, an extensive range of discounts on business rates may be applied for, which community and social enterprise may be eligible for – see answer to recommendation 10.

**(9) That through the investment strategies for Bootle, Crosby and Southport, the Director of Built Environment be requested to contact the Town Centres and suggest that they conduct a mapping exercise of landlords in each of their Town Centres, using the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Tourism Capital Fund.**

Following the Senior Management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Regeneration & Housing. The Council periodically commissions Town Centre Health Assessments which include Goad maps and other information. Members may consult these Health Assessments. New Assessments were completed in 2015 – see answer to Q1. It should be noted that the Capital Fund is now fully committed.

**(10) That the Director of Corporate Services be requested to investigate the possibility of landlords using the empty rate relief regime provided this leads to enterprise development, job creation and longer term economic and social value.**

Following the Senior Management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Corporate Support. A discretionary re-occupation relief scheme is already in place in Sefton from April 2014 as per attached report “Business Rates Reoccupation relief”



Business Rates  
Reoccupation Relief.pdf

Re- occupation relief is for businesses moving into previously empty retail premises between 1 April 2014 and 31 March 2016 – consequently no relief if occupied after 31 March 2016.

Ratepayers may apply where occupation was between 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016, up to 30 September 2016 - 6 months after the end of the financial year to which the relief relates

New build empty property rates - property must be wholly or mainly comprised of new structures that are completed after 1st October 2013 and before 30th September 2016. Relief is for 18 months which includes the initial 3 or 6 month exemption period and is awarded subject to state aid de minimis regulations.



201404125 Business Rates - New Build Empr

More information is available on the ratepayer's bills and also on Sefton Council website using the following link <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/business/business-rates>.

In February 2015 a Section 69 discretionary rate relief scheme was reviewed at Cabinet Member briefing meeting – see attached report:



20150220 S69 relief report.docx

Since 1 April 2014 a number of Sefton's business ratepayers have benefited from the new powers to allow rate relief on certain empty properties. In the last three financial years, reliefs granted to date comprise:

	2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	Totals to date	No. of ratepayers assisted
New Build Relief	0	103,348	64,988	168,336	3
Re-occupation Relief	27,541	77,202	55,127	159,872	15
S69 Relief	0	5,067	0	5,067	1

**(11) That the Director of Corporate Services be requested to ensure that Charity Shops continue to be inspected prior to awarding relief and reviewed from time to time to ensure that relief criteria are met, with any abuse reported being investigated and appropriate action taken accordingly.**

Following the Senior Management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Corporate Support. All Charity Shops are inspected prior to the award of mandatory charitable rate relief. We are also committed to an annual review of all cases where mandatory charitable rate relief has been awarded, including charity shops, to ensure that the relief criteria is met.

**(12) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to investigate the possibility of using the lampposts outside the Bootle Strand Shopping Centre as advertising space and a possible income generator and if this proves to be successful, adopt a similar principle, wherever possible, throughout the Borough.**

Following the recent management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Regeneration & Housing. We can, subject to payment, and approvals for Planning Permission and Highways Traffic/Safety assessments. We can implement illuminated advertising signs in these areas. But installing such signs in conservation areas may not be approved.

# Agenda Item 8

We have contracts in place with Bommel UK and Premier Postings for illuminated advertising on the highway, the potential challenges are the type of column currently in place may need to be replaced with a heavy duty street lighting column

**(13) That the Working Group welcomes that the Director of Built Environment intends to consult and seek local community representation in relation to any proposal to draft an investment strategy that impacts on that local community.**

See answer to recommendation 6.

**(14) That, in the spirit of the One Council vision, all Directors and Heads of Service be requested to consider how their individual Departments actions impact on Town Centre development and how the development or decline then impacts on local residents and citizens.**

Heads of Service consult widely when preparing Town Centre initiatives, and co-ordinating their implementation. For example, all relevant Council services are included within the underpinning Baseline Service Level Agreement between the Council and the Southport BID company.

**(15) That the Working Group seeks reassurance from the Council that the regeneration of the Borough's Town Centres should not be delayed or blocked due to any unnecessary internal procedures within the Council by adopting local protocols that seek to support local community activities in a positive and supportive way.**

Examples of such "unnecessary internal procedures" are needed for this recommendation to be actioned.

**(16) That investment and operational planning be more closely aligned through the Director of Built Environment.**

Again, examples of lack of integration are needed. The co-ordination of short-term maintenance and medium-term development appears to be working well.

**(17) That the Director of Built Environment, as resources allow, be requested to submit a quarterly progress report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) detailing the proactive work being done to promote and create vibrant Town Centres across the Borough.**

Following the Senior Management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Regeneration & Housing, who will co-ordinate the input of other Heads of Service. An Annual Report to Overview & Scrutiny, and forwarded with views to Cabinet Member – Regeneration, is more appropriate, and as resources allow.

**(18) That the Director of Built Environment, as resources allow, be requested to submit a six monthly performance monitoring report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services), setting out progress made against each recommendation of this Final Report.**



# Agenda Item 8

This report. Following the recent management restructure, responsibility for this issue now rests with the Head of Regeneration & Housing, who will co-ordinate the input of other Heads of Service.

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

**Date of Report:** 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016

**Subject:** Monitoring Update on the Port Master Plan

**Report of:** Head of Investment & Employment      **Wards Affected:** All

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

**Exempt/Confidential:** No

**Purpose/Summary**

In line with the Cabinet decision of 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012, to provide a periodic update on implementation of the recommendations contained in the Final Report of the Cross-Cutting Working Group on the Port Master Plan.

**Recommendations**

That this report is noted.

**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		/	

# Agenda Item 9

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with a decision of Cabinet for an update report.

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

There are no financial implications arising from 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:

Not applicable.

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

The Head of Corporate Resources has been consulted and has no comments to make on this report as there are no direct financial consequences as a result of it. (FD 4358/16)

The Head of Regulation and Compliance has been consulted and has no comments to make. (LD 3641/16)

## Are there any other options available for consideration?

Not applicable.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

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

**Contact Officer:** Mark Long  
**Tel:** 0151 934 3471  
**Email:** [mark.long@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:mark.long@sefton.gov.uk)

## Introduction

1. On 28<sup>th</sup> August 2012, Overview & Scrutiny Management Board received the Final Report of the Cross-Cutting Working Group on the Port Master Plan. The report was subsequently accepted by Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2012.
2. The report included a request that the recommendations were monitored and brought back to Overview & Scrutiny every six months. The last update was submitted to members on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2015. The report for this meeting addresses all the recommendations made by the Working Group. Relevant officers have collaborated in the preparation of each response. Where responsibilities have changed due to the Senior Management Review this is indicated.

## Monitoring Update

**(1) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to submit a monitoring report in relation to air quality to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) every six months.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regulation, Compliance and Corporate Services. The most recent air quality monitoring report went to Overview and Scrutiny on 13<sup>th</sup> September 2016. The link to the report is <http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s68589/FD%204251%20-%20Local%20Air%20Quality%20Mangement-l-f.pdf>

**(2) That the Director of Built Environment request Peel Holdings to review all its tenancy agreements with a view to including a “good neighbour” clause to minimise dust, dirt and noise pollution.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regulation & Compliance. Regular meetings continue to take place between the Mersey Docks & Harbour Company, Environment Agency and Environmental Health staff to discuss port estate management and pollution control issues. Environmental management systems that include “good neighbour” approaches have been discussed. Leased areas in the 1990’s port expansion area are subject to a formal agreement to this affect. It is envisaged that this approach will be replicated as the port boundary is amended.

The construction of the L2 facility is well underway. Regular Environmental Review meetings with Peel and their contractors continue to take place. As result of these meetings a number of significant changes to the construction/piling process have been made which has further mitigated the noise and vibration impact on local residents from the ongoing works. Concerns raised by residents will continue to be investigated on a case by case basis and the appropriate action taken. All residents are given a direct officer contact and out of hours contact details for The Port of Liverpool Police

# Agenda Item 9

**(3) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to approach Peel Holdings for a guarantee that Peel Holdings will recruit local residents, with the right attitude, to any additional job/post wherever possible.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Investment & Employment.

At the beginning of the year we were led to believe that Blue Arrow needed as many general port operatives with driving licences that Sefton@Work could provide. With this expectation, Sefton@Work planned to undertake a 1 day Sector Based Work Academy. Unfortunately Blue Arrow put their recruitment on hold.

Both Blue Arrow and Staff Force are using Jobcentre Plus for all general Port Operatives but there are very little requirements coming from this route. Sefton@Work has placed 4 of its clients with Blue Arrow so far this year, with the rest of the recruitment coming from other Port Employers:

- Accu-rite Engineering – 1 Engineer and 2 ILM's
- R.S Logistics – Potential ILM
- Docklands European – 8 of our residents have gone into work (inc 2 ILM's)
- Stanton Grove have been taken over by Jenkins Shipping – 1 stock admin placed
- Securitas (Port) – 5 went into work

Sefton@Work and InvestSefton officers completed a drive around the Port in January to develop new companies. This proved quite fruitful and they were able to target some new employers. Another visit is scheduled before the end of 2016.

Sefton@Work has a feed from Indeed which gives all of the current recruitment for Peel vacancies, but these opportunities in the main don't fit the profile of its clients.

The Port Academy Liverpool (PAL) is Hugh Baird College's maritime-facing service with links to industry organisations. The Port Academy works closely with schools to ensure that they are aware developing courses available linked to the careers available and future jobs. It also works with businesses to engage them in meeting their workforce demands through the provision of adequately trained apprentices including warehousing and logistics, team leading and management, business administration, customer service and a range of hospitality programmes. The Academy is introducing elements of maritime programmes into its existing learning offer and will introduce aspects of port operations and maritime logistics across a range of disciplines such as engineering, business management and construction. PAL is currently in discussions with Liverpool John Moores University to develop a range of course that cover maritime, engineering, applied sciences and technology and is also developing a Foundation Degree in engineering validated by University of Central Lancashire..

Hugh Baird have successfully bid for £2million via the Skills Capital Fund to develop a Port Academy Liverpool Training Centre at Pembroke Place, Bootle. The Academy was formally launched in summer 2016.

**(4) That the Director of Built Environment request Peel Holdings to continue to attract a potential operator to run a regular rail service to/from various origins/destinations at Seaforth, in order to minimise container traffic on the roads, and that a progress report be submitted six monthly to the Port Health Authority, of which Sefton MBC has representation on.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regeneration & Housing. The Northern Ports and Trans-Pennine Strategic Rail Capacity Study undertaken by Network Rail identified three infrastructure improvements on the rail connection to the Port that were required to provide additional rail capacity for the future. At the entrance to the Port, the existing single track line will be doubled, to provide a double track line into the Port. This work is currently being finalised and is planned for delivery in 2017. Improvements to the Bootle Branch Line are proposed which would enable the line speed to be increased, improving the condition of the rail line and reducing the time taken over the stretch of line between the Port and Walton. These improvements will be completed in 2018. Signal improvements at Earlestown West junction that will improve the connections to the West Coast Main Line are currently planned for delivery in 2018/19. These improvements will provide the capacity on the Bootle Branch Line sufficient to meet the demand for rail freight movements expected to result from growth at the port.

