

Sefton Council



COUNCIL SUMMONS

To Members of the Metropolitan Borough Council

Dear Councillor

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

be held on **Thursday 25th January, 2018 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Bootle** to

transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

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

Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Southport

Wednesday 17 January 2018

Please contact Ruth Harrison, Democratic Services Manager
on 0151 934 2046 or e-mail ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk

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

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A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on 16 November 2017

(Pages 15 -
22)

4. Civil Engineering Environmental Quality (CEEQUAL) Award

Chris Broadbent, CEEQUAL Director to present an award in relation to Sefton's Broom's Cross Road scheme

5. Mayor's Communications

Public Session

6. Matters Raised by the Public

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

(Pages 23 -
24)

The details of a public petition received are set out in the attached note.

(Details of any further petitions notified or questions submitted by members of the public will be circulated at the meeting).

Council Business Session

7. Questions Raised by Members of the Council

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

4 of the Council Constitution.

8. **Revenue and Capital Budget Update - Treasury Management 2017/18 - Position to October 2017** (Pages 25 - 34)
Report of the Head of Corporate Resources
9. **Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2018/19 & Council Tax Base 2018/19** (Pages 35 - 60)
Report of the Head of Corporate Resources
10. **Review and update of the Council's Constitution - Planning Applications and Neighbourhood Plan, Cessation of Area Committees and Petitions Scheme** (Pages 61 - 72)
Joint report of the Chief Planning Officer and the Head of Regulation and Compliance
11. **Pay Policy** (Pages 73 - 92)
Report of the Head of Corporate Resources
12. **Programme of Meetings – 2018/19 Municipal Year** (Pages 93 - 114)
Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
13. **Membership of Committees 2017/18**
To consider any changes to the Membership of any Committees etc.
14. **Matters dealt with in accordance with Rule 46 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-In and Urgency) of the Constitution** (Pages 115 - 116)
Report of the Leader of the Council
15. **Notice of Motion by Councillor Bennett - Fracking**
To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Bennett

Fracking

This council

- a) Opposes fracking in the borough of Sefton, or fracking outside its borough, which could affect residents within our borough and call upon the government to reconsider its policy on fracking and to impose a moratorium on shale gas in the UK because:

- This council considers it has a responsibility to

tackle climate change and protect the environment and the wellbeing of local communities

- This council acknowledges that exploration of unconventional fossil fuel undermines action on climate change and diverts resources away from investment in a safe and secure renewable energy future
 - This council considers that fracking has the potential to spoil our countryside and adversely affect our wildlife and habitat.
 - This council notes the potential impact of fracking on highway safety, wildlife and habitat, visual impact, noise, air and geological issues related to mining;
- b) Note that given the ecological importance of many sites in Sefton to include SSSI's and RAMSAR sites that any adverse effects relating to community, environmental, transport and health impacts of fracking need to be demonstrated beyond any doubt that any adverse affects can be eliminated;
- c) Commits to not allow any fracking activities, including survey work, on Council owned or controlled land and property;
- d) Requests that our officers take all reasonable steps to ensure that the environment of Sefton and the amenity of its residents are protected;
- e) Will support renewable energy in Sefton, particularly solar farms and off-shore wind turbines, where these are in keeping with local character. Fracking will only be supported if there is substantive evidence to demonstrate that it comprises sustainable development that the local community needs;
- f) Notes that there are identified significant adverse impacts from shale gas exploration and exploitation, including water contamination and air pollution;
- g) Requests the Chief Executive to write to Central Government to urge and request that they establish an overarching single body responsible for all aspects of fracking to remove the ability for various bodies to pass control of certain issues to other organisations;
- h) Will take such action as necessary to protect the community's interests where impacts of proposed unconventional oil and gas development, otherwise known as fracking, pose a threat to water resources, adversely affect traffic movements or require the movement of hazardous waste through the borough of

Sefton; and

- i) Hopes that our commitment to cleaner, renewable energy in the future will show the rest of the country how important it is to protect our environment for future generations and to allow us to stand together with other forward thinking Local Authorities and urges other likeminded Councils to pass a similar Motion.

16. Notice of Motion by Councillor Dawson - An Integrated Care and Health Service

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Dawson:

An Integrated Care and Health Service

This Council welcomes the decision of the government to merge responsibility for Health and Social Care in England within one Department.

Council is, however, concerned that the stewardship of responsibility for Health Services in England remains with the man who co-authored a book which advocated increasing privatisation and fragmentation of the NHS, saying:

"The problem with the NHS is not one of resources."

"We should fund patients, either through the tax system or by way of universal insurance, to purchase health care from the provider of their choice,"

and

"Our ambition should be to break down the barriers between private and public provision, in effect denationalising the provision of health care in Britain."

. . .and that the NHS is struggling under increasing pressure to fragment further as well as under the pressures of paying crippling PFI payments.

