

Overview  
& Scrutiny



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday 7th November, 2017

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Town Hall, Bootle

**Member**

Councillor  
Councillor Sayers (Chair)  
Councillor Michael O'Brien (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Bliss  
Councillor Carragher  
Councillor Dan T. Lewis  
Councillor Pullin  
Councillor Roche  
Councillor Weavers  
Councillor Webster  
Councillor Bill Welsh

**Substitute**

Councillor  
Councillor Grace  
Councillor Murphy  
  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Anne Thompson  
Councillor Carr  
Councillor Keith  
Councillor McGinnity  
Councillor Daniel Lewis  
Councillor Bradshaw

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser  
Senior Democratic Services Officer  
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E-mail: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

**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 - 14)

Minutes of the meeting held 19 September 2017
4. **Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Annual Report** (Pages 15 - 32)

Report of the Head of Locality Services - Commissioned
5. **Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review** (Pages 33 - 156)

Report of the Head of Locality Services - Commissioned
6. **Town Centres (Scrutiny Review Working Group) Report** (Pages 157 - 160)

Report of the **Error! Unknown document property name.**
7. **Call-In Procedure** (Pages 161 - 168)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
8. **Work Programme 2017/18, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan** (Pages 169 - 182)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
9. **Cabinet Member Reports – September 2017 – October 2017** (Pages 183 - 212)

Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance

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

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## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE BIRKDALE ROOM, TOWN HALL,  
SOUTHPORT  
ON TUESDAY 19TH SEPTEMBER, 2017

PRESENT: Councillor Sayers (in the Chair)  
Councillors Bliss, Carragher, Keith, Dan T. Lewis,  
Roche, Weavers, Webster and Bill Welsh

ALSO PRESENT: Cllr Atkinson

### 13. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Michael O'Brien (and his Substitute Councillor Murphy) and Pullin.

### 14. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

### 15. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) held on 4 July and 7 September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 16. LEASEHOLD HOUSE SALES

Further to Minute No. 74 of the meeting of the Council held on 26 January 2017 the Committee considered the report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing on leasehold house sales.

The report indicated that at the meeting of the Council held on 26 January 2017 the Council resolved that the following Motion be referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) for consideration:

"This Council is concerned about the alarming rise in the number of new houses sold as leasehold, the time period of the lease and the details of service charges being levied.

This is against a background of more new build properties being sold as leasehold with duration of the leases averaging 150 years, just three generations. This means that unless the lease is purchased at an unknown sum it will then revert to the owners. Buyers in this situation are purchasing a house but with rental conditions.

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This Council notes:

1. the overwhelming preference which most purchasers have for freehold houses rather than leasehold;
2. that leasehold properties can carry with them long-term associated costs and charges which are not made sufficiently apparent at point of sale; and
3. domestic leases are often as short as 150 years and mortgage lenders are usually unwilling to lend on properties where a lease has fewer than 50 years remaining.

This Council believes:

1. all immediate and lifetime fees and charges associated with leasehold properties should always be made much clearer in promotional material; and
2. short lease properties can present individuals with significant impediments to enjoying their own home and transferring such homes to future generations.

This Council resolves:

1. to write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expressing concern about the alarmingly rapid rise in new build houses sold as leasehold and the duration and costs associated with the terms of the lease, including service charges;
2. to promote information and guidance to leaseholders, including to buy or extend their freehold; the existence of the Leasehold Valuation Tribunal and the right to manage;
3. information and guidance relative to this point should be promoted through the Councils associated strategies and plans including the Council's Welfare Reform Anti-Poverty Action Plan; and
4. to request the Head of Housing and Regeneration to investigate the rise in the number of new houses offered as leasehold, the time period of the lease and the details of the associated service charges and submit a report to the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing”

and that in respect of 4 above the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing subsequently agreed that the above report should be considered by this Committee.

The report provided information on leasehold ownership; the levels of leasehold ownership in Sefton and that the proportion of newly built houses in Sefton (excluding flats/apartments and maisonettes), sold as

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leasehold rather than freehold tenure had increased significantly within the last decade from 14.8% in 2007/08 to 92.7% in 2016/17; the time period of leases and the associated service charges; the Housing White Paper (2017) which included proposals for reforms affecting leasehold; that regarding existing legislation the Council did not have any legal powers, such as Planning powers, which could make developers sell on a freehold basis; and the market reaction to leasehold sales by mortgage lenders and housebuilders.

The report concluded that on the Head of Regeneration and Skills, on behalf of Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing, would write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government expressing concern about the alarmingly rapid rise in new build houses sold as leasehold and the duration and costs associated with the terms of the lease, including service charges.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:-

- the report was very informative and dealt with complex matters in an easy to read manner
- concerns were raised regarding home owners having to pay large fees simply to obtain permission from the developer for extensions/home improvements
- could information be placed on the Council's website offering guidance on leasehold sales
- the potential use of planning legislation to restrict leasehold sales
- could recommendation (3) within the report be tightened to ensure that developers cannot avoid the requirement to sell houses on a freehold basis by disposing of the land to another company

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on leasehold house sales be noted;
- (2) a response by the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing to the Government's consultation on measures to tackle unfair practices in the leasehold market be supported;
- (3) the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be recommended to amend the Council's Asset Disposal Policy so that when the Council sells its own land for residential development it considers including provisions that require developers to sell houses on a freehold basis and that this provision should still apply if the developer subsequently disposes of the land to another company;
- (4) the Head of Regeneration and Housing in consultation with the Head of Regulation and Compliance be requested to investigate whether information can be placed on the Council's website offering guidance on leasehold sales, including a "jargon buster", to

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help raise the awareness of the issues of leasehold sales; and

- (5) the Head of Regeneration and Housing be requested to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the Government's consultation on measures to tackle unfair practices in the leasehold market.

## **17. REFUSE COLLECTION, RECYCLING & FOOD WASTE UPDATE**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services – Provision that updated on refuse collection, recycling and food waste collections during 2016 / 2017.

The report indicated that the waste collection operation within the Council's Cleansing Services Section effectively consisted of four strands of operation, namely:-

- Waste which cannot be recycled (collected via black sack or grey wheeled bin)
- Waste which can be recycled (collected via hessian sack or brown wheeled bin)
- Food waste (collected via a green caddy and compostable liner system)
- Green 'Garden' Waste (collected via green wheeled bin);

updated on the insourcing of the contract for dry recycling materials whereby the Council would undertake to deliver all dry recyclable material to the Merseyside Waste and Recycling Authority Materials Recycling Facility at Gilmoor and be a fully-fledged comingled Council in line with neighbouring Liverpool City Region Councils.

The report also indicated that the dry recycling performance across the Council had actually remained static at 39%; that the tonnage of collected food waste had reduced from approximately 2,700 tonnes per annum to around 1,800 tonnes, despite the availability of free compostable caddy liners and a free additional food waste storage bin if requested; that the Green (garden) waste service had improved dramatically over the last twelve months and that around 20,000 tonnes per year were now collected; and that the total of household waste collected in 2016/2017 increased over the previous twelve months by approximately 1,200 tonnes.

The report also highlighted current issues within the refuse, recycling and green waste services relating to problems occurring with the "clear all" policy in sack collection areas and that a review would be undertaken to combat problems being experienced; and the additional pressure being experienced by refuse collection operatives due to the 2,700 additional properties that had been built in the borough since 2014 that had required refuse collection services and that by 2019 it was expected that some 4,000 additional houses/properties would have been built/developed within

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the Borough which equated to one new collection crew and vehicle being required.