Peel has continued to investigate the requirements for a rail link to the new deep water berth (Liverpool 2). The resolution of the issues associated with Seaforth nature reserve remains critical to securing the future of rail freight from the Port, particularly in relation to containers. The success of future rail services at the Port depends on having rail access directly to the new deep water berth and a route through the nature reserve provides the most direct rail access to the quayside. More specific proposals for addressing this issue are expected to emerge in the next 6 months.

Biomass fuel materials for use in UK power stations are now passing through the Port, all of which is being transported by rail. A demonstration container freight train was run from the Port to the Midlands early in 2016 as part of the efforts by Peel Ports to attract a rail freight operator. We understand that Peel is continuing to pursue opportunities for increasing rail freight from the Port.

**(5) That NHS Sefton be requested to report the results of the life style survey to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) at their first opportunity.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Health & Well-Being. The most recent lifestyle survey was undertaken in 2012; however, updated information detailing the health needs of the Sefton population, including lifestyle data, is described in the Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment.

**(6) That NHS Sefton be requested to report the results of the Health Impact Assessment, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) at their first opportunity.**

# Agenda Item 9

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Health & Well-Being. A Health Impact Assessment (HIA) looking specifically at the port expansion and associated infrastructure development is currently being considered. A report in relation to the scope of a HIA will be taken to the Port Expansion Board in October 2016 for their consideration. It is proposed that any HIA is funded by Peel Ports but undertaken by an independent HIA specialist and commissioned by Public Health.

**(7) That the Sefton Council representative(s) nominated to sit on the City Region Port Access Steering Group be requested to report progress regularly to the Cabinet Members for Communities and Environment, Regeneration and Tourism and Transportation in order that they may update the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees through their individual Cabinet Member Reports.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regeneration & Housing. The Liverpool City Region Port Access Steering Group was set up in 2012 under the terms of the City Region Deal with Government. The group is chaired by Sefton's Chief Executive and coordinated by the Team Leader of Sefton's Strategic Transport Planning and Investment team. The Chief Executive is continuing to keep Cabinet Members informed of the progress of the group.

**(8) That the Sefton Council representative(s) nominated to sit on the City Region Port Access Steering Group be requested to continue raising the concerns in relation to the increased traffic and increased pollution in order that a sensible long term highway solution may be considered, to include pedestrian safety.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regeneration & Housing. As described above, Sefton is represented on the LCR PASG by the Chief Executive and the Team Manager of Sefton's Strategic Transportation Planning Unit. The Head of Service for Locality Services Commissioned has also attended the group. All three representatives have raised the concerns about the social and environmental impacts of future port related traffic, which are being taken into account in the consideration of a long term highway solution. The assessment of options for a long term highway improvement includes a detailed consideration of social and environmental issues and the work is expected to be completed early in 2017.

**(9) That the Director of Built Environment be recommended to introduce a process whereby the relevant Agency (Environment Agency) communicate regularly to Sefton MBC with regards the monitoring of noise pollution and the results collected by the monitoring systems already in place at the Port.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regulation & Compliance. Regular communication, meetings and joint inspections continue to take place between regulatory officers of the Environment Agency who regulate noise, air and water emissions from certain specified permitted processes on the port estate and Sefton Council Environmental Health Staff who regulate such emissions from other sources. Close liaison will continue to ensure effective control of the combined emissions arising from multiple sources with differing regulators.



**(10) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to write to the Highways Agency, on behalf of the Council, requesting them to install a Hurry Call System at appropriate points along the A5036 to help in the plight to reduce pollution.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regeneration & Housing. The bid to upgrading the traffic signal system along the A5036 as a means of improving traffic management was not successful in attracting funding. Through the Port Access Steering Group, alternative funding options are being explored. The Group has commissioned additional traffic modelling which will provide a more robust evidence base for any future proposals.

**(11) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to manage, on behalf of the Council, the requests of expenditure from the Community Environment Fund, to Peel Ports.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Investment & Employment. During the negotiations on the RGF bid (see para 3 above), Peel Ports offered to place a sum equivalent to one per cent of the total cost of development into an Atlantic Gateway Community Environment Fund, managed on its behalf by Community Forest Trust. On the basis of £10k development funding from the Trust, Liverpool and Sefton Council's engaged a consultant to consult residents and prepare an Environmental Investment Plan for the immediate hinterland of the Liverpool 2 development: Waterloo, Crosby Coastal Park, Seaforth, and Knowsley/Peel area. Two workshops were held between October and December 2013.

The assignment has been concluded, but Peel Group have not been able to confirm that a one per cent financial commitment will be made to the CEF. The Chief Executive and Leader of the Council met the Chair of Peel Group in late 2014 to press this and other concerns of the Council regarding port expansion. The results of the Environmental Investment Plan will be rolled forward into a more comprehensive assessment of necessary environmental and mitigation works required to receive the chosen surface access solution recommended by the Highways Agency.

**(12) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to report progress on all areas of the Area Wide Study/Port Hinterland Study six monthly to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services).**

The Executive Director – Growth (Sarah Kemp) is now leading on the Port and our relationship with Peel.

## Bootle Office and Learning Campus

The Bootle Town Centre Investment Framework has been produced by LambertSmithHampton (following a consultation and engagement exercise) and presents their perspective on how Bootle can evolve. It takes the form of a high-level vision to bring forward regeneration and Investment in the town and includes the commercial office quarter.

# Agenda Item 9

Hugh Baird college continues to develop its offer and the Port Academy welcomed its first students in September.

## Dunnings Bridge Employment Corridor

The Dunnings Bridge Road Economic Investment Strategy, finalised in 2015, identified the opportunities associated with the key Employment Sites located on or adjacent to the corridor.

It was prepared by consultants BE Group through direct dialogue with owners and agents and in summary it detailed ownerships and aspirations and constraints together with a longer term activity schedule.

The expected outcomes from the study include:

- Clarity on overcoming site constraints to help unlock employment land and property opportunities by determining a true understanding of ground contamination
- Offering Increased opportunities for existing employment sites being remodelled and strategic employment land brought forward
- External public and private sector investment unlocked and enabling developer partner support to be secured as in the case of Senate Business Park now under development
- Help companies to realise their growth plans, safeguard and create new jobs
- Raise and retain additional business rates

The actions included within the study have now in part been implemented in particular Senate referred to above and the former Peerless site which is now the subject of a SIF application and other applications are anticipated in the future for other sites included within the corridor.

**(13) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to send a representative to the Port Access Regulators Forum in order that the Councils concerns may be raised.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regulation & Compliance. Regulator liaison mechanisms are in place. Regular meetings are held with Peel Ports, Environment Agency, Port Health and the other Riparian Authorities. In addition to this a member of the Pollution Team will attend future Port Access Regulator Forums as requested.

**(14) That the Director of Built Environment request Peel Holdings to promote the guiding principles in relation to its Corporate Responsibility Report, to the companies operating on the Port in order that they create opportunities for the Community.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Investment & Employment.

There has been no update to the 2012/13 Corporate Social Responsibility Report.

# Agenda Item 9

Peel Ports have taken the position that they create employment which is filled from across the North West, but that they would prefer posts to be filled from within Liverpool City Region. They have yet to establish a mechanism for securing this outcome, therefore recruitment to Peel Ports itself and by Blue Arrow remains untargeted on local jobseekers.

The Council's preferred solution is for Peel Ports to commit to an Employment Agreement with the LCR local authorities to create a framework within which Peel's need for competent skilled individuals can be met by the creation of a customised recruitment and training solution. To this end, the Sefton Employment & Skills Partners Group (para 3 above) is developing a commercially attractive supply-side offer to the c63 port-related businesses across the Sefton maritime cluster.

**(15) That the Director of Built Environment be requested to advise Peel Holdings on the publication of a newsletter in order that the Community may be updated on progress of the Port Master Plan and understand the ways in which they can raise their concerns.**

This responsibility has been assumed by the Head of Regeneration & Housing.

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**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee **Date of Meeting:** 8 November 2016  
(Regeneration and Skills)

**Subject:** Cabinet Member Reports

**Report of:** Head of Regulation & Compliance **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 recent Cabinet Member Reports.

**Recommendation(s)**

That the Cabinet Member reports 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.

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

There are no financial implications arising directly from the contents of this report. Any specific financial implications associated with the attached Cabinet Member reports have been included in those reports as appropriate.

# Agenda Item 10

**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 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:** N/A

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

The Cabinet Member Update Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the attached Cabinet Member update reports will be included in those reports as appropriate.

**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](mailto: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, are the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the following Portfolios, for the period October 2016:

- Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing;
- Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing (parks and greenspaces element only);
- Cabinet Member – Locality Services;
- Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control; and
- Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills.

**1.3 The Committee is requested to receive the Cabinet Member Update Reports.**

<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	October 2016

**NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

**Sefton Safer Communities Partnership (SSCP)**

- The SSCP have agreed to fund a number of CCTV improvements in our hotspot locations. This has resulted in 10 cameras and 2 mobile CCTV cameras being purchased which can be used when serious incidents occur.
- The recruitment of a Child Criminal Exploitation project worker in partnership with Knowsley MBC is nearly complete. Sefton and Knowsley MBC were successful in a joint bid for Police and Crime Commissioner Funds to recruit two staff to provide education, training and resource in this complex area for twelve months initially.
- The SSCP has supported a local agency to provide ISVA support for the next 12 months.
- The SSCP continues to be involved in the Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence Group which is led by Merseyside Criminal Justice Board. This group last met on 1 September 2016 and reviewed the Terms of Reference to ensure the right agencies are represented.

**Anti-Social Behaviour Unit (ASBU)**

- The Anti-Social Behaviour Unit has received 49 new referrals via the call centre and dedicated email address. There have been 9 referrals from the Police and one from a private landlord since the last report.
- The unit has issued a further 4 Community Protection Notices and 1 Warning letter since the last report. The notices were issued due to people causing annoyance to their neighbours and communities.
- The final Public Space Protection Order report will be taken to Cabinet Member Briefing for approval on 17<sup>th</sup> October, and will then be signed off by the Chief Executive and the Legal department. It is hoped that the order will be in place in time for the Halloween and Bonfire period.