Council welcomes the devolution of integrated Health and Social Care provision to Greater Manchester and to Scotland and urges the government to take steps which mirror the potential for similar arrangements to be introduced in the Greater Merseyside area.

Council is concerned, however, about the conflicts which hinder the effective integration of a fragmenting national Illness Service, which is funded and provided in one manner, and disseminated locally-funded Care services which are funded and delivered in completely different processes.

Council urges parliamentarians of all parties to work together constructively together across party lines to create a high quality effective efficient and integrated Health and Care service for all parts of England - and for local government to be funded appropriately to provide for care services.

Council notes the present overspend on its own Sefton MBC Community Care services of one million pounds which is only being covered by significant cutbacks on employment of staff across the Social Services Department.

Council notes with concern the manner in which the Southport & Ormskirk NHS Trust limps on with a massive financial deficit under expensive temporary senior management, including the same A&E and ambulance problems which have beset the Southport Hospital on a regular basis in recent years. Council is also concerned at the eerie silence which has fallen over the local 'Sustainability and Transformation Review' and asserts the rights of NHS communities in significant metropolitan towns such as Southport to have acute health services provided in a manner which properly balances accessibility and clinical need rather than balance sheets.

Council resolves to write to the Prime Minister to invite her to attend Southport hospital to discuss with clinicians and patient, carer and community representatives from Southport and Formby the true challenges which confront our Health and Care system locally and which might re-emerge 'strong and stable.

17. Motion by Councillor Thomas - Period Poverty

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Thomas:

Period Poverty

The Council notes that it is time to end Period Poverty now. The issue has been brought to light due to the sensitive issue of young women's ability to access products. They may well be living in low income homes, be in receipt of benefits or simply, for many, the monthly budget may not be able to spread as far as sanitary products.

The Dilemma is also compounded by the fear of not being able to participate in social and sporting activities, as there is inadequate protection available.

- (1) This Council notes that this is not a luxury item, it is a basic necessity and no girl or woman should be made to feel they cannot attend school or enjoy your social life

because they are locked into Period Poverty.

- (2) It is recognised by the Council that the costs incurred by women who are on low income or receiving benefits who are unable to afford sanitary products will detrimentally impact on the social and mental health and well-being of these women.
- (3) This Council supports the notion that the Government's Tampon Tax may be used to relieve the pressure on families and young women and it could be added to the breakdown of the Universal Credit award so that every woman in the UK may have access to much-needed sanitary products.
- (4) This Council requests that the Chief Executive writes to Jeremy Hunt, Minister for Health and Social Care and Esther McVey, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and call upon their support:
 - to end "Period Poverty";
 - to establish if there is a dedicated amount within the Universal Tax Credit allocations to cover the cost of sanitary products for all women and if not why?
 - to enquire where the money raised from the Tampon Tax has actually been spent.

18. Notice of Motion by Councillor Hardy - Antisemitic Hate Crime

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Hardy:

Antisemitic Hate Crime

This Council notes with concern that the Community Security Trust has reported a 30% increase nationally in antisemitic hate crime during the first 6 months of 2017.

The Council therefore welcomes the UK Government's announcement on 11 December 2016 that it will sign up to the internationally recognised International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines on antisemitism. The Council also notes that the new definition has been adopted by the Government, Labour Party, Scottish and Welsh Assemblies, Greater London Authority and Greater Manchester Combined Authority along with numerous other Councils across the country.

The Council notes the definition reads as follows:-:

“Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.”

The guidelines highlight manifestations of antisemitism as including:

- “Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion
- Making mendacious, dehumanizing, demonizing, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions
- Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews
- Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust)
- Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust
- Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations
- Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour
- Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation
- Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterize Israel or Israelis
- Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis
- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.”

This Council believes that everyone is equal irrespective of their race or religion. This means that all forms of hate crime must be condemned.

This Council welcomes the cross-party support within the Council for combating antisemitism in all its manifestations.

This Council hereby endorses the above definition of antisemitism as set out by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance and pledges to combat this pernicious form of racism.

19. Notice of Motion by Councillor John Joseph Kelly - A Curriculum to Prepare Young People in Sefton for Life

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor John Joseph Kelly:

A Curriculum to Prepare Young People in Sefton for Life

This Council believes that as part of the Sefton 2030 Vision young people need to be better prepared for their transition into adulthood to achieve the goals set in this vision. This can be done through existing provision for young people for example, via schools and youth provision.

This Council notes that for the last two years Curriculum for Life has been voted in the top 3 in the annual Make Your Mark Ballot. This ballot asks young people to vote for a topic from a list of 10 issues as part of the National UK Youth Parliament Work. In 2017 out of 5,929 votes cast 1,002 were received for this issue.