The report concluded that any reduction in budget across the service had effectively been found via efficiencies as the Council was still required to collect refuse or empty bins from every property across the Borough; zonal arrangements, extended working week, vehicle and route optimisation and varying shift patterns were some of the strategies utilised in order to maintain the required level of service against the backdrop of reducing budgetary provision; and that officers would continue to seek ways to reduce expenditure and increase efficiencies across the Refuse Collection Service and as such welcomed observations, comments and suggestions from any interested parties.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:-

- complimented the Head of Locality Services – Provision and his staff for the 99.98% of scheduled collections being met
- the cost savings achieved by bringing the dry recycling and food waste service in-house
- problems experienced in those areas of the borough that did not receive green waste collection services
- the impact of the Brexit vote on recycling collection targets
- composting of the waste collected via the green waste collection service
- had consideration been given to the use of “European style” communal bins in Sefton
- could Committee Members visit the Wilton incinerator site, Teeside
- the success of the Council’s refuse collection, recycling and food waste collections services should be publicised widely on the Council’s website and twitter
- the disposal of electrical equipment

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report updating on refuse collection, recycling and food waste collections during 2016 / 2017 be noted;
- (2) the Head of Locality Services – Provision be requested to submit a further update report to the Committee in 2018/19;
- (3) the Head of Locality Services – Provision and his staff be congratulated on the excellent performance regarding the refuse collection, recycling and food waste collections services; and
- (4) the Head of Locality Services – Provision be requested to investigate, and if possible arrange, a site visit for Members of the Committee to the Wilton incinerator site, Teeside.

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## 18. WINTER SERVICE POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned seeking views on the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan (the Plan) and the submission of views thereon to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services.

The report indicated that the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned and his staff provided a Winter Service to the borough in accordance with the Plan; that Officers monitored the weather conditions 24 hours a day throughout the winter season and enacted the plan when weather conditions dictated; and detailed the duties placed on the Council arising from the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (section 111), section (41(1A)) to the Highways Act 1980 and the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The Plan was subject to an annual review and reassessment and the report detailed the consultation process associated with the Plan which included, in accordance with Cabinet Member – Locality Services' wishes, a consultation letter being sent to every elected Member (a copy of the letter was attached as Annex A to the report); and consultation with Merseytravel to ensure that, in light of the major bus review, officers were aware of any changes to bus routes in the borough.

The report concluded that the Plan was based on guidance provided by the Government in a document entitled 'Well Maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management; that Appendix H of that document referred specifically to Winter Service; that In October 2016 a new code of practice was published entitled 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure which superseded all previous codes of practice and authorities had until October 2018 to adopt the code; that the Section relating to Winter Service had been delayed and had yet to be published; and that any revised guidance would be addressed when available and a report submitted to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services and this Committee.

A copy of the Plan was appended to the report.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:-

- an error regarding a route taken by a gritting vehicle into Hesketh Road, Southport
- a request that Marine Drive to Argyle Road, Southport be included on a gritting route
- a compliment was made regarding the Winter Service
- the standard of highway repairs and the failure of road surfaces due to bad weather
- weather forecasting arrangements used to plan for services

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan be endorsed; and
- (2) the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned be requested to advise the Cabinet Member – Locality Services that it is the Committee’s view that the gritting operations contained in the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan performed well.

## **19. SHALE GAS WORKING GROUP POSITION REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 25 of 8 November 2016 the Committee considered the report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing that updated on the position with implementing the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group.

The report indicated that shale developments had regularly been in the regional and national news especially with respect to projects in Lancashire at the Cuadrilla sites where there had been well-reported legal challenges and direct action that however, during the intervening period there had been no formal inquiries to Sefton planning or Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service with regards to proposed shale oil and gas development in Sefton; and updated on actions relating to:-

- Action 1 - Cross-Regulator Working Group
- Action 2 – Good Practice and Expectations Document
- Action 3 - Local Validation List
- Action 4 - Sefton Council’s Statement of Community Involvement
- Action 8 – Resourcing Regulatory and Monitoring requirements

The report concluded by detailing target activity relating to actions associated with recommendations of the Working Group.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:-

- the results of a recent seismic survey
- the significant costs that could be incurred by the Council in connection with planning applications and appeals associated with shale gas proposals

RESOLVED:

That the report updating on the position with implementing the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group be noted.

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## **20. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance that updated on the draft Work Programme for 2017/18; topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; and seeking the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

The report indicated that at its last meeting the Committee requested the Head of Regeneration and Housing in consultation with the Executive Director to draft a scoping document in relation to Economic Growth, to be circulated to all Members of the Committee in advance of this meeting; however, following investigation into this matter it was found that the Economic Strategy for Growth was about to be the subject of the Consultation and Engagement process and accordingly, this topic did not meet the criteria for selecting topics for review as it would shortly be looked at by another internal body; that therefore it was recommended that the topic of "Economic Growth" be not selected as a topic for review by a Working Group; and that an alternative topic be selected for review.

The report concluded by inviting the Committee to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 4 to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (2) the report on the Economic Strategy for Growth be submitted to the Committee on 23 January 2018 rather than 7 November 2017;
- (3) further to Minute No. 8 (3) of 4 July 2017 "Economic Growth" be not selected as a topic for review by a Working Group;
- (4) the alternative topic of "Housing Development Company" be selected as a Working Group review and Councillors Sayers and Welsh be selected to serve on the Working Group; and that the Head of Regulation and Compliance be requested to contact other Members of the Committee to ascertain their interest in serving on the Working Group; and
- (5) the Head of Regeneration and Housing be requested to produce a scoping document in relation to the Housing Development Company Working Group for consideration at the Working Group's first meeting.



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## **21. CABINET MEMBER REPORT – JULY 2017 TO SEPTEMBER 2017**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance that included the most recent report from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills.

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills was in attendance at the meeting and commended her report to Members.

Members of the Committee asked questions/raised matters on the following issues:-

- the positive news about the refurbishment of Southport Pier
- the omission from the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing report of the provision of a defibrillator, funded from the Kew Ward devolved budget, at the Salvation Army Citadel, Shakespeare Street
- the lack of sites within Southport suitable for industrial/employment/business uses; and the potential use of the derelict industrial units on Crowland Street for such uses

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update report from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Atkinson be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

## **22. PHIL CRESSWELL HEAD OF REGENERATION AND HOUSING**

Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills indicated that this would be the last meeting of the Committee to be attended by Phil Cresswell, Head of Regeneration and Housing before he took up his new role as Director of Place with Stoke City Council.

Councillor Atkinson indicated that during his time with Sefton, Phil had led on a number of major regeneration and housing schemes and the production of key investment frameworks right across the borough. In addition he had supported the Council's Public Sector Reform programme.

RESOLVED:

That Phil Cresswell, Head of Regeneration and Housing be thanked for his services to Sefton and be wished every success for the future in his new role at Stoke City Council.

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# Agenda Item 4

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 7 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Annual report to Overview and Scrutiny		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Locality Services - Commissioned	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Locality Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**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.

**Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

To comply with 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.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

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.

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

**(A) Revenue Costs.** Costs can be contained within existing budgets

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**(B) Capital Costs.** Existing projects are being funded from grant from the Environment Agency, the main element of which has been secured until 2021. Grant aid will be sought for additional projects and schemes as required

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> No additional resource implications to those required to deliver service.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> Sefton Council will comply with the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 that requires the work of the Lead Local Flood Risk Authorities be scrutinised.
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no equality implications.