**Neighbourhood co-ordination**

Neighbourhood co-ordination activities have continued in the areas with recent involvement including:

- L30's Million have now commissioned Knowsley Mutual Credit Union to provide residents within the project catchment area with instant loans. We are hoping to have all due diligence completed within the next few weeks and the project in place to assist residents on the run up to Christmas.
- An outdoor cinema event delivered in partnership with Netherton Park Neighbourhood Centre is planned for Mischief Night.
- The Dogs Trust is providing educational assemblies about being a responsible dog owner at four schools in the Netherton area. This is as a result of a number of complaints to local councillors in regard to dog fouling around Marian Square. These sessions will take place on the 31st October and 2nd November.
- An outdoor Cinema and Firework display are planned for Netherton Activity Centre on the 5th November. Local schools are delivering a poster campaign to advertise the event via the L30's Million Facebook Page. One lucky young person will be chosen at random to launch the display on the 5th November.
- In Partnership with Merseyside Police, Sefton's ASB team and Alder Hey Children's Hospital educational sessions around the dangers of using scrambler bikes have been delivered at Schools. Children have been asked to design posters highlighting what they have learned. All the children who took part were taken to Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre to encourage them to try out activities that did not involve scrambler bikes. 16 Young people have now been chosen to have their posters designed by a professional company which will be used in a Sefton wide campaign. A presentation will be held at Police Headquarters on 23rd November.

# Agenda Item 10

A Christmas event is being planned to take place in Kirkstone Park on 24th November.

- Working in partnership with Leisure Services to deliver a six week programme of activities based around the newly installed Skate Park in Killen Green Park. Sessions start on Saturday 8th October.
- Currently recruiting a worker for the L30's Million Growing Project which will be managed by Feelgood factory. Shortlisting will take place on Friday 14th October.
- Following incidents in Bedford Road and Cambridge Road work is ongoing with residents including reassurance visits with the Police to Cambridge Road Nursery and Bedford Road Primary. The offer has been made to do assemblies with the children around the issues, including taking Bobby the Policeman to make it fun and interactive. There have also been issues highlighted with the alley gates in the area and improvements with security are being looked at.
- A six week clean-up is ongoing in Derby Ward. This has included skips in hotspot areas and concentrated enforcement where necessary. This is a partnership project with the Police and local RSL's.
- Work is ongoing in Sudell and Park Wards around parking issues at Schools. We are looking at ways to solve the issue – possibly posts and shrubs in selected areas.
- Funding for defibrillators to be placed in Crosby Village has been secured. This has included fund raising by local businesses. The idea was brought forward after a parent suffered the loss of their child there following a heart attack.
- Work is ongoing in South Park. This includes a community garden. Schools in the area and Hugh Baird College are keen to work in partnership with delivery.
- Bowersdale Park Friends of Group are having a Christmas Event in the community centre. Work is ongoing in supporting them.
- Unfortunately the Outdoor Cinema in South Park on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September had to be cancelled due to bad weather conditions. The event is rescheduled to take place in May next year.
- Southport Operational Group addressed the issue of fly-tipping in central Southport, Dukes ward, by installing a camera, supplying a community skip and creating an information letter and leaflet. The Leaflet and letter have been translated into different languages to suit the diverse community.
- At the Southport Operational Group, the Community Rehabilitation Company (CRC) were invited to provide information of what activities they are able to provide to Sefton Council and what time they are able to give to Sefton. Their manager confirmed that many of the offenders are now placed within charity shops and that the CRC are not able to provide the same level of service as Sefton enjoyed with Merseyside Probation such as fly-tipping, graffiti removal or dog fouling removal but will confirm with us what they are able to provide.
- Southport Operational Group has arranged for Public Health to begin a trial of taking people's blood pressure and delivering cancer screening checks at the Park Run, which is on every Saturday morning in Hesketh Park from 9AM.
- Neighbourhoods team involved in a Merseyside Fire & Rescue bespoke Older Persons Day Campaign in the Southport area on Tuesday 20th September. Using Sefton Council data to identify the most vulnerable over 65 year olds, susceptible to experiencing severe hardship or potential poverty as a result of low or irregular income. A joint visit was then carried out by Sefton and Fire Service Officers to several residents to provide Home Fire Safety advice and details of the Sefton Directory.
- £500 from the Southport Town Wide budget was approved at Southport Area Committee to provide anti-theft devices for the 'Cop Shop' which is located within Southport Wayfarers Arcade to help address the current spike in cycle thefts in the town centre.
- Following the CLAHRC Stakeholder event in June, the group are exploring the ideas raised there to establish the focus of the programme.  
Some of the ideas being considered are:
  - Selective licensing
  - Credit Unions (raising profile)
  - Community hub/co-location of services
  - Clearer communication pathways between services
  - Social prescribing
  - Dementia friendly shopping parades



### **Halloween and Bonfire Night Planning**

- Neighbourhoods have coordinated the meetings to refresh the Bonfire Period Plan for 2016, which now includes Sporting Lights multi-agency programme on Mischief Night in North Park, Bootle; Killen Green, Netherton and Coronation Park, Crosby.
- Multi-partnership approach to removing combustible material now organised including Sefton Council, One Vision Housing, Riverside Housing and Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service.
- Public Spaces Protection Order planned to be operational in time for the period to cover the Marion Square area.
- Operation Staysafe also planned to patrol the main areas of concern from 2015 with Staysafe locations confirmed for the Brunswick Youth & Community Centre and Bootle & Netherton Fire Station.

### **Community Transition Fund/Community Support Fund**

- A total of £468,296 has been spent with £531,897 remaining in this fund as of October 2016.
- Latest approvals include:

<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Project</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Migrant Workers Sefton Community	Over 60s Bus Pass and Pre Esol projects	£4,680
Waterloo Community Association	Waterloo Community Centre refurb works	£9,720
Sefton MBC – Planning	Heritage at Risk Officer	£35,000
Veterans in Sefton	Sefton Veterans Project	£13,767

### **Domestic Abuse**

#### **Strategy implementation**

- Sefton IDVA team are working closely with Southport and Ormskirk Hospital Trust to embed the learning identified in a recent Domestic Homicide Review. This will involve continuing with additional domestic abuse training with hospital staff, reviewing their policies and referrals procedures for domestic abuse incidents to ensure they reflect current best practice, and provide on-site support and advice from a domestic abuse professional.
- The IDVA team are continuing to highlight the Sefton Behind Closed Doors campaign and recently attended the Hugh Baird College Fresher’s Fair. They were positively received by both staff and students who proactively engaged with the team during the day.
- In August and September 2016 91 cases have been discussed at MARAC. The current MARAC repeat rate is 17% which is within the Safelives recommended level of 28-40%.
- As of 04.10.16 the IDVA Team has 44 open and 18 tracking cases. This is within the expected recommended IDVA workload as advised by Safelives.

### **Equalities**

- Corporate Equality Group looking at updated versions of equality documentation and also proceeding with Navajo Charter Mark accreditation.
  - Equality Policy has been updated with new objectives and is now the subject of internal consultation
  - Response from Navajo to draft application form raised a lot of issues for CEG to take forward
  - CEG members to promote E&D training opportunities within their departments

### **Hate Crime**

- Training workshops for New Directions staff continue with excellent feedback from attendees.
- Training dates for One Vision Housing for approximately 160 staff to be arranged.
- 3rd party reporting network for hate crime develop, 12 locations now signed up. Review of the network by the hate crime MARAC at the September meeting, further support to be provided

# Agenda Item 10

Support for events during Hate Crime Week 10<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> October, working with 3<sup>rd</sup> party reporting centres to hold 'drop-in' sessions

## Srebrenica Memorial

- Letter of thanks received from Remembering Srebrenica organisation
- Liaising with local partners to identify Sefton delegates who can take part in the visits project.

## Liverpool Pride

- Crosby Library and The Atkinson took part in the 'Coming Out Of the Shadows' project as part of Liverpool Pride week.

## Welfare Reform – Foodbanks

- The total number of people fed across Sefton in the period April 2016 to the end of August 2016 is **5,594** – **3,303** Adults and **2,291** Children.
- **Southport: 1,486** people fed – **924** Adults and **562** Children
- **South Sefton and Crosby : 4,108** people fed – **2,379** Adults and **1,729** Children

## Illegal Money Lending

- Stop Loan Shark workshops have been arranged to be delivered within Hugh Baird College on 9<sup>th</sup> November.

## LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

### **Sefton's e-lending service goes live**

The Library Service has launched its e-lending service. E-books and e-audiobooks are now available to library members from its 'BorrowBox' solution. The service has been extensively promoted within the libraries and on social media, and new members are already joining the service as a result. The e-lending service adds another facet to library support of the digital inclusion agenda.

### **Libraries Change Lives**

Sefton Library Service's *Lost Voices* project has been awarded the runners-up place for this prestigious national award. The annual award for best practice in UK libraries recognises services that are reaching people in the community to help people self-manage their health conditions and actively promote a healthy way of life. The *Lost Voices* project sees volunteers go into homes and care homes to record the life stories of local people in the first stages of memory loss.

### **Summer Reading Challenge finishes in Sefton**

This has been a record breaking Summer Reading Challenge for Sefton Libraries, with 3102 children across Sefton joining up, 14% on last years' figure. 2213 children completed the challenge of reading at least 6 books over the summer holidays, an 8% increase on last year. The library service presents six Summer Reading Challenge cups, one for each library area. The cups are gifted to the schools with the highest percentage of completers. The SRC encourages children to continue to read through the long summer holidays, and helps to maintain and improve literacy levels.

### **Libraries Celebrate Shakespeare**

As part of the ongoing celebration of Shakespeare 400, Sefton Libraries will be welcoming back storyteller John Kirk. John was a huge hit with both children and teachers when he launched SRC earlier this summer and is now back to bring Shakespeare 'to life' for a young audience. John will be performing at all Sefton libraries courtesy of an Arts Council grant, which was obtained through a national bid by ASCEL (Association of Senior Children's and Education Librarians).

## THE ATKINSON

### **The Bootle Project**

The Atkinson has been prioritising working with communities in Bootle and the South of the borough. As a result of a number of external partnerships and grant funding, we have been able to initiate some important new projects.

Learning Museum Partnership with the British Museum – The Atkinson was selected as one of only 10 museums nationally, to participate in this programme that has been funded by Heritage Lottery Fund *Skills for the Future*. This programme enables young people from diverse backgrounds to undertake a year-long vocational training placement at UK partner museums, developing practical skills in collections care, management and access. A young person from South Sefton has been recruited for this remarkable 12 month training programme that will equip them to embark on a career in museums (with qualification - a Level 3 Diploma in Cultural Heritage, and £13,000 bursary attached). The bursary is paid by the British Museum.

Linacre Mission - Heritage Lottery Funding is supporting work in Litherland and Bootle. Artist Paula Keenan who will be taking objects from The Atkinson's collections out to sheltered accommodation sites. Paula will be introducing the residents to the objects during reminiscence sessions where stories and memories about Bootle's past will be shared and recorded. Paula has been involved in developing public engagement with the Linacre Methodist Mission in Litherland.

City-region Partnerships – Funding from Arts Council England is supporting Culture Shifts, an ambitious city-region wide photography project, with nationally acclaimed photographers. Led by Open Eye Gallery, The Atkinson is one of 6 partner organisations. We have started working with Sefton Youth Services on a project which will see young people from Bootle working with a photographer to create their own photo stories about their identity. The project will culminate with an exhibition at the Atkinson and the Open Eye gallery in September 2017.