There are currently 12 statutory subjects that have to be taught and assessed in schools. Personal, Health, Social and Economic Education (PHSE) is a non-statutory subject. We believe that to give young people the best start in life a Curriculum for Life is an important part to support young people to reach their full potential.

From the Make Your Mark Results and through conversations the Youth Cabinet have had with other young people, we recognise that PHSE education is often squeezed from the curriculum in many schools or taught very irregularly which is not recommended by experts such as the PHSE association.

Sefton Youth Cabinet through consultation with their peers, via school and online, believes there should be 9 key Curriculum for Life topics taught to all young people in Sefton.

Sefton Youth Cabinet has looked closely at these 9 topics and identified the reasons why they are important and should be part of the Curriculum for Life. They chose these topics as they believe these are the skills essential for the transition into adulthood and to fulfil their potential in society. The

following 9 Topics appear in no particular order or priority:

1. Media: We believe young people need to be taught the skills that empower and enable them to use the media to inform their views and opinions rather than 'solely believing what they see and read is correct'. We are also asking for more positive news stories about young people to reach the public domain.
2. Drugs and alcohol: It is currently a difficult time for some young people in relation to understanding drugs and alcohol. Drugs can be widely available. We believe we should be taught about the effects of drugs and alcohol. However, if young people still decide to take them, they should know how to do so in a safe and responsible manner.
3. Sex and Relationships: The potential impact of the lack of a good sex education can be life changing. Young people's sex education needs to include use of contraceptives, consent, sexuality and gender, healthy relationships and STI's. We understand this may be difficult in religious schools. However, every young person should know where to attend to receive this information. (School nurses, youth centres or sexual health centres / clinics.)
4. Politics: We believe all young people need to be taught about politics, how the system works, how decisions are made and how to register and vote. We believe this is an essential part of their future as politics will affect their everyday lives from transport, taxes, spending and many other things. Without the voice of everyone being heard how can that meet the needs of the young people.
5. Community Cohesion: We believe promoting love and understanding can lead to greater community cohesion. With there being such a diversity of people where we live and throughout the world, we need to understand how everyone lives to respect them in real life.
6. Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing : Mental and emotional issues cannot always be seen, speaking and discussing it still has a stigma and few people are willing to listen to young people about it. We believe that when delivered well, mental health and emotional

wellbeing education can promote positive outcomes for us, reduce stigma, and increase awareness of the issue and support available. This will help improve young people's mental health as they transition into adulthood – reducing the likelihood of problems when they are older.

7. Body Image: We believe eating disorders and attitudes towards perceptions of what is a good body image is a big problem at the moment due to magazines and other forms of media, including social media showing celebrities posting photo shopped images.
8. Finance: We believe finance is essential and should be taught to all young people so they don't get into debt, use gambling as income or use payday loans. Therefore, when they transition into adulthood they can successfully manage their finances.
9. We believe young people should be taught about their online safety and privacy to reduce online bullying incidents, safeguard young people from harm when using the internet and how to report and get support if they feel this is an issue.

This Council resolves to:

1. approve the principles of Curriculum for Life;
2. request the Head of Schools and Families to approach the Schools Association of Secondary Heads to encourage all Secondary Schools in Sefton to deliver a curriculum for life skills as part of the Curriculum;
3. promote the use of Curriculum for Life in services delivered to young people in Sefton; and
4. Instructs the Chief Executive to write to all three Sefton MP's, Peter Dowd, Bill Esterson and Damien Moore requesting them to lobby the Department for Education seeking for the inclusion of "Life Skills" to be included nationally as part of the Secondary School Curriculum.

20. Notice of Motion by Councillor Lappin - Governmental Failure to Equality-Proof Financial Reductions to Local Authority Finances

To consider the following Motion submitted by Councillor Lappin:

Governmental Failure to Equality-Proof Financial Reductions to Local Authority Finances

The Council congratulates Unite 567 Community Branch in terms of the work they have done in exposing the potential illegality of Governmental cuts to Local Authority Finances.

In particular, through the use of Freedom of Information requests to the Department for Communities and Local Government, Unite 567 Community Branch have received all Equality Impact Assessments which the Government carry out annually as they reduce local authority finances. Equality Impact Assessments are an integral part of the 2010 Equality Act. However, the Government have not complied with the terms of the Equality Act, as the EIAs carried out, instead of there being one for each Local Authority whose finances have been reduced, the Government have put the onus onto the Local Authority to produce their own. Therefore, the Government could be acting illegally in terms of reductions to Local Authority funding.

This Council believes this issue needs to be given the fullest attention and publicity so therefore supports the efforts in this regard from Unite, TUC, Labour Councils and the Labour Party Front Bench, in order for challenges to be mounted to save Local Government as we know it.

This Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting that the Government conducts full Equality Impact Assessments prior to determining future Local Government Settlements so that it is clear what the effects of austerity will have on local residents.