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The work FCERM does is about informing and educating our communities about flood risk and ensuring they understand their role in managing flood risk.
Commission, broker and provide core services: not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: We actively work in partnership with communities and other risk management organisations and authorities to ensure we can deliver our outcomes that tie into the 2030 vision.
Drivers of change and reform: by having a FCERM strategy in place and performance management systems in place we can ensure we are doing the right thing in the right way.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: not applicable
Cleaner Greener: the assets we manage on the coast and inland as part of the Green Infrastructure service enable people to come and enjoy Sefton's natural beauty. The work we do to manage risk, understand risk, avoid increasing risk, reduce risk and reduce the consequences of flood risk both coastal and inland, directly supports Sefton's economy and people's health and wellbeing.

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 4873/17.) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4157/17) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**(B) External Consultations**

Not applicable

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Wisse
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2959
Email Address:	paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk

**Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Enc 1. Appendix 1 O&S detailed action plan

**Background Papers:**

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website:

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy, Investment Plan and Service Plan  
<http://smbc-modgov-01/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?Ild=41245&Opt=0>

# Agenda Item 4

## **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** Since our last Update in November 2016 The Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management team is merging with Parks & Greenspaces and Coast & Countryside services through the Public Sector Reform projects to become the Green Infrastructure service. We are currently looking at ways we can better link together to deliver services in a more effective and efficient way.
- 1.3** 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**

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.

- 2.1.1** 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.
- 2.1.2** 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.
- 2.1.3** The Strategy is due to be updated in 2018 and work is currently underway to review the risk, update actions and review our outcomes to see if they are still relevant for the next strategy period.

### **2.2 Flooding incidents**

The 5<sup>th</sup> September saw a prolonged period of rainfall that led to widespread flooding across Southport through to Formby. This was mainly confined to the highway and gardens. Rain fell for three hours in the morning and by late afternoon the majority of the flood water had drained away. This would suggest that the capacity of the system was the limiting factor. Contractors were sent out to draw water away from the worse affected areas and teams from United Utilities were out cleansing areas where foul flooding was suspected. There was only one report of internal flooding to a garage attached to a property.

### **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 theme of Resilient People and Places.

## **2.4 Formby Flood Group**

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 meetings the community agreed that a smaller group should be set up to represent the wider community views and take actions forward.

2.4.1 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.

2.4.2 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, which should help reduce the impact/consequences of any flooding.

2.4.3 The group has set up a flood group website [www.formbyflood.uk](http://www.formbyflood.uk).

2.4.4 Working with John Moores University they have installed a number of groundwater monitoring sensors which feed live data back to a web portal to create an early warning system for groundwater flooding. The group felt that groundwater flooding is a serious problem in the area along with surface water flooding.

## **2.5 Maghull Flood Committee**

We have worked with Maghull Town Council to establish a community flood group in the 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. Since our last update in November 2016;

- The flood committee has disbanded following the setting of priorities and an attempt to establish roles within the committee. Friction began to form within the committee as members had different priorities and decided they could no longer commit their time to the group
- Two members of the community who have been flooded internally in Fouracres were still keen to set up a flood group just for Fouracres residents, but this has been slow in getting set up due to other commitments of these two members.
- The Council are still working with partner Flood Risk Management authorities in the area to look at further options and will continue to support the community.

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- One option still to be considered by Fouracres residents is the purchase of a pump with an agreement by the residents to maintain and deploy when needed.
- We have been working with the Environment Agency on a scheme they are developing to reduce flood risk associated with Whinney Brook. They are currently expanding their modelling to include Melling brook and Dovers Brook.

## **2.6 Thornton Parish Council**

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. Through negotiation a riparian owner has renewed a culverted watercourse that was derelict and not functioning as it should this should address a number of issues with this watercourse.

## **2.7 Staffing**

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.

2.7.1 This work has then led into a resource allocation, time recording and performance management system for the FCERM team. Each member of staff has been allocated a set number of hours to work within on various projects depending upon the budgets that are available. This allows us to monitor the work we are undertaking and flag if we are over or underspending and if the work we do is delivering our outcomes with the resources we have. This system has also been shared with other teams within Transport & Highways Infrastructure as a best practice way of setting a strategic direction with clear outcomes and a method for allocating resources and monitoring how the service is being delivered.

2.7.2 The successful candidate for the Principal Officer role was from within the team, this left a vacant post that resulted in a cascade of recruitment exercises. We have successfully filled the vacant Senior Officer role through internal promotion within the team and recruited in externally for the vacant Officer role. We now have a full complement of staff within the team and hope this will help in the delivery of our outcomes; however our budgets are very limited making very little revenue funds available to deliver anything above and beyond what we have to do legally or is our responsibility as we own an asset. We are working with our new colleagues in Green Infrastructure to seek opportunities to work deliver to deliver outcomes for our communities with limited resources.

2.7.3 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. The post holder has made significant progress in setting the direction of travel and getting buy in from all Local Authorities and organisations across the North West. A forward plan is now in development and will be starting with a light touch review of SMP policies within each LA.

## **2.8 Local Planning Authority**

As a statutory consultee for major planning applications (>10 properties or 0.5ha) we have commented on 63 major planning applications and, in addition, have commented on 424 minor applications between 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016 to end of September 2017.

2.8.1 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.

2.8.2 We are now working on major planning applications coming in as a result of the adoption of the Local Plan and release of sites.

## **2.9 Nile and Pool Investigations, Southport**

Grant in aid has been secured from the Environment Agency to undertake investigations and studies into 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. Initial investigation work has helped to identify where work is required to maintain the system, opportunities to restore the open watercourse and reduce flood risk. One of the options being developed is the restoration of the open watercourse through the Stray. Working with colleagues from Green Infrastructure we are looking at opportunities of in-house teams delivering and maintaining this project with volunteer or community groups.

## **2.10 Merseyside Natural Flood Risk Management**

£30k funding has been secured from Environment Agency to undertake this project. Sefton has entered into partnership with the Healthy Rivers Trust to deliver 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 identify areas within Merseyside to use as flood storage, to increase street or rural tree planting. For Sefton this has identified some areas where tree planting may help reduce flood risk along the River Alt, but most of the benefits to Sefton would come from undertaking work in adjacent local authorities such as Knowsley, by creating flood storage areas near to the source of the river Alt. All local authorities in Merseyside are now working together to look at opportunities and different funding sources available to take forward some of the schemes identified in the mapping. This will help deliver the Sefton Council 2030 vision for resilient people and places.

## **2.11 Coastal Risk Management**

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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 4.

2.11.1 We have also advised Formby golf course about the risk of further erosion on their section of coastline for the next 100 years. This will allow them to make an informed decision about the relocation of certain greens which are presently at risk of being unusable due to the erosion occurring along this stretch of coast.

## **2.12 Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme**

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.

2.12.1 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.

2.12.2 Contracts currently in place include Beach topographic surveys, hydrodynamic surveys, lidar, local process reporting and defence inspections and vertical aerial photography. We are currently writing a brief to tender an update our ecological mapping for the North West that assess the aerial photography and lidar.

## 3. Partnership Working

### 3.1. Merseyside Partnerships

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.

- 3.1.1. 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.

### 3.2. North West and North Wales Coastal Groups

Sefton Council sit on the North West and North Wales Coastal Group to report progress on the Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme and the Shoreline Management Plan. 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.

- 3.2.1. 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.
- 3.2.2. 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.

### 3.3. Key actions by other Flood Risk Management Agencies

#### 3.3.1. The Environment Agency

The Environment Agency hasn't taken any significant actions in Sefton over the last year and has continued with their annual maintenance programmes and has provided support when requested to the Maghull Flood Committee.