Displays in Bootle Town Hall - A Museum-standard display Case has been moved to Bootle Town Hall. The display of museum collections and Bootle Bombing interactive have been installed alongside a series of large framed photographic works.

### **Families Learning Together Project**

The Atkinson has prioritising working with families since we first opened three years ago. As a result of a number of new partnerships and grant funding we have been able to increase the number of families using our services. We are currently working on improving our evaluation model so that we can more accurately determine who are visitors are and where they come from.

Parenting 2000 Children's Centre has relocated and now runs its services from The Atkinson. *"The Atkinson is the perfect place for the Children's Centre. The Children's Library is welcoming and relaxed and already attracts thousands of families and with our joint working we hope to showcase a new way of co-service delivery for Sefton Council. Its position is perfect, within the town centre and with good transport links. We have a chance to test new ways of working with The Atkinson team to meet shared objectives and help as many families as possible with a truly diverse offer across the Museum, Theatre, Library, Bakery and Gallery spaces."* Family services will include Baby Massage, Baby clinic, First Aid, Pramle Snack and Chat, Beginners English, Baby Group Stay and Play, Baby Mindful, Parenting Advice, Breastfeeding Support and more.

Summer Reading Challenge - This year the national theme for the Summer Reading Challenge (in which children sign up to read one book a week from their local library) was Roald Dahl. 855 children signed up to the Summer Reading Challenge this year at Southport Library which is an increase of 16% compared to last year.

Family Friendly Exhibitions - The HLF activity plan also funded a small 'pop up' family friendly exhibition which explored the history of Southport's Sweet Factories, this allowed us to target families that were using the library but hadn't been visiting the museum. As a result of this new approach we had 3500 additional visits to the Museum during the 6 week period of the summer holidays compared to the same time last year.

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This summer we also programmed a family friendly exhibition in the main exhibition galleries. We worked with cartoonist and animator Carol Hanson to create a pop-up hand drawn house made out of paper and featuring live animation. Carol was inspired by the Victorian collector of our Egyptology collection Mrs Goodison to create her imagined version of the house she might have lived in. Families can add their own portraits of Mrs Goodison and add flowers to her 'garden' in the Art Box. We have received excellent feedback from families about the exhibition including the following:

**Summer Holiday Activities** - We programmed a range of free activities across the building for families during the Summer Holidays. Arty Aprons, a creative resource to help families explore the galleries, are available every day during the school holidays and every Saturday. The aprons were funded through the HLF activity plan and are managed by our volunteers. They were extremely popular during the summer with more than 200 families making use of them. We also ran weekly creative and hands on workshops and activities including 'Make it' and 'Explore it' workshops, object handling, and story and rhyme time. 1134 children and their guardians took part in these activities.

**Linaker Children's Centre** - Over the summer Linaker Children's Centre ran four themed events outside The Atkinson in anticipation of them moving in to The Atkinson. These events were very well attended and encouraged families to explore the Atkinson. On the first event 100 new families signed up to be members of the library.

On 24 September Linaker Children's Centre will officially extend its services to The Atkinson. They will occupy a dedicated private space in the Children's Library where a range of activities will be delivered. Services will be available every Monday, Thursday and Friday from 10am – 3pm from September 2016. Baby clinics and 'drop in' parenting support will also be available throughout the year. To launch this new service we are holding a family fun day with free creative activities across the building on 24 September. We are very excited about this new relationship and the opportunities it creates for us to work with a much broader demographic of families in Southport. We are working with Linaker Children's' Centre on a development plan around the Star Wars exhibition to maximise the impact we have on engagement and participation.

**Big Imaginations** - KidsFest in October half term is our annual Children's Festival bringing a week of amazing activities, events and things to do for all the family. The festival now in its third year brings TV favourites from CBeebies as well as Marvel Comic Book artist Tim Quinn who teaches a masterclass in creating superheroes. The Atkinson is a member of the Big Imaginations Touring Network. Big Imaginations is a region-wide group of venues and promoters dedicated to bringing brilliant children's theatre to the North West. Big imaginations first 0-3 year commission Sponge comes to The Atkinson on 26 October as part of Kidfest this half term. The Atkinson are working as part of the commissioning sub-group for a piece of work for 8-13 year olds. Core (funded by the Arts Council) will feature as part of the Big Imagination Festival in 2017.

**Improving Access** - For the past year Children and the Arts have provided funding for us to work with 3 local special schools (Presfield, Southport, Crosby High and Rowan Park (Bootle) so that they can engage with High quality art at The Atkinson. We have worked closely with teachers from this school and the relationship has led to big changes across The Atkinson as we seek to be more accessible for all our visitors, especially families and those with additional needs. Following feedback from the schools we have recently bought a set of ear defenders to loan to children who find noise within the building overwhelming. Our volunteer access team create tactile and audio content to support traditional interpretation in our exhibitions. We are in the process of creating a virtual tour on our website to help families and people with disabilities get to know the building before visiting. We also commissioned an access audit of the building which will help us to make further improvements. Additionally, we recently met with teams supporting Special Educational Needs across the council to consider ways we could work together.

**Youth Justice Plan**

YOT has submitted the Youth Justice Plan to the Youth Justice Board and this highlights how YOT will spend the YJB grant over the coming year. The plan also illustrates how YOT is governed, partnership arrangements, YOT performance over the last year against national indicators and an action plan for the coming year.

This was presented to the YOT Management Board for approval on 27<sup>th</sup> September.

**Reoffending Subgroup**

The Reoffending Subgroup has commenced several case study reviews to identify where there were potential opportunities to intervene early to prevent entry into the judicial system and also prevent other negative outcomes. YOT and Children Social Care are leading the case study reviews. The in-depth findings of the first review were presented to the YOT Management Board and further findings will be reported with the intention to inform change.

**Meet the Council Event**

The third 'meet the council' meeting took place on the 26th September at Bootle Town Hall. 20 young people attended the event with a number of elected members, Heads of Service, the Chief Executive and workers. The 3 minute updates gave everyone an insight into what work has been delivered, achievements, ideas and headlines over the last six months.

Members of Sefton's Youth Parliament described the Takeover Challenge national project that puts children and young people in decision making positions and encourages organisations and businesses to hear their views and how Sefton can participate in it this year. The briefing gave information of what the project is all about and what we all need to do to support this initiative. Application forms were given out to link young people with professionals.

**Youth Parliament - Make Your Mark**

'*Make Your Mark*' is Britain's largest youth consultation with young people on what issues they want to be discussed on 11<sup>th</sup> November at the UK Youth Parliament - House of Commons. The ballot papers are distributed through schools and a wide range of youth groups and services.

Currently we have received a total of 3500 ballot papers from the Targeted Youth Prevention team, commissioned providers and a number of schools. More ballot papers are expected to arrive this week.

**HOUSING**

**Liverpool City Region**

The Sub-Regional Housing and Spatial Planning Board (feeds into the LCR Combined Authority Strategic Agenda) and plans have been progressing with identifying sub-regional housing needs and strategy. Consultants are appointed by the LCR and they aim to prepare a draft overarching LCR Housing Strategy. At the LCR Board meeting in September 2016, it was agreed to look to produce a Mission Statement, which would capture socio-economic issues, and produce a 'delivery strategy' to support the work of the Housing Strategy. The delivery strategy will focus on investment needs, primarily to help deliver all types of housing within both Sefton and across the City Region for which there is significant demand with estimates running as high as 40,000 homes needed by 2030.

**Registered Provider Sector**

We are looking to re-establish new relationships with the RP sector in the context of their operating models and principles. It is apparent to many that they are increasingly behaving as private companies; we need to redefine our partnerships in this context.

# Agenda Item 10

The recent Housing and Planning Act introduces the voluntary Right to Buy imposed on housing associations, as well as other potential regulatory changes. There are other potential 'freedoms' Housing Associations may choose to adopt or not, again. There are also opportunities to work positively with housing associations on issues such as welfare reform, health issues, support to deliver council priorities. A lot of this detailed discussion will take place over the coming months and I will feedback on both the high and low lights of those discussions with a view to taking appropriate action where it is seen right to do so.

## **Homes and Community Agency**

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) have issued their prospectus for the next Affordable Housing funding round (2016-2021). However, virtually all of the funding is only available for low cost home ownership products.

In the north of Sefton, particularly, there is a greater need for more affordable rented housing, but the Government has not made any funding available to meet such needs. Low cost home ownership schemes can still help some households in a housing need, and we will still look to work with Housing Associations who can provide suitable housing which helps meet some of Sefton's needs.

We have been advised by HCA that a small number of bids have been submitted for Sefton, for funding to build new homes.

Sefton collaborated in a Liverpool City Region bid to the Govt/HCA, seeking to establish a partnership to develop new starter homes. We are still waiting to hear whether this bid has been successful or not.

## **Development Company**

I am also leading the project in the role of Cabinet Member sponsor to investigate setting up a council wholly owned housing company that could build and sell and or rent properties at a variety of levels - due to the sensitivities of the markets this is confidential. Cabinet approved in principle the creation of a Sefton housing development company at the meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September 2016.

We are reviewing proposals that subject to successful feasibility, outline viability and feasibility studies, need to be developed throughout the Autumn and Winter 2016/17 when we should be able to collate and report on the viability and concept. If all goes to plan then a Sefton Council development company could be up and running by Summer 2017 (subject to successful viability tests and feasibility).

The plan and options we have set out to date would additionally have the flexibility to compliment any proposals brought forward by the Combined Authority, subject to working through the fine detail. Clearly this is a highly confidential and sensitive piece of work that I am leading with officers currently.

## **Private Rented sector Licencing**

We are progressing well with the private landlord licensing scheme. As you are aware the Government changed the legislation to make it very difficult to introduce borough wide schemes, as the current 20% of housing stock rules would not enable this to happen. We urgently need a licensing scheme in Bootle, Waterloo and Southport, which we are progressing proposals for. A Forward Plan item has been put forward, and I hope a formal report will be submitted to Cabinet in December, setting out our proposals.

Legal provisions will enable us to have three different schemes - focusing on the licensing of all private landlords in Bootle, but developing stronger 'Additional HMO' licensing schemes to cover more types of HMO properties for Southport and Waterloo. So this is the approach I am taking to maximise our impact and also run the development of all the schemes together.

The draft programme I have recently agreed to should see the three schemes implemented in Sefton by January 2018. I will update colleagues regularly as we make progress with these proposals.

The new Act includes six measures designed to tackle rogue landlords and property agents:

- Banning orders for most prolific offenders
- Database of rogue landlords/property agents
- Civil penalties of up to £30,000
- Extension of Rent Repayment Orders
- Tougher Fit and Proper Person test for landlords
- Tenancy Deposit Protection Scheme data sharing.