#### 3.3.2. United Utilities

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 have agreed to partly fund a scheme from Hall Road West to the Alt training bank to protect their asset.

- 3.3.3. We are currently in discussion with UU about working in partnership on the promotion of water saving measures and sustainable drainage at a property level. This would also compliment work they are doing with the Eco centre to create a

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SUDS garden and design an education programme to be delivered in high risk surface water flooding areas.

## 3.4. **Performance Management**

We have made progress with a plan to monitor our performance going forward which involves monitoring our time and resources more closely. We have been struggling to document performance measures over the past 12 months that are useful and meaningful. We have made progress monitoring time and expenses and are currently developing more descriptive measures. This is a key priority area going forward to ensure we are measuring the right things to inform service delivery.

## 4. **Priorities for 2018**

### 4.1. **Supporting the Local Planning Authority**

With the adoption of the Local Plan the number of major applications is increasing. There are flood risk issues with the majority of the allocated sites; 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.

### 4.2. **Community Engagement/SUDS Hubs**

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. We are also trying to embed sustainable water storage and use at a property level within areas at highest risk of surface water flooding as a priority but the across the whole of the borough. It is our aspiration for Sefton to become a SUDS Hub and a best practice example of sustainable water management. By reducing the amount of water each property inputs into the system or increasing the amount they can store on their property during wet weather events will reduce the amount of water going into already at or over capacity systems. If communities did this, the cumulative benefit of doing so would reduce flood risk without the need to resource a major drainage scheme.

### 4.3. **Crosby Coastal Schemes**

The Crosby Coastal Scheme is now a package of schemes pulled together for efficiency. Discussions have taken place with the Environment Agency, United Utilities, Natural England and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service to scope out various options, environmental considerations and potential funding sources to bid for money to undertake the scheme.

4.3.1. 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 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.

4.3.2. The MEPAS rising main sewer that runs behind the coastline serves a large portion of northern Crosby. We are in discussion with United Utilities with regards to contributions to protect their sewer asset. The section between the Alt training

bank and coastguard station sits in made ground which is contaminated with asbestos. As the coast erodes it puts the sewer asset under increasing risk and can release asbestos. Currently work to secure this frontage is being programmed for 2019/2020.

4.3.3. 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 to identify alternative funding sources.

#### 4.4. **Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy Review**

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

#### 4.5. **Securing Capital Funding**

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. New schemes in development include;

- Ainsdale to Birkdale coastal drainage scheme – improved drainage for the Nile and Coastal Road drainage systems c£50k
- SuDS hubs – examples of SuDS schemes in the community and property level water management (see 4.2) c.£290k

#### 4.6. **Natural Flood Risk Management**

We plan to work with partners to implement some natural flood risk management schemes following the mapping exercises that were done with the Healthy Rivers Trust to slow the flow of water in Sefton or store the water to reduce flood risk. We also plan to implement the promotion of SUDS across Sefton with NFRM being an element of this.

#### 4.7. **Performance management**

We plan on having the correct systems in place and linked directly to our outcomes and time/money spent in all our areas of work, to clearly document both qualitative and quantitative information, that can give us a meaningful overview of our success in achieving our outcomes.

#### 4.8. **Green Infrastructure Service**

Continue to develop opportunities and synergies in the new Green Infrastructure service.

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Outcome	Activity	Actions	Outputs in Strategy period (2015-2018)	Performance Measures	Progress
Understanding risk to our communities	Identify and review flood and coastal erosion risk	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitoring of a range of conditions</li> <li>Recording flood and coastal erosion events</li> <li>Modelling of systems</li> <li>Communicating the risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regular technical and non-technical reports for coastal erosion and tidal flood risk</li> <li>Establish / extend monitoring network for groundwater based on highest risk areas to provide evidence base</li> <li>Develop Investigations policy and reporting procedure (in 2015)</li> <li>Consolidation of risk information for communication</li> </ul>	Time taken and quality of inspections will be the performance measures with a summary of risk provided as context	<p>Coastal monitoring continues as per the regional monitoring programme. Coastal monitoring data and reports are made available on <a href="http://www.coastalmonitoring.org">www.coastalmonitoring.org</a> Inspections are underway on the open watercourses the council maintains. There have been a number of CCTV inspections of piped systems. Ongoing work with Merseyside partners to roll out dip well monitoring across Merseyside but is proving difficult to get the buy in from other partners. Sefton's dipwells have been in situ since 2015.</p> <p>A number of policies have been approved by the Council covering culverting watercourse, diverting watercourses, flood investigations and enforcement.</p> <p>Undertaken detailed modelling of Formby and Maghull to understand how the system works.</p> <p>We have undertake a PFRA update and are also beginning to review our flood and coastal erosion risk management strategy which will involve reviewing all flood risk in Sefton. Our Local coastal processes report has also been published that reviews coastal erosion risk in Sefton. The main update in Risk is between Hall road and the alt Training bank. Following the storms in 2013 the erosion rates are being reviewed as a significant amount of land was eroded leading to concerns to the stability of MEPAs rising main. This has therefore triggered the need to bring forward ideas to manage the erosion in this area. The alt training bank has also breached causing concerns that this may increase the erosion between the training bank the coastguard station.</p>
	Develop plans that set out and prioritise our actions based on our understanding of risk	<p>Develop and maintain:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Flood Risk Strategy</li> <li>Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>Flood Risk Management Plan</li> <li>Shoreline Management Plan</li> <li>Surface Water Management Plan</li> <li>Coastal Change Study</li> <li>Catchment Plans (Flood Risk Management Plans)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Satisfy legislative requirements for a Local Flood Risk Strategy and Flood Risk Management Plans.</li> <li>Develop, maintain and review other plans as necessary and take forward actions recommended in them on a prioritised basis</li> </ul>	Plans in place, acted on and reviewed to an agreed programme	<p>Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy is due to be updated in 2018. We are commencing work this autumn to review our understanding and update the strategy.</p> <p>The policies and risk assessments in the Shoreline Management Plan are annually reviewed against the monitoring data. The only change recommended is that the risk assessment of the section of coastline from Hall Road the Alt Training Bank be changed to high following losses in the winter storms of 2013/2014. We are reviewing our SMP policies for the coast as the SMP has been in place for 10 years.</p> <p>There have been no further updates to the Surface Water Flood Maps following their last revision in 2013.</p> <p>The coastal change study is being incorporated into a coastal adaptation study which is currently being developed.</p> <p>The Catchment Plans have been developed by the Environment Agency with input from Sefton Council, this is consistent with our Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy.</p> <p>The PFRA has been updated.</p>
	Inform the development of plans where flood and coastal erosion risk is a factor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local Plan</li> <li>Strategic Flood Risk Assessment</li> <li>Green Space</li> <li>Habitat Management</li> <li>Coastal Management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Input fully to plans to maximise opportunities and minimise adverse impacts in relation to flood and coastal erosion risk management</li> </ul>	Timely and quality response including feedback from the customer team.	<p>We supported planning colleagues through the local plan enquiry and it has now been adopted. A number of major development sites have been identified and approved. Our role as Lead Local Flood Authority, under the flood and water management act 2010 is to ensure flood risk is appropriately managed. There have been no updates to the SFRA. We have contributed to the development of the Sefton Coast Plan. We have been merged with Coast and Countryside and parks and green spaces to form Green infrastructure. We have been looking at ways to link together and provide a more effective and efficient service with a view to developing a service plan for the new service.</p>



	Inspect and record our assets and where necessary 3rd party assets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and maintain a database containing information about assets important to flood risk management</li> <li>Develop and implement a risk based inspection programme for the assets</li> <li>Identify and designate assets which are in third party ownership and although not their primary function are important for flood risk management</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A database containing information on known assets</li> <li>A prioritised inspection regime</li> <li>A programme of work to complete documentation of assets</li> </ul>	Time taken and quality of inspections will be the performance measures with a summary of condition provided as context	A database of critical assets has been established and is being reviewed to put into a new system. A programme of cataloguing historic data is also underway. The inspection programme is under development and an inspection methodology is being applied. The programme will be refined based on the outcomes of the initial inspections. Currently there no 3rd party assets designated as flood defences but this is constantly under review.
Avoiding increase of risk to our communities	Work via the planning process	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and maintain evidence relating to flood risk to inform the Local Plan, in the format of the Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA). The most recent update of the SFRA has been completed in 2013</li> <li>Discharge duties required of a Lead Local Flood Authority such as a statutory consultee for assessing flood risk implications from developments, through the planning process.</li> <li>Develop and maintain local guidance for Flood Risk Assessments (FRA) which sets out what we will expect in such assessments and how we will consider them over and above what is set out in National Planning Guidance</li> <li>Advise the Local Planning Authority on planning applications in relation to flood risk</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess development applications as required.</li> <li>Production and application of local FRA guidance</li> <li>Advise on Planning applications in accordance with legislation and guidance</li> </ul>	<p>These activities are all responding to requests whether they are from planning, an applicant for consenting of works or arising from a request to investigate a flooding issue. As such we need to record the volume of requests (number and scale), the quality and timeliness of our response and the immediate outcome we have achieved.</p> <p>Measures will be:</p> <p>Number</p> <p>Scale</p> <p>Response time achieved</p>	<p>Duties as a Lead local Flood Authority are being undertaken. There have been 63 major applications and 424 minor applications between October 2016 and September 2017. The cost to the service in 2017/2018 of dealing with the major applications is currently £8556.87. The Local Flood Risk Assessment guidance is currently being drafted with planning and will be accessible on the web.</p>
	Administer powers in relation to consenting for ordinary watercourses, coast protection act and bylaws	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish consenting procedures and raise awareness of need for consents</li> <li>Review and enact bylaws</li> <li>Review procedures and enact recommendations relating to the Coast Protection Act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Put in place procedures for consenting works to ordinary watercourses and raise awareness of the need to seek consent for such works.</li> <li>Put in place procedures for consenting works controlled under the Coast Protection Act and raise awareness of the need to seek consent for such works (in 2015)</li> <li>Review bylaws that it would be beneficial to enact and commence the process of enactment (by 2016).</li> </ul>	<p>Quality of responses acceptable</p> <p>Impact</p>	<p>Our processes are being reviewed and updated.</p> <p>A draft procedure is in development for Coast Protection Act but is not a priority task</p> <p>Byelaws are still being reviewed and a recommendation report is being reviewed following the adoption of the policies.</p>
	Advising 3rd parties of their maintenance responsibilities and where necessary intervene	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Communicate riparian duties</li> <li>Identify issues or receive in complaints relating to lack of maintenance</li> <li>Identify and enter into negotiations with riparian owners</li> <li>Where negotiations fail commence enforcement proceedings</li> <li>Where necessary undertake works ourselves</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Clear procedures for dealing with riparian issues (in 2015)</li> </ul>	<p>We have sent letters to all Riparian owners in Maghull, Thornton and Formby and have had public meetings with them to help them understand their roles and responsibilities. We have also produced more detailed guidance and advice which is available on the floodready.co.uk website.</p> <p>We record all reports of maintenance issues and prioritise a response to them or follow up accordingly, often through the Making space for water group.</p> <p>We have spoken to a number of riparian owners and are supporting them with their role. There are no current enforcement actions. Through negotiation a riparian owner in Thornton has renewed his culverted watercourse that was derelict and not functioning. In 2017/18 we have currently written to 26 residents reminding them of their duties.</p>	



Reducing risk to our communities	Develop and implement a prioritised maintenance programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify catchments and associated critical infrastructure</li> <li>Develop and implement an asset management plan which will include a prioritised maintenance plan based on the number of properties at risk and the vulnerability of the resident</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and re-tender works contracts (by 2016)</li> <li>Develop and start a programme of work to identify critical infrastructure in each drainage area</li> <li>Commence development of an asset management plan (in 2015)</li> </ul>	<p>As planned works we will develop programmes and budgets, we will review progress against these and have a project sponsor / project manager arrangement in place to monitor quality. We need to consider how to measure performance in relation to partnership working and drawing in external funds.</p> <p>Time of response and quality of response will be key indicators with £ spent providing context</p>	<p>New drainage contract let to Kings Construction on the 1st of October. We are currently providing them with a schedule of works. We are closely monitoring performance due to a number of issues at the end of last year.</p> <p>A borough wide review of critical infrastructure has been undertaken and a number of assets identified. This is being reviewed as we look into detail into each catchment area. We are currently inspecting unknown assets and further investigating historical maps to help us understand the assets and how it ties into the drainage system.</p> <p>A programme of works has been identified on the Medium Term Plan for the next 6 years, this is reviewed annually in March. This is detailed in the investment plan. We have renewed 200m of drainage assets on the Coastal Road, Alnsdale. More lengths will be renewed as and when funding becomes available. A culverted watercourse was also opened up in Formby to increase capacity and improve environmental benefits. in the area.</p> <p>Three projects are currently underway that are supported by grant. Seaforth will not be taken in 2016/17 as originally hoped due to capacity issues. 2017 we still haven't progressed and will be reviewing options for delivery.</p>
	Develop a programme of improvement works	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identify capital maintenance and improvement works</li> <li>Develop a forward plan and bid for funding to undertake the work</li> <li>Implement works when funds become available</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a justified forward plan listing proposed works (in 2015)</li> <li>Submission of forward plan for grant aid (indicative stage only)</li> <li>Implementation of works granted funding</li> </ul>		<p>Works are undertaken as and when necessary on a prioritised basis.</p>
	Undertake reactive maintenance	Respond to reactive maintenance needs on a prioritised basis			
Reducing consequences to our communities	Work in partnership with our communities to increase their resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Share our understanding of flood and coastal erosion risk</li> <li>Discuss with communities options for increasing their resilience</li> <li>Provide advice and support on what to do before during and after a flood</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Development of a communications strategy (by the end of 2015)</li> <li>Development of basic communication materials</li> <li>Commence implementation of communication strategy</li> </ul>	<p>Performance measures will be developed as part of the communications plan.</p> <p>We have to have plans in place and be confident that they will work. The performance measure will be that annual training, testing and review of the plans has been undertaken to a pre-agreed programme.</p>	<p>A communications strategy has been developed for the Formby and Maghull Study and will be expanded to other areas. We also intend on producing a general communications strategy for the new Green infrastructure service we sit within to ensure we know of each others key messages and are in a position to deliver each others messages when the opportunity arises.</p> <p>Communications material is available predominately through the floodready website. Copies of the leaflet are available in council buildings. The flood ready website has been updated with more information about Riparian ownership and ways to save water. We are currently in discussions with the Environment Agency who are looking to create a bigger website called Flood Hub and the flood ready website will sit within this as the educational arm of the website. It will require updating to reflect the purely educational element of flood hub to which we have asked for funding to do this.</p> <p>There have been over 24000 sessions to the flood ready website, who spend on average 1.08 hours on the site reviewing the supporting material and case studies. 11.2% are returning and 88.8% are new visitors.</p>
	Develop and implement plans for Council actions in the event of flooding occurring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Emergency Plan</li> <li>Resilience Plan</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review the emergency and resilience plans for flooding (annual)</li> </ul>		<p>We are working with the Council Risk and Resilience Officer to ensure our plans align with the Merseyside Plans and are checked and tested. We have been working with a number of residents across the borough and emergency planning to administer a £5k grant to those residents who flooded internally after storms Desmond and Eva. Most properties have had property Level protection measures installed and payment has been made to the residents.</p>