However, all of these new measures will require new regulations to be introduced by Government before they can be implemented. For example the Government has promised an autumn consultation on what offences could result in a banning order, with draft regulations published in early 2017 and the measures coming in to force in October 2017. I intend to review the Council's own housing enforcement policies when there is greater clarity over these new measures.

### **Housing Strategy**

Our new Sefton Housing Strategy was approved by Cabinet in June. I am now looking to develop a Delivery Plan, with a view to finalising it by November 2016. I will then look to prioritise and implement many actions, including the landlord licensing schemes. We will also use this as the basis for engagement with a wide variety of housing partners.

### **Estates Renewal Initiative**

The Government has announced an 'Estate Renewal Initiative', aimed at improving areas of social housing. The detail of this is still unclear, and will be worked up by an Advisory Panel led by Michael Heseltine. The initiative could potentially offer some help in areas such as Linacre. There are some links between this initiative and the Well Sefton initiative. Therefore I agreed to submit an 'expression of interest' in the Estate Renewal Initiative. While we expected to receive a response to our bid during the autumn, unfortunately there has been no news as yet.

### **Homeless Services and Housing Options Service.**

I have recently received reports outlining the performance of service contracts we have commissioned, which reveal positive results.

Sefton Council has also received special recognition over how it delivers its housing options and homelessness service. We are the first on Merseyside to receive a standard by the National Practitioner Support Service (NPSS). The NPSS is a support service set up to support local authorities to deliver improved housing option services across the country. The standard has 3 levels - gold, silver and bronze - and we have recently been awarded the bronze standard with plans in place to try to achieve silver by mid-2017, and gold in the future.

### **Gypsy and Traveller Encampments**

I have received several reports concerning the increased numbers of unauthorised Gypsy & Traveller encampments that have arrived in the Borough over the summer period and the impact on the Council's resources.

I will be reviewing what action can be taken in future to help relieve this problem, including the needs and requirements of the Local Plan in relation to Gypsy and Traveller Transit site provision.

### **Research and Development**

I have received and am shaping research and development areas, working with officers that will investigate and set out in greater detail the impact of changing national policy and legislation, The Housing Planning Act being one example. Clearly given the amount of change and the number of projects we are sponsoring at a Sefton and Liverpool City Region Level, we will not be able to do everything. However, there are a number of priority areas that are emerging and I will keep colleagues informed of the areas that we take forward that will help shape the opportunities and manage the risks of the 2016/17 and 2017/18 work plan.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Marion Atkinson	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b> Cabinet Member Regeneration & Skills	November 2016

## Invest Sefton

### Liverpool City Region Integrated Business Support Project (LCRIBS) - The Business Growth Programme

The project provides eligible SME's, who would not typically engage with providers of business support, with the capacity and support they need to grow and prosper.

InvestSefton serves as a bridge between start-up and more bespoke, intensive or specialist support typically supplied by the private sector and provide participating SMEs with the following:

- A dedicated SFEDI accredited Business Growth Adviser
- A Business Diagnostic
- An Action Plan for growth
- Informed brokerage into specialist/commercial business support
- More intensive support, where appropriate, focusing upon the management of people, processes and resources
- Developing and supporting business networks, events and workshops
- Self-help solutions via website, newsletters, mail shots

InvestSefton has (as at 30 September 2016) assisted 35 businesses through diagnostic support.

InvestSefton plays a lead role in the LCR wide activities of the programme through chairing and facilitating its board and marketing activities. InvestSefton is currently developing joint working arrangements with other ERDF projects to help maximise the varied range of free and subsidised support available for Sefton businesses including:

- *The **Enterprise Hub** coordinates and simplifies the business start-up support available across the Liverpool City Region. Enterprise Hub works to support men and women in Liverpool, Sefton, Knowsley, Wirral, St Helens and Halton to explore their business ideas and prepares them to get started*
- ***Health Enterprise Hub** works to accelerate the rate at which SMEs develop and commercialise innovative products/services for the health and care industry*

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- **Innovate to Succeed-** Tailored support helping SMEs enhance innovation management capability, maximising effectiveness in generating and commercially exploiting ideas
- **Low Carbon Eco-Innovatory (LCEI)** creates innovative low carbon goods, processes and services, developed through collaborative partnerships between local companies in the Liverpool City Region and University researchers, students and academic staff.
- **LCR Manufacturing service-**A service for SME Manufacturers in LCR which provides expert, local advice to support 48 manufacturers, lever £301k of SME investment in growth, and create 26 jobs. It will provide upfront, impartial, manufacturing expertise to assess business opportunities and barriers to growth, and support specification of a tailored improvement project, primarily revenue based, which will be procured from the private sector and subsidised by this service
- **New Markets-** This project enables productivity and employment growth in local SMEs by building their capacity for growth through the delivery of targeted support based on their specific needs and opportunities. It complements the LCR Integrated Business Support consortium by providing more specialised value added services in key sectors, to groups under-represented in business and to businesses with high growth potential.
- **LCR 4.0** is a knowledge transfer programme with an unbridled range of facilities and expertise which will work together to drive innovation. With Liverpool City Region (LCR) SMEs as beneficiaries, it provides a unified and transformational programme which will help them adopt industry 4.0 technologies and support the associated supply chain.
- **Sensor City** - The £15 million 'Sensor City' innovation centre, located in the Copperas Hill redevelopment is a University Enterprise Zone co-funded by BIS, ERDF, LJMU, UoL and industry co-investment. It is a joint venture between the University of Liverpool and Liverpool John Moores University. BIS backed the project with a £5 million UEZ status capital investment award in 2014. In 2016, the England ERDF (part of ESIF Growth Programme 2014-2020), awarded £5m in capital investment to support the development of the hi-tech sensor hub. The two Universities have committed £1.5m each and £2m of co-investment from corporate users is to be secured.

## Business Friendly Sefton

I continue to work toward and give full support to promote Sefton “ being open for business”, and “business friendly”. This followed a survey of business facing teams and services within the council and the broad agreement for business-friendliness to be a theme within both Reform and Growth agendas of the Council. A task and finish group has been established and meets for the first time in late October. The group will help develop our thinking on business friendly practices and benchmark standards, and take forward any early action.

## Access to Finance

InvestSefton provides access to finance for businesses via events and one to one advice from a dedicated Business Growth Adviser. Support takes many forms and includes advice to businesses struggling with business rates with an automatic referral system in place via the Council's Business Rates team. InvestSefton has dealt with three Rate Relief applications, all either registered charities or social enterprises. Since January InvestSefton's Business Adviser has dealt with 13 specific financial guidance projects for small businesses including loans/equity finance and grant support.

InvestSefton is also advising and helping firms to complete applications for the Merseyside Business Growth Fund. This is a Government Regional Growth Fund programme delivered by St Helens Chamber of Commerce on behalf of the city region.

At present InvestSefton has supported 13 applications of which 6 have so far been approved.

## Business case studies

**Just Bathrooms-** A new start up bathroom supply and fitting business in Waterloo. InvestSefton provided advice on available business premises before the family owners located to a retail unit in St John's Road. The business is open to trade and public and is aiming to provide a one stop service from design to fit out. The business was also the subject of a Channel Four documentary and was officially opened by Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Skills.

**A Bootle based business** provides motor repairs and servicing service, specialising in fleets and prestige makes e.g. Mercedes and Bentley. They began trading in July 2016, when they purchased the goodwill from an existing business as a 'going concern', when the owner retired. The business took on larger premises in Bootle, re-branded and invested in equipment and ramps. Some of the staff from the previous business were taken on, and the company is currently recruiting more staff. The business was assisted with a review of customer data and work delivered over last 5 years, to provide an understanding of the customer base purchased and inform marketing and customer relationship activities. This includes business customers, fleets, retail customers; year-on-year sales data; and a breakdown of the type of services utilised, e.g. servicing/MOT/maintenance.

**Bootle Based Business** is a car, van and large commercial repair centre. The business was established in 2013, and provides a one-stop service for insurance companies and business fleets, including a national recovery service, vehicle hire and ancillary services. Customers include the AA, LV and United Utilities. C&CRC UK Ltd has experienced year-on-year growth, with an increase in turnover of 500% in year three. The business has outgrown their site, and needs to relocate to

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another site in Bootle, or purchase land and build new premises. Assistance was provided with developing a business plan to raise finance, grant finder search, and sites and premises searches.

## Investment Marketing

InvestSefton continues to work to attract and retain investment in the borough. In addition to work commencing on site for the new 175,000 sq ft Manufacturing Facility for Domino Printing, further projects that will see a £19m development at the former Peerless Refinery Site on Dunning's Bridge Road being brought forward by Chancerygate. InvestSefton, along with support from the Director of Regeneration and Housing and Executive Director have been key enablers of the Domino development. A ground breaking launch is planned for early November.

In addition on Atlantic Park there are two office lettings pending that will take just short of 40,000 sq ft, resulting in significant job creation. This will mean that over 90% of the offices available on Atlantic Park will now be let. Talks are being held about bringing forward the next phase of development with further advances expected over the next quarter.

InvestSefton is also supporting Sefton Council's attendance at MIPIM UK in London.. The intention is to raise Sefton's profile and announce that it is open and ready for business, as well as promoting some key live investment opportunities focussed on Crosby Village Centre, but also including wider opportunities such Bootle, Southport and Southport Business Park.

## **Tourism**

### Open Golf Championship 2017

Operational planning for the event at Royal Birkdale Golf Club is progressing and Sefton is working with the R&A and multi-agency partners on Safety & Security, Transportation, Media and Contingency planning to ensure we deliver a safe and successful event.

In addition to operational planning, we are developing plans to ensure we maximise the benefits to our local economy. The Open Championship provides an opportunity to showcase our many assets on a global stage, bringing in international and national visitors to sample our visitor destination of Southport, our beautiful coastline, our internationally renowned sporting and cultural offer, and to engage with the people of Sefton. Sefton will enhance destination presentation, identify employment and skills development opportunities and attract inward investment to ensure a lasting economic legacy is achieved from hosting the event.

## Events

### *Southport Festival 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> May 2017*

Planning is underway for next year with the intention of expanding the festival and enhancing the Sunday activity. The comedy element will be extended over the

weekend to include a children's element with a workshop. The Atkinson will host a Vintage Festival and there will be themed venues for the different music elements.

This inaugural event combines Arts, Jazz, Folk, Literature, Poetry, Comedy and Visual Arts. Venues across the town – The Atkinson, Princes Park, Kings Gardens, Town Hall Gardens, Bars & Restaurants

### *Southport Food and Drink Festival 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> June 2017*

2017 event will run under the same format as 2016. Planning will begin in November with participants booking forms sent early 2017.

### *Southport Air Show 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup> September*

The 2016 Friday Night Flying event unfortunately had to be cancelled due to bad weather at Blackpool Airport which meant the aircraft couldn't get to the event. The weather on Saturday & Sunday was much better and the event ran successfully. Planning has started for 2017 event to include the Friday Night Flying.