CAPITAL PROGRAMME



# Agenda Item 4

Understanding Risk	Regional Monitoring programme	Regional contract establishment and management. Local data collection and analysis.	Evidence base that supports the Shoreline Management Plan and delivery of its action plan.	Seeking and securing alternative funding sources to support wider delivery.	The programme employs 3 full time equivalent 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 ECBA team and wider Council.
Understanding Risk	The Pool and Life watercourse investigations	Stage one desktop study, Stage 2 CCTV and further investigations, Stage 3 scheme identification	Desk study completed, inspection completed. Programme of improvement works developed. Appropriate funding applications made. A number of schemes delivered.	Effectiveness realised as required as part of grant memorandum. Seeking and securing alternative funding sources to support wider delivery. Partnership working is embedded from the start to deliver this project.	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/covered 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 CCTV surveys of the piped/covered network is now complete and reports have been analysed. This will inform the third phase which will involve consultation with partners and engagement with the community to assess options.
Understanding Risk	Meresyde Groundwater Study	Initial wells across Merseyside. Monitor data. Develop programme of schemes to reduce risk of Groundwater Flooding.	Meresyde network of monitoring wells. Groundwater datasets. Programme of future schemes.	Effectiveness realised as required as part of grant memorandum. Seeking and securing alternative funding sources to support wider delivery. Partnership working is embedded from the start to deliver this project.	Limited progress made due to difficulties obtaining agreement from Merseyside partners to install wells. Sefton wells continue to record data. Sefton's dipwells have been in situ since 2015.
Reducing risk to our communities	Natural Flood Risk Management	Assessment of opportunities for natural flood risk management across Merseyside	Modelled plan of areas where NFRM might be suitable. Some onsite scheme delivery	Effectiveness realised as required as part of grant memorandum. Seeking and securing alternative funding sources to support wider delivery. Partnership working is embedded from the start to deliver this project.	30K funding has been secured from Environment Agency to undertake this project. Sefton has entered into partnership with the Healthy Rivers Trust to deliver 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. We have had a workshop with Flood risk management authorities across Merseyside in March and we have now received the output modelling in GIS format. This will now inform decisions and discussions about where best to undertake NFM across Merseyside to get the biggest benefits and how we work together as a region in delivering NFM as works in one authority may only benefit those in another, so some form of agreement or way of working to facilitate this work will be ongoing with a NFM working group for the region to drive forward the delivery of schemes on the ground. This will help deliver the Sefton Council 2030 vision for resilient people and places.
Reducing risk to our communities	Formby Flood Risk Strategy	Review flood risk in Formby. Engage with community and agree priorities. Develop options for reducing flood risk in Formby in agreement with community. Support them to become more resilient.	Effective community liaison. Options report and agree preferences with community. Increased representation within the community. Community acceptance of risk, and roles and responsibilities. Scheme delivered to reduce risk to hot spots within Formby. Appropriate funding applications made.	Effectiveness realised as required as part of grant memorandum. Seeking and securing alternative funding sources to support wider delivery. Partnership working is embedded from the start to deliver this project. Outcomes align with 2030 Vision for resilient places and people.	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 meetings the community agreed that a small group should be set up to represent the wider community views and take actions forward. 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. The group have now set up a website and have worked with a local university to install a groundwater monitoring system, to provide an early warning system for residents as the group felt groundwater flooding is an issue in the area.

<p>Reducing risk to our communities</p>	<p>Maghull and Fouracres flood risk management plan</p>	<p>Review flood risk in Maghull. Engage with community and agree priorities. Develop options for reducing flood risk in Maghull in agreement with community. Support them to become more resilient.</p>	<p>Effective community liaison. Options report and agree preferences with community. Increased representation within the community and an improvement in their resilience. Scheme delivered to reduce flood risk to Fouracres. Community acceptance of risk, and roles and responsibilities. Appropriate funding applications made.</p>	<p>Efficiencies realised as required as part of grant memorandum. Seeking and securing alternative funding sources to support wider delivery. Partnership working is embedded from the start to deliver this project. Outcomes align with 2030 Vision for resilient places and people.</p>	<p>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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• sefton Council held a drop in session specifically for riparian owners to raise awareness of their role and responsibility</li> <li>• The Committee undertook an online questionnaire to gather information from the community. This was followed by a meeting to discuss the results.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p>The committee has now disbanded due to conflicting priorities and work will continue with those residents in Fouracres that has suffered internal flooding to take forward an option or this / fails a management plan will be produced.</p>
<p>Reducing risk to our communities</p>	<p>Crosby to Formby Point coastal protection Strategy</p>	<p>Look at long term sustainable solutions for Crosby To Formby Point</p>	<p>funded delivery programme?</p>		<p>Primary focus is on the section from the Alt training bank to the Serpentine to secure this section of the coastline. Secured funding from The Environment Agency to develop the delivery programme and have begun undertaking survey and design to support the works. Discussion have been undertaken with United Utilities to secure contributions and discussion are underway with the environment agency to further develop the business case for the defence works. This programme is being coordinated with the crosby masterplan.</p>

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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 7 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Locality Services - Commissioned	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Blundellsands; Church; Derby; Ford; Linacre; Litherland; Manor; Molyneux; Netherton and Orrell; Park; St. Oswald; Sudell; Victoria;
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Locality Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:** Sefton Council as a Lead Local Flood Authority has to review its Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) on a 6 year cycle as a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations, 2009. The draft review was submitted to the Environment Agency by the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017 deadline and the final review is due by the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017. The draft review found that there was little change to the PFRA. However there have been improvements in our understanding in future flood information and on some local catchments. The review needs to be approved by Cabinet before the final review can be submitted.

## Recommendation(s):

(1) Cabinet approve the review of the Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The assessment has been completed following guidance documents provided by Defra and the Environment Agency and reflects our best available knowledge.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not undertaking the review would mean that Sefton Council would fail to undertake a duty in the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, with the likelihood that the Environment Agency would undertake the review without any local input and could impose actions upon Sefton Council.

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

**(A) Revenue Costs** Costs of the review are met within existing budgets

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**(B) Capital Costs** Capital grant will be sought from Government to cover any costs arising from schemes resulting from this review.

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> No additional resource implications at this stage. Any future schemes resulting from this review will require appropriate levels of resources in funding. This will be through seeking of capital grants.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> Production of these policies ensures that the Council complies with the duties set out in the Flood Risk Regulations, 2009
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  There are no equality implications.