### *British Musical Firework Championships 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup> October, 1<sup>st</sup> November*

The 2016 event was well attended and we have received positive feedback from customers. Plans for the 2017 event have started and this will be the Champion of Champions year where the past 7 winners will compete against each other.

Other events coming up are:-

Spookport Halloween Festival – 22<sup>nd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> October, parade along Lord Street – 18<sup>th</sup> Oct

Southport Christmas Lights Switch On – 19<sup>th</sup> November

Roundtable Bonfire Event – Victoria Park, 5<sup>th</sup> November

Pleasureland Bonfire – Pleasureland, 5<sup>th</sup> November

### Destination Marketing

The current quarter (July – September 2016) has seen substantial activity across all visitor markets including leisure, business, travel trade and golf.

- All 2016 Visitor Guides (50,000 copies) distributed by the end of July and 20,000 digital downloads achieved by the end of September. Design and advertising sales for the 2017 guide are underway
- The Southport Brand review is nearing its conclusion and initial proposals, logos etc. have been presented. Further work is ongoing with a view to finalising this by early November.
- Southport Restaurateurs Association (SRA) autumn advertising campaign is underway and design on the 2017 Eating out Guide has commenced.
- Delegate News (business tourism publication) has been distributed to delegates arriving in town since March. Targeted ad campaign ongoing (trade press where

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relevant features are included e.g. coastal destinations, conferencing in the northwest etc.).

- E-database now stands at around 42,000 subscribers, newsletter sent 8 - 10 times per annum. The target of 40,000 subscribers by the end of 2016 has already been achieved.
- Travel Trade PR work underway via Stuart Render Tourism. The town's coach friendly credentials have been relaunched as the 'Southport Welcome' this tied in nicely in with travel trade familiarisation visits in September and October and our attendance at The Group Leisure and Travel Show in October.
- Summer radio campaign (airtime, online competition etc.) on Smooth Radio (July and August). A full campaign report has been received. The pilot campaign on Gaydio which ran July and early August was very successful, with 458 entries received for the competition. A Christmas campaign is currently being planned.
- Autumn Radio campaigns currently running via Bauer Media (Rock fm, City fm & Key fm)). This gives excellent northwest coverage and promotes Southport as a place to visit in the autumn.
- Preparation is underway for the twice-yearly STBN Alliance board Meeting (November 17<sup>th</sup> with reports requested from sub group Chairs. The new Southport destination branding will be unveiled to members at this meeting.
- The redesign / rebuild of visitsouthport.com is being planned in line with the new branding. The new site should go live early February 2017 and will feature the latest New Mind functionality.

## Employment

### European Social Fund - Ways to Work Project

Following the Council's acceptance of the offer of ESF grant from the LCR Combined Authority in March 2016, all aspects of delivery in Sefton are now underway.

Sefton@work has now submitted three grant claims to the Combined Authority. Performance in the first quarter has been very positive with achievement of the required number of new starts onto the project as forecasted. This includes access to the service through our high street premises in Bootle, our Southport co-location and the broad outreach offer we maintain in partnership with Children's' centres, libraries, voluntary sector partners and community centres.

The Ways to Work project reports in two strands, related to:

- Young people aged 16 – 29 years who are NEET. This is the part of the Programme that incorporates the Youth Employment Initiative, which needs to be fully expended by July 2018
- Workless Adults aged over 18 . This part of the programme operates at a different grant intervention rate from the young people strand and activity on this element continues until end December 2018.

On the young people strand, Sefton@work has engaged **380** participants who are engaging with professional advisory support to enhance their employability. On the adult strand, **247** participants are engaged on the programme.

Referral agreements have been made between Sefton@work and Sefton JobcentrePlus centres and this has proven effective in ensuring that claimants are made aware of the ESF support available through the Council. Negotiations are ongoing with a range of other projects in receipt of ESF support to identify those that can supply a complimentary range of support activity to ensure that local residents have access to as comprehensive a service offer as possible. The complimentary activity supplied by partners organisations includes therapeutic treatments such as speech and language help for young people affected by anxiety and distress, self-employment support and internships for graduates who are workless.

### ILM placements

An innovative element of Ways to Work is the inclusion of paid employment placements ( otherwise known as ILMs or intermediate labour market opportunities).

The main objective with the ILMs is to identify a range of smaller employers who can provide high quality working experiences where the individual can gain experience whilst also developing the longer term skills of being in a workplace with the important advantage of having a recent employer reference.

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To be eligible, the employers also need to be able to demonstrate they operate in a sector where employment growth is expected or an area where community benefit can be demonstrated.

We have made significant progress in this last quarter on moving forward the ILM offer for Sefton residents with local employers, and the following achievement can now be reported:

- ILM expressions of interest have been received from 71 employers
- 32 applications have progressed to formal approval for 57 places
- Recruitment has commenced for 37 places
- 19 participants have already started with their employer with the remainder due to start next quarter.

Discussion have taken place with the supplier of the Council's 14-19 Information, Advice and Guidance provision for NEET young people to determine the best referral pathways to enable these clients to access the ILM opportunities.

Sefton's part of the Ways to Work project also includes provision for paid placements for older people, outside the Youth Employment Initiative. This is intended to target opportunities for older adults with a range of complex and multiple barriers. The resource for this is much smaller than for young people and as a result

An ongoing challenge on the current Ways to Work project has the interpretation of the guidance on evidence requirements to establish the eligibility of participants to receive ESF support. For certain groups of people, ( including young people who may be sofa surfing, those living with parents or others unable to supply proof of benefit status, residency or legal right to work ) this places a much more stringent requirement than any previous ESF programme. It also places increased time pressures upon members of staff to help participants evidence their entitlement to support, before supporting them to improve their employability can commence.

## **Case Study : ILM Host Employer - Warwick Developments**

Warwick Development (North West) Ltd is a Bootle based company, established in 1998. They are a trade frame supplier of UPVC windows and doors and have enjoyed ongoing growth over the last four years, increasing from 66 staff to the current 85. They have previously engaged with SMBC on a variety of initiatives, through Sefton@work for staff recruitment, with Stepclever for access to a grant, and through InvestSefton and REECH for business support.

Following the launch of our ILM programme under Ways to Work, whereby jobs are funded for a 6-12 month period for local workless Sefton residents struggling to secure employment in open recruitment, they successfully applied for funding for a number of ILM positions. These were 2 Bead Saw Operatives and 1 Warehouse Operative.

After progressing their application for ILMs and accessing support to recruit local workless residents through Sefton@work, they have now started their three placements. The positions have been offered to three male clients aged 16, 19 and



21, the latter of whom has been seeking work for more than two years. The Company has expressed real enthusiasm for the support they have received through our Employer Engagement team and the preparation the young people have had prior to recruitment about workplace behaviours, team-working and attendance has made a real difference. In fact, the Manager commented “ the calibre of staff who attended for interview was excellent and I could easily have placed more!” The Company is confident that upon satisfactory completion of the ILM phase, they will be in a position to retain the 3 staff at the end of the 6 months if they achieve their planned growth forecast.

Following the ILM recruitment, the Manager was impressed enough with the performance and attitude to work demonstrated by the young people, that he made further contact with Sefton@work to launch an additional mainstream vacancy. This was for a Driver / Loader with an immediate start and required a rapid and co-ordinated response from the Sefton@work employer engagement and advisory teams to work to the company’s deadlines. Sefton@work was able to select a shortlist of people for immediate interview and the company have now offered a start to a client from Bootle who is 45 years old, who has been long term unemployed.

## Youth Employment Gateway

New starts on Phase 1 of the Youth Employment Gateway have now closed but Sefton@work will continue to report on outcomes for this phase until December 2016.

We have engaged 226 young Sefton people against a target of 177, and we are on track to meet all the targets related to entry to jobs and sustainment in employment which is measured at six months for this programme. The young people on Phase 1 are attached to a trained and experienced employment adviser within Sefton@work who helps them navigate a range of personalised support to overcome barriers in gaining and sustaining work. The concept of personalised budgets forms part of the Gateway in both phases.

The average cost incurred through Personalised Budgets across this phase for all LA areas is approximately £146 per person, with the majority of this expenditure by far being incurred to support travel costs. This includes travel to advice, for interviews, for training and assistance with the first weeks of travel upon starting a new job.

Phase 2 YEG commenced on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2015 and this differs from Phase 1 in that the young people are able to access the service through an interactive website. They are allocated a proscribed Personalised Budget allocation of £500 with which they can purchase goods or services agreed with their adviser that are deemed necessary to achieve their job goals over an 18 month period.

To date, **336** young people have commenced on Phase 2 between October 15 and May 16. Our revised target for the whole of Phase 2 (i.e. from October 2015 – September 2017) is for **404** young people.

Experience from Phase 1 is that the average draw down of funding is in practice much lower than £500 per person. There remains the risk therefore that unused funds will become locked into these personalised accounts which we are obliged to

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leave unspent until the end of the programme in 2017. This is the focus of attention within the City Region Employment & Skills team programme managing the YEG at the wider level and a number of options are being considered to allow this pot of money to be optimised for the benefit of a more young people, perhaps those coming onto the programme after the £500 allocations have been committed.

## Carers in the Workplace Pilot

Sefton Council is delivering an innovation pilot to develop and test good practice in Promoting Carers in the Workplace. The pilot operates for one year, funded through the Department of Health, Department for Work and Pensions and the Government Equalities unit. Sefton's pilot will be delivered by Sefton@Work in partnership with Sefton Carers Centre. The outcomes of the nine national pilots are expected to influence the development of government policy on supporting Carers going forward.

The Employers Guide for Carers in the Workforce was launched at an event in July 16. Although the majority of the direct delivery on the Pilot has now been concluded, the funding agreement with Sefton Carers Centre to operate an out of hours support group for working carers will continue until 2017.

## Mental Health and Employment Task Group.

Cllr Cummins has convened a cross-sectoral group to look at the current system to support people experiencing mental health problems to enter employment or to retain their employment .

This work has progressed rapidly and the Task Group has accepted an action plan which will see the development of a number of interventions to improve the connectedness between services operating within the health, social care and employment support arena. These actions include the transfer of the contract for Individual Placement Service from social care to Investment & Employment, Process Mapping between IPs and the wider employment support model, construction of improved referral pathways for employment and the better control and use of available data to understand the customer journey between services once a client is able to seek employment.

## Collaborations with Sefton Adult Community Learning

Plans are underway to optimise the targeting of community learning provision towards the needs of workless residents and potential employers. A number of options are under consideration including the adoption of sector based approaches working with particular employers in the distribution/logistics and social care arenas. This would allow clients accessing support from Sefton@work to progress their learning in a structured way, being supported by their personal advisor for individual assistance throughout the process.