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Working with the communities at risk we can engage and support them to enable them to become more resilient.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: Not applicable
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.4869/17.....) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4153/17....) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

The Environment Agency have been consulted and have provided comments that have been incorporated into the review.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

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

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Wisse
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2959
Email Address:	paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk

## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Enc 1 PFRA Self assessment report, 2017
- Enc 2 September 2012 Flood Investigation Report
- Enc 3 PFRA Assessment Report, Sefton Council, May 2011

## Background Papers:

The following background papers, which are not available elsewhere on the Internet can be accessed on the Council website:

Sefton Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy, 2015  
<http://smbc-modgov-01/mgIssueHistoryHome.aspx?IId=41245&Opt=0>

# Agenda Item 5

## 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009 (FRR 2009) require each Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) to complete a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) and identify Flood Risk Areas (FRA) for local flood risk, primarily surface water runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses. This was completed in 2011.
- 1.2 PFRA is a high level screening exercise to determine if there is a significant flood risk in an area, and identify areas affected by the risk as flood risk areas.
- 1.3 LLFAs' do not need to consider the risks from main rivers or the sea, but should consider interactions between these other sources and local risks.
- 1.4 The FRR 2009 require a review of the PFRA on a 6 year cycle. This review is coordinated by the Environment Agency. They have provided a template for the review.
- 1.5 LLFAs must therefore submit their draft reviews to the Environment Agency by 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2017. The Environment Agency will undertake an internal review and request any changes. Sefton Council's draft review was submitted to the Environment Agency in April 2017.
- 1.6 The Environment Agency must report to the European Union by the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2017.

## 2 Review Assessment

- 2.1 The Environment Agency provided a self assessment template to be completed by each LLFA, Sefton Council's completed template is provided in appendix 1 (Enc. 1).
- 2.2 The September 2012 significant flood event report, investigated as required by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, are included in annex 1 of the review (Enc. 2).
- 2.3 Overall there has been little change to the 2011 PFRA (Enc 3) following the review with much of the understanding remaining unchanged or with minor amendments. There have, however, been improvements or confirmation of understanding particularly in respect of our future flood information. The following pieces of work have contributed to our understanding:
  - Sefton Council PFRA desktop study 2013 to improved understanding of initial PFRA assessment and flood risks.
  - Modelling of catchments in Formby, Maghull and Seaforth/Litherland.
  - Groundwater monitoring locations across Sefton.



- Sefton Council Local Plan. The plan identified flood risks on development sites.

2.4 Comments have been received from the Environment Agency and they have been incorporated into the review.

### **3 Future developments**

3.1 The PFRA review will feed into the update of Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy 2015-2018, which is currently underway.

3.2 The PFRA review will feed into the review of the Environment Agency's Flood Risk Management Plans that operate at a catchment wide scale.

3.3 Sefton Council will continue to seek funding to improve the situation for residents and communities at risk of flooding or coastal erosion.

3.4 Sefton Council will continue to review and update its understanding of flood risk.

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# Preliminary flood risk assessment review

## Self-assessment form

January 2017

This self-assessment form is provided to enable each lead local flood authority (LLFA) in England to complete the first review of its preliminary assessment report and identification of flood risk areas (FRAs), as required by the Flood Risk Regulations (2009).

## Who should complete this self-assessment?

Every LLFA in England should complete parts A, C and D of the self-assessment form and submit it, with the additional information requested in sections C3 and C4, to the appropriate Environment Agency Partnership and Strategic Overview team **no later than 22 June 2017**.

All LLFAs should read the guidance document 'Preliminary flood risk assessment review: guidance for lead local flood authorities in England' before completing the self-assessment form.

### Part A - LLFA contact information

Name of LLFA	Sefton Council
Name of LLFA officer submitting the assessment	Michelle Barnes
Job title	Principal FCERM Officer
Telephone number	01519342958
Email address	Michelle.barnes@sefton.gov.uk
Name of LLFA officer approving the assessment	Graham Lymbery
Job title	Transportation planning and highway development manager
Date submitted to Environment Agency	10/04/17
Link to PFRA report 2011	

### Part B - to be completed by the Environment Agency

Name of Environment Agency officer receiving the completed assessment	
Job title	
Date assessment received from LLFA	
Date assessment agreed with LLFA	

**Part C - LLFA self-assessment**

PFRA report section	Activity for PFRA/FRA review	Yes/No	Summary description	Actions planned in response
1. Governance and partnership	1.1 Since publication of the PFRA in 2011, have there been any changes to, or creation of new, risk management authorities (RMAs) with responsibilities in the LLFA area?	No		
	1.2 Are all roles and responsibilities for collecting and recording flood risk data and information clearly defined, including the respective roles and responsibilities of upper and lower tier authorities and other RMAs where relevant?	Yes		
2. Data systems and management	2.1 Do you have an up to date record of relevant sources of flood risk data and information for the LLFA area, including those held by other organisations?	Yes		
	2.2 Have sources of 'locally agreed surface water information' been established and maintained for the LLFA area and agreed with relevant partners?	Yes		

PFRA report section	Activity for PFRA/FRA review	Yes/No	Summary description	Actions planned in response
	2.3 Are systems in place to collect, record and share data and information for the purpose of assessing flood risk in the LLFA area?	Yes		
	2.4 Are systems in place to assure the quality and security of data and information recorded for the purpose of assessing flood risk in the LLFA area?	Yes		
	2.5 Do you understand the condition and performance of the public, third party and private assets in your register in terms of flood risk?	Yes		
<b>Past floods since Dec 2011 (Information on past floods since 2011 is required for reporting to the European Commission)</b>	3.1 Have any flood events occurred since publication of the original PFRA report in December 2011 that have added to or changed your understanding of significant flood risk in the LLFA area?  See the guidance document on which floods to report.	No	Do not populate this box.  Provide details of relevant floods by updating annex 1 Past floods of your original PFRA report to include relevant floods since 2011.  Information from your updated annex 1 will be used for reporting to the European Commission.	
	3.2 Has your current understanding of significant flood risk in the LLFA area changed as a result of the consequences of floods that have occurred since 2011? How?	No	If yes, complete this box and copy your statement to the relevant section of the PFRA addendum template at the end of this document.	

PFRA report section	Activity for PFRA/FRA review	Yes/No	Summary description	Actions planned in response
<b>4. Future flood information</b> <b>Information on future floods is required for reporting to the European Commission</b>	4.1 Have you created or received new information on potential future floods that has added to or changed your understanding of significant flood risk in the LLFA area since publication of your original PFRA report in 2011?	No	Do not populate this box.  Provide details by updating annex 2 Future floods of your original preliminary assessment report to include relevant new information since 2011.  Information from your updated annex 2 will be used for reporting to the European Commission.	
	4.2 Have you created or received new information to improve the understanding of the future impact of climate change on flood risk in the LLFA area?	No		
	4.3 Have you created or received new information on long term developments to improve your understanding of flood risk in the LLFA area?	Yes	Local plan has been to inspector and is being prepared by planning for adoption	
	4.4 Has your understanding of flood risk in the LLFA area changed since 2011 as a result of new information on the potential consequences of future floods, the impact of climate change or long term developments? How?	Yes	CAPITA produced a PFRA desktop study in 2013 to improve understanding. We have undertaken some more detailed modelling of Formby, Maghull and Seaforth/Litherland to help improve our understanding of how the system works. We have also undertaken some work to install groundwater monitoring equipment to understand fluctuations in ground water in the borough.	
<b>5. Identification of Flood Risk Areas for 2nd planning cycle</b>	5.1 Are the indicative FRAs an appropriate representation of significant <b>surface water</b> flood risk in your LLFA area?	Yes		

PFRA report section	Activity for PFRA/FRA review	Yes/No	Summary description	Actions planned in response
Identified FRAs are required for reporting to the European Commission	5.2 Do the consequences of flooding from <b>other local sources</b> , ie groundwater or ordinary watercourses, or from <b>combined multiple sources</b> , indicate any other areas of significant risk?	No		
	5.3 Has your PFRA review identified <b>any other information</b> which indicates other areas of significant risk?	No		
	5.4 On the basis of the national evidence provided and your review, do you agree with the indicative FRAs for your area?	Yes	<p>Do not populate this box.</p> <p>List your FRAs in annex 3 of your original preliminary assessment report.</p> <p>If you do not agree with an indicative FRA, we advise that you engage early with the relevant Environment Agency PSO team to raise questions or concerns ahead of submitting this form (see guidance document).</p>	
	5.5 On the basis of local evidence and your review, are you amending or identifying any additional FRAs for your area?	No	<p>Do not populate this box.</p> <p>List additional FRAs in annex 3 of your original preliminary assessment report.</p> <p>If you are amending, or proposing additional, FRAs, this should first be discussed with the relevant Environment Agency PSO team ahead of submitting this form.</p>	