## Benefit Cap Mitigation and Support

The government's second round of the benefit cap will commence implementation in November 2016. Analysis provided by Arvato indicates this round will affect more than 300 household in Sefton, particularly those with three or more children. A corporate implementation group has been established and Sefton@work will provide specific employability support to parents affected by the cap through a referral process from DWP and the one stop- shops and other partner agencies and colleagues across the Council. This arrangement has been put in place for six months and the objective is to help affected claimants mitigate their loss of income through accessing work wherever possible. The key challenge on this agenda will be to help affected people gain employment rapidly that will mean they earn to a sufficient level or are engaged in work for a sufficient number of hours per week ( depending on the type of benefit they claim) to put themselves outside the scope of the cap.

## Regeneration

During November 2016 I will be working with officers to look at and agree the regeneration programme priorities for this year, next and beyond, to progress and implement a range of projects that will enable priority employment and regeneration sites to be delivered. This will ultimately create jobs and opportunity for our residents and businesses.

## Investment Master Plan

Work continues with Sefton's Master Plan which will go beyond the Local Plan to identify priorities throughout the borough, this work is aligned to the ongoing 2030 visioning exercise.

## Investment Frameworks

### *Bootle*

The Bootle Town Centre Investment Framework prepared by Lambert Smith Hampton was presented to Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Work is underway to explore how we can bring aspects of the Framework forward.

### *Southport*

The Southport Development Framework prepared by Nexus/Broadway Malyan was presented to Cabinet on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2016. Work is underway to explore how we can bring aspects of the Framework forward.

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## *Crosby*

The Crosby Investment Strategy was approved by Cabinet in November 2015. A Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) is being developed and will go out to public consultation in the new- year (along with the other area SPD's) to link with the Local Plan.

Discussions are ongoing with St Modwen's and representatives of other property owners, to understand the options for investment.

A programme of environmental works within the town centre funded by s106 contributions has been prepared. Phase 1 has been completed and comprised Christmas lighting, tree planting and new power points. Phase 2 will be completed at the end of Nov and will comprise lighting, paving and CCT provision. The installation of new street furniture (Phase 3) will commence in the New Year.

Officers will continue to work on bringing viable development sites to fruition. A mini prospectus has been drawn up and Crosby will be highlighted as a key development opportunity at MIPIM UK in London.

## Funding Opportunities

The team are actively engaged in exploring external funding opportunities and are currently focusing on:

### *Coastal Communities Fund (CCF)*

A Stage 1 (outline) application for Coastal Communities Funding (CCF) was submitted to the Big Lottery on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 for Southport Pier. This was successful and we have been invited to submit a detailed stage 2 application. The submission deadline is 5<sup>th</sup> December with a decision expected before the end of the financial year.

The team are working with colleagues in Tourism (Investment & Employment) and Asset and Property Management to bring this proposal forward.

Officers are continuing to work with partners to explore potential capital and revenue projects along the Sefton Coast for future funding rounds.

### *Townscape Heritage Initiative (THI)*

This funding is aimed at supporting projects that have the potential to regenerate and transform those conservation areas in need of investment and areas where there is a mixture of buildings and uses; including residential, retail and other business uses.

A consultation exercise took place from 13<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to 30<sup>th</sup> June 2016 to ascertain demand for a Townscape Heritage Lottery Funding Stage 1 submission. A Stage 1 application was prepared by Planning and Regeneration officers and submitted on 31<sup>st</sup> August. A decision as to whether the proposal will progress to a full bid is expected early in the new-year.

If approved the Southport Heritage Scheme proposed would seek to help address, in part, the reported decline of some of Southport's historic features by; providing grant funds to owners of buildings to facilitate building repairs, reinstate lost or damaged features, bring vacant floor space back into use, and by upgrading public realm.

## *One Public Estate (Round 5)*

The aim of One Public Estate (OPE) is to encourage, local government, central government and public sector partners to work together at a local level on land and property initiatives to deliver four core objectives:

- create economic growth
- more integrated and customer-focused services
- generate capital receipts
- reduce running costs.

Sefton has submitted three requests for feasibility funding (Bootle, Crosby and Place Making) which will form part of an LCR OPE submission due on 28<sup>th</sup> October. The outcome of the LCR submission will be known on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016.

## Single Investment Fund

The LCR Combined Authority is finalising The Single Investment Fund Prospectus in the early autumn. The prospectus will inform applicants of the criteria and necessary processes in order to access the Single Investment Fund (SIF). The fund has been established to deliver the LCR Growth Strategy, with potentially £250m available for investment over the next 5 years.

It is envisaged that funding will be allocated by way of commissioned projects and Open Calls (with the expected submission date of 9<sup>th</sup> December). We are currently in the process of developing a 'pipeline' of potential projects that could access this and other forms of funding in the future.

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# Agenda Item 11

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
(Regeneration & Skills)

**Date of Meeting:** 8 November 2016

**Subject:** Key Decision Forward Plan - 1 December 2016 to 31 March 2017

**Report of:** Head of Regulation and Compliance

**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 submit to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the latest Key Decision Forward Plan and seek views of the Committee on its Work Programme for the Municipal Year 2016/17.

## **Recommendation(s)**

1. That the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan, as set out in Appendix A to the report;
2. That the Committee notes the update in relation to the Peer Review Working Group; and
3. That the programme of work 2016/17, as set out in Appendix B to the report, be agreed;

## **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 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.

Any work programme topics should be chosen to demonstrate that the work scrutiny undertakes adds value to the Council.

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

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There aren't any direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision will be reported to Members at the appropriate time

**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> There are no legal implications arising from the contents of this report		
<b>Human Resources</b>		
<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:** N/A

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

The Work Programme and Key Decision Forward Plan Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications arising from the consideration of a key decision will be subsequently reported to Members in an appropriate manner.

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

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

**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.



## 1. Introduction/Background

- 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 latest Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix A** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 1.5 There are 6 items within the current Plan that fall under the remit of this Committee, namely:-
  - M58 Junction 1 New Slip Roads – Compulsory Purchase Order
  - Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policies
  - Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing Schemes
  - Community Infrastructure Levy – Publication Draft Charging Schedule
  - Sefton Coast Plan
  - Adoption of the Sefton Local Plan
- 1.6 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.
- 1.7 ***The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan.***

## 2. PEER REVIEW WORKING GROUP

- 2.1 The Working Group has met on several occasions and is making steady progress. The Group has met with Sefton Command Team and have various other witness meetings programmed into its schedule of work. The Lead Member, Councillor Dan.T.Lewis may wish to update the Committee.
- 2.2 ***The Committee is requested to note the progress made by the Peer Review Working Group.***

## 3. PARKS AND GREENSPACES WORKING GROUP

- 3.1 The Parks and Greenspaces Working Group will be scheduling a meeting in the near future and the Committee will be updated on progress.

## 4. WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17

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- 4.1 **Appendix B** to the report sets out the programme of work for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills).
- 4.2 ***The Committee is requested to agree the programme of work 2016/17 for this Committee.***



## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 DECEMBER 2016 - 31 MARCH 2017**

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 at least 28 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 26 (General Exception) and Rule 28 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle L20 7AE 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
- Other documents relating to the proposed decision may be submitted to the decision making meeting and these too will be made available by the contact officer named in the Plan
- The minutes for each Key Decision, which will normally be published within 5 working days after having been made

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Some reports to be considered by the Cabinet/Council may contain exempt information and will not be made available to the public. The specific reasons (Paragraph No(s)) why such reports are exempt are detailed in the Plan and the Paragraph No(s) and descriptions are set out below:-

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
8. Information falling within paragraph 3 above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under—
  - (a) the Companies Act 1985;
  - (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
  - (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;
  - (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
  - (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
  - (f) the Charities Act 1993.
9. Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992
10. Information which—
  - (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
  - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Council which are held at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle or the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport. The dates and times of the meetings are published on [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk) or you may contact the Democratic 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**

## FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

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Sefton Integrated Sexual Health Service	Linda Turner linda.turner@sefton.gov.uk	6
Children and Young People`s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy	Sharon Lomax sharon.lomax@sefton.gov.uk	7
M58 Junction 1 New Slip Roads - Compulsory Purchase Order	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766	9
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policies	Paul Wisse paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2959	11
Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing Schemes	Neil Davies neil.davies@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4837	12
Community Infrastructure Levy - Publication Draft Charging Schedule	Ian Loughlin ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3558	14
Sefton Coast Plan	Steve Matthews steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3559	15
Adoption of the Sefton Local Plan	Ingrid Berry ingrid.berry@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3556	17
Procurement of Quality Training and Assessment Providers for Apprenticeships	Michael Mainwaring michael.mainwaring@sefton.gov.uk	18
Provision of Agency Workers	Lynda Mitchell Lynda.mitchell@sefton.gov.uk	19
Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4104	20
The Future Provision of Transactional, Financial, HR and Information Services	Christine Finnigan christine.finnigan@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4161, Stephen O'Brien stephen.o'brien@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3393	21
Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18 & Council Tax base 2016/17	Christine Finnigan christine.finnigan@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4161	22
Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4104	23
Revenue and Capital Budget	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151	24

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Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20	934 4104	
Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4104	25

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Sefton New Directions Shareholder Report</b> To provide members of Cabinet with an update on the Local Authority Controlled Company – Sefton New Directions.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Adult Social Care			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Chief Operating Officer of Sefton New Directions; Board Members of Sefton New Directions			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sefton New Directions Shareholder Report			
Contact Officer(s) details	Peter Moore peter.moore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3730			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Sefton Integrated Sexual Health Service</b> To seek approval to either activate the contract extension clause or decommission the current contract and commence a procurement exercise for the integrated sexual health service - currently provided by Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust
Decision Maker	Cabinet
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016

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Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Adult Social Care			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Head of Regulation and Compliance; Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence; Consultation with stakeholders and service users will be part of the review informing the Cabinet paper			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sefton Integrated Sexual Health Service			
Contact Officer(s) details	Linda Turner linda.turner@sefton.gov.uk			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>Children and Young People`s Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy</b></p> <p>The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Children and Young People will set out the forward view for improving outcomes in Emotional Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People in Sefton. The Strategy will be developed in consultation with Key Stakeholders. It will be a working document and will be reviewed regularly in order to monitor achievements and areas for development.</p> <p>The strategy will take into account the outcomes of previous consultations. There will be check points to seek comments on the draft prior to it coming to the Health and Wellbeing Board. This will take the form of the opportunity to give written feedback, time to meet with lead to share views, presentations etc. at boards and forums.</p> <p>The process will be to take to the numerous forums in June, July and August with presentation to Health and Wellbeing Board in September. The draft Strategy will also come to Children`s Services and Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee in June.</p>
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Decision Maker	Cabinet Council			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016  26 Jan 2017 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 06/10/2016 to 03/11/2016. Reason: To enable further consultation to be undertaken with children and young people and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Decision due date for Council changed from 17/11/2016 to 26/01/2017. Reason: To provide elected Members with a more detailed action plan			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Children's Services and Safeguarding			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Health and Wellbeing Board, Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) and various other Boards and Fora.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and presentations			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy			
Contact Officer(s) details	Sharon Lomax sharon.lomax@sefton.gov.uk			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>M58 Junction 1 New Slip Roads - Compulsory Purchase Order</b></p> <p>To seek approval for the serving of a Compulsory Purchase Order to enable the acquisition of the land required to enable the implementation of the new slip roads at M58 Junction 1</p>
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Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016  Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 03/11/2016 to 01/12/2016. Reason: Negotiations are ongoing to secure land interests associated with the compulsory purchase order; and advice is being sought from the Head of Regulation and Compliance about obtaining planning approvals.			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Molyneux			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Landowners; Highways England			
Method(s) of Consultation	Affected Landowners will receive letters explaining the details of the proposals and desire to acquire land through negotiation. Landowners will also receive specific correspondence and invitations to meetings from the Council's Land Agent			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	M58 Junction 1 New Slip Roads - Compulsary Purchase Order			
Contact Officer(s) details	Andrew Dunsmore andrew.dunsmore@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2766			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Policies</b> To approve a set of policy documents to support Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management within Sefton.
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016