PFRA report section	Activity for PFRA/FRA review	Yes/No	Summary description	Actions planned in response
<p><b>6. Updating the original preliminary assessment report using the template addendum (see also Part D)</b></p> <p><b>Updates are required for reporting to the European Commission</b></p>	<p>6.1 Have you completed an addendum to update your preliminary assessment report?</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>Do not populate this box.</p> <p>Complete the addendum template provided below</p>	



## Part D Template for addendum to update the original Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment report

### ADDENDUM

#### Update to the preliminary flood risk assessment report for Sefton Council

The preliminary flood risk assessment (PFRA) and flood risk areas (FRAs) for Sefton Council were reviewed during 2017, using all relevant current flood risk data and information, and agreed with the Environment Agency on 10 April 2017.

Changes to the assessment of risk since the preliminary assessment report was published in 2011 are described in the statements in this addendum. There has been no change in the risk.

The annexes to the preliminary assessment report have been reviewed and updated to show relevant new information since 2011 (if no relevant updates are identified as a result of the review state that here).

#### Past flood risk

Include here the statement of risk from your self-assessment form.

#### Future flood risk

CAPITA produced a PFRA desktop study in 2013 to improve understanding. We have undertaken some more detailed modelling of Formby, Maghull and Seaforth/Litherland to help improve our understanding of how the system works. We have also undertaken some work to install groundwater monitoring equipment to understand fluctuations in ground water in the borough.

#### Flood risk areas (FRAs)

The following FRAs have been identified for the purposes of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009) 2nd planning cycle. No flood risk areas identified.

#### Other changes

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# Flood Investigation Report

Fouracres (Maghull), Sefton Lane (Maghull),  
Hawksworth Drive (Formby), Water, Street (Thornton)  
and Moss Lane (Lydiate)



Date of flooding: 24/09/2012

Version 1.2  
November 2012

---

**Prepared by:**

Graham Lymbery and Andrew Martin  
Sefton Council  
Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management  
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<b>Title</b>	Flood Investigations Report
<b>Creator/Author/ Originator/</b>	Graham Lymbery and Andrew Martin
<b>Publisher</b>	Sefton Council
<b>Date of publication</b>	November 2012
<b>Contact name or title of Location</b>	FCERM, Sefton Council
<b>Subject - Keyword</b>	Flooding
<b>Keyword – Free text</b>	Flooding
<b>Description/Abstract</b>	<p>Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Sefton.</p> <p>The council has a duty, where it deems necessary, to record and report flood incidents within its administrative area under Section 19 of the FWMA.</p>
<b>Coverage - Spatial</b>	Maghull, Thornton, Lydiate and Formby
<b>Coverage - Temporal</b>	2012
<b>Format/ Presentation type</b>	DocumentDigital
<b>Type</b>	Report
<b>Subject - Category</b>	FCERM
<b>Language</b>	English
<b>Rights - Copyright</b>	O/S maps reproduced under licence number LA 076317 by Sefton Metropolitan Council from the ordnance survey's 1:50,000 map with the permission of the controller of her majesty's stationary office Crown Copyright reserved
<b>Postal address of location</b>	Magdalen House, Trinity Road, Bootle
<b>Postcode of location</b>	L20 3NJ
<b>Telephone number of location</b>	+44 (0)151 934 2960
<b>Email address of location</b>	flooding@sefton.gov.uk
<b>Online resource</b>	www.sefton.gov.uk

This report should be referenced as:

Lymbery, G and Martin, A (2012). Flood Investigations Report. Sefton Council. Bootle

## Document History

<b>Date</b>	<b>Release</b>	<b>Notes</b>
November	1.1	Final Draft
January	1.2	Final

*Graham Lyndberg*

**Prepared** \_\_\_\_\_

**Approved** \_\_\_\_\_

**Authorised** \_\_\_\_\_

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## Executive Summary

Sefton Council has undertaken a flood investigation in respect of the events of September 24<sup>th</sup> 2012, when a number of properties within the borough were either affected or at risk of being affected by flooding. The areas that were affected are as follows

- Fouracres, Maghull;
- Sefton Meadows, Maghull;
- Hawksworth Drive, Formby;
- Water Street, Thornton;
- Moss Lane Lydiate.

Rainfall data for this event has concluded that a significant amount of rain, with a 1 in 3 return period, fell on to an already saturated area. Statistical data from the Natural Environmental Research Council has established that rainfall in the north west between April and October 2012 was 167% of the average for the period 1971-2000 and groundwater levels in the region were 'exceptionally high'. Therefore the weather events of September 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 and the months immediately prior to that, were on any level, exceptional. Given the evidence collated for this investigation it is accepted that each Risk Management Authority did discharge its duties appropriately, although as with any major event of this nature, it is essential to review the response in order to learn lessons and improve how the relevant authorities react in future scenario.

This investigation has identified that the flooding mechanism varies between the sites but consistent issues are drainage systems being overwhelmed by the scale of the event and the land that flooded being low lying. The high level in the watercourses was also an issue at a number of locations where it either prevented discharge, flowed back into the drainage system or overflowed from the watercourse.

There are a number of recommendations suggested that would reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding in the future.

## Recommendations relevant to the borough

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	Investigate the merit of installing flap valves/non return systems on drainage outfalls to prevent 'backfilling' from watercourses into which they discharge, at high levels due to excessive rainfall.	United Utilities

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2	Co-ordination of maintenance priorities and works between the Risk Management Authorities	Environment Agency
3	Work with landowners with riparian duties to reduce the impact of debris and blockages.	Environment Agency
4	The Council should work more closely with the Canal and River Trust to understand their role and potential contribution of their systems to flood risk	Sefton MBC
5	The Council should review their Operational Plan for flood events in order to improve response to future events	Sefton MBC
6	The Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities need to review how they share intelligence and co-ordinate responsibilities	Sefton MBC
7	The risk management authorities should review other locations where this mechanism for flooding might be an issue	United Utilities

## Recommendations relevant to Fouracres, Maghull

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	Investigate the merit of installing flap valves/non return systems on the outfalls into Whinny Brook and Dover's Brook.	United Utilities
2	Co-ordination of maintenance priorities and works between the Risk Management Authorities	Environment Agency



3	Work with landowners with riparian duties to reduce the impact of debris and blockages.	Environment Agency
4	The Council should work more closely with the Canal and River Trust in order to understand the role and potential contribution of their systems to flood risk	Sefton MBC
5	The Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities need to review how they share intelligence and co-ordinate responsibilities	Sefton MBC
7	The risk management authorities should review other locations where this mechanism for flooding might be an issue	United Utilities

### Recommendations relevant to Sefton Meadows, Maghull

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	Environment Agency should engage in further discussions with the riparian owner at Dover's Bridge about raising the embankment, to raise the low point in the defence.	Environment Agency
2	Council to discuss with the local farmer any more suitable measures to stop surface water flowing from the field into the highway.	Sefton MBC

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3	Environment Agency to explore the feasibility of expanding the flood warning service for this area	Environment Agency

## Recommendations relevant to