	<p>26 Jan 2017 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 03/11/2016 to 01/12/2016. Reason: IT difficulties following a virus attack</p> <p>Decision due date for Council changed from 17/11/2016 to 26/01/2017. Reason: IT difficulties following a virus attack</p>			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Not at present but consultations will be undertaken with the Cabinet Member – Locality Services; the Head of Corporate Resources; the Head of Regulation and Compliance; officers from various other departments; and other stakeholders as appropriate			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings; Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management policies			
Contact Officer(s) details	Paul Wisse paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2959			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>Private Rented Sector Housing Licensing Schemes</b> Selective Licensing requires all private sector landlords to apply for a licence to let out their property in designated area/s. Additional (HMO) licensing scheme would cover a broader range and types of Houses in Multiple Occupation than covered by existing mandatory licensing, again in designated areas of the borough.</p> <p>Licence holders will be required to adhere to a set of license conditions and licence holders must be a 'fit and proper' person. The scheme aims to improve management and property standards across neighbourhoods suffering from deprivation, poor property standards and anti-social behaviour or crime. The schemes would run for 5 years.</p>
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	Authority is sought to undertake formal consultations on proposals for licensing schemes.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Blundellsands; Cambridge; Church; Derby; Dukes; Kew; Linacre; Litherland; Victoria			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	A 12 week public consultation to include residents, landlords and local businesses across proposed designated licensing areas and neighbouring areas will need to take place to comply with statutory requirements.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Ongoing engagement with the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing. Authority is sought to undertake a full consultation. A consultation plan will be agreed with the Council's Consultation and Engagement Panel, but is likely to include: surveys, information in different media, meetings with stakeholder groups.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Private rented sector housing licensing schemes			
Contact Officer(s) details	Neil Davies neil.davies@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4837			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>Community Infrastructure Levy - Publication Draft Charging Schedule</b></p> <p>Approval of the the publication draft of the Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule, and associated evidence, for public comment and submission of the Draft Community Infrastructure Levy Charging Schedule,</p>
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	associated evidence and comments made for examination.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet Council			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016 26 Jan 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	members; general public; developers; infrastructure providers; interest groups;			
Method(s) of Consultation	Preliminary draft charging schedule available for public comment; workshop; presentations			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Community Infrastructure Levy - Publication Draft Charging Schedule			
Contact Officer(s) details	Ian Loughlin ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3558			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>Sefton Coast Plan</b> Approval to commence public consultation on the Sefton Coast Plan.</p> <p>The Sefton Coast offers an outstanding environment which is uniquely distinctive, and highly valued by the local community, businesses and visitors. It forms a key component of Sefton's overall exceptional environment, as well as being one of the major natural assets of green infrastructure for the Liverpool City Region and North West as a whole. The vision is for the importance of the wonderful natural assets of the Sefton coast to be universally recognised and celebrated. The Sefton Coast Plan will focus</p>
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	<p>on the management of the Sefton coast, and for it to be managed in a way which:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conserves and enhances the internationally, nationally and locally important network of nature sites, habitats and species (environment)</li> <li>• Enables communities in Sefton to benefit from sustainable economic growth and successfully adapt to coastal and climate change (economy)</li> <li>• Provides long term benefits for the health and wellbeing of local communities, businesses and visitors to our coast (people)</li> </ul> <p>This Plan will be produced by the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership, working in close collaboration with partners and others, including the North West Coastal Forum. Sefton Council is a key member of the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership and has provided the funding and staffing resource to develop the Plan. The Plan will lay out a new set of strategic priorities which will be delivered through a partnership approach to achieve a new and ambitious level of delivery that could only be achieved through the combined resources and efforts of all the Partners working together. It looks to 2030 and is integral to Sefton 2030 Vision for the Borough.</p>			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	12 Jan 2017 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 03/11/2016 to 12/01/2017. Reason: to allow a Habitats Regulations Assessment to be undertaken			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Key officers, Cabinet Members, other stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and workshops to help establish the themes and direction of the Plan			

List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sefton Coast Plan
Contact Officer(s) details	Steve Matthews <a href="mailto:steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk">steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk</a> Tel: 0151 934 3559

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Adoption of the Sefton Local Plan</b> Following receipt of the Local Plan Inspector's final report, which is anticipated in late September, the Council is requested to adopt the Sefton Local Plan.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	12 Jan 2017  26 Jan 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	N/A			
Method(s) of Consultation	Planning Services has consulted the community and stakeholders throughout the preparation of the Local Plan, and has met all the requirements set out in the relevant Regulations. In addition, <a href="http://www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan">www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan</a> is continually updated with the latest news about progress on the Local Plan and all consultation stages before and after the local Plan was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Adoption of the Sefton Local Plan			

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Contact Officer(s) details	Ingrid Berry ingrid.berry@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3556
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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Procurement of Quality Training and Assessment Providers for Apprenticeships</b> To inform Cabinet and seek approval of the procurement of training and assessment providers to deliver Apprenticeships from April 2017.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Procurement of quality Training and Assessment Providers for Apprenticeships			
Contact Officer(s) details	Michael Mainwaring michael.mainwaring@sefton.gov.uk			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Provision of Agency Workers</b> The current Framework Agreement, core period 1st February 2014 to 31st January 2017, has an option to extend by 1 x 12 month period at the discretion of the MPP following the successful performance of supplier over the core period of the Contract. The Supplier has confirmed that
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	the extension period would remain at the existing management fee which is currently the lowest management fee available from existing MSTAR Frameworks. Approval is sought to extend the Agreement for the 12 month extension period of the Contract.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Head of Corporate Resources			
Method(s) of Consultation	By Email			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Provision of Agency Workers			
Contact Officer(s) details	Lynda Mitchell Lynda.mitchell@sefton.gov.uk			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20</b> To consider any issues required for the preparation, monitoring, reporting and amendment of the revenue and capital financial plans for 2016/17 - 2019/20, including Government grants, financial pressures and service changes			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	1 Dec 2016			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community	Yes

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			Impact	
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Unions, Staff, relevant external organisations as appropriate.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual budget saving options will be subject to appropriate consultation - internal and external to the Council.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20			
Contact Officer(s) details	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4104			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>The Future Provision of Transactional, Financial, HR and Information Services</b> To approve the recommendations for: - The New Target Operating Models for services currently outsourced to arvato. - The sourcing strategy, procurement and implementation plan for Transactional Finance, HR and Information Services			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	12 Jan 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be	Leader of Council; Cabinet Member – Regulatory,			

Consulted	Compliance and Corporate Services; Chief Executive and Strategic Leadership Board; arvato; and Key Council Stakeholders
Method(s) of Consultation	Workgroups; 1:1 meetings; Proposal of Options
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	The Future Provision of Financial and information services
Contact Officer(s) details	Christine Finnigan christine.finnigan@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4161, Stephen O'Brien stephen.o'brien@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3393

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18 &amp; Council Tax base 2016/17</b> To review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2016/17; to make a recommendation for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2017/18: and to provide an updated Council Tax Base 2017/18 for approval.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	12 Jan 2017  26 Jan 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Head of Corporate Resources; Head of Regulation and Compliance; Police and Fire Authorities			

# Agenda Item 11

Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings; Correspondence via email.
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2017/18 & Council Tax base 2016/17
Contact Officer(s) details	Christine Finnigan christine.finnigan@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4161

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20</b> To consider any issues required for the preparation, monitoring, reporting and amendment of the revenue and capital financial plans for 2016/17 - 2019/20, including Government grants, financial pressures and service changes.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	12 Jan 2017  26 Jan 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Unions, Staff, relevant external organisations as appropriate.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual budget saving options will be subject to appropriate consultation - internal and external to the Council.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-	Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20			

maker	
Contact Officer(s) details	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4104

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20</b> To consider any issues required for the preparation, monitoring, reporting and amendment of the revenue and capital financial plans for 2016/17 - 2019/20, including Government grants, financial pressures and service changes.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet  Council			
Decision Expected	2 Feb 2017  2 Mar 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Unions, Staff, relevant external organisations as appropriate.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual budget saving options will be subject to appropriate consultation - internal and external to the Council.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20			
Contact Officer(s) details	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4104			

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

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## FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20</b> To consider any issues required for the preparation, monitoring, reporting and amendment of the revenue and capital financial plans for 2016/17 - 2019/20, including Government grants, financial pressures and service changes.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet Council			
Decision Expected	16 Feb 2017 2 Mar 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Unions, Staff, relevant external organisations as appropriate.			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual budget saving options will be subject to appropriate consultation - internal and external to the Council.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2016/17 - 2019/20			
Contact Officer(s) details	Jeff Kenah jeff.kenah@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4104			

**APPENDIX B**

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)  
WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>5 JULY 2016</b>	<b>20 SEPTEMBER 2016</b>	<b>8 NOVEMBER 2016</b>	<b>24 JANUARY 2017</b>	<b>14 MARCH 2017</b>
Cabinet Member Update Report	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Work Programme Update	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>	<b>x</b>
Call In – Southport Development Framework			<b>x</b>		
OFWAT – Increase in Surface Water Charges				<b>x</b>	
<b>Service Operational Reports:</b>					
Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report			<b>x</b>		
Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan		<b>x</b>			
Waste Strategy – Review of District Council Action Plan				<b>x</b>	
Representative from Merseyside Recycling Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan				<b>x</b>	
Street Cleansing, Fly Tipping and Litter Bins		<b>x</b>			
Refuse Collection Service				<b>x</b>	
Update on the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan		<b>x</b>			
The effect the car parking charges have had on local businesses				<b>x</b>	
Update on the carbon footprint and energy efficiency of the Borough and the way it aligned to the 20/30 vision				<b>x</b>	
Private Rented Sector Housing - Licensing			<b>x</b>		

<b>Scrutiny Review Progress Reports:</b>					
Shale Gas		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		
Town Centres			<b>X</b>		
Cabinets Response – Town Centres	<b>x</b>				
Port Master Plan			<b>X</b>		
Employment Development				<b>X</b>	
NEET					<b>x</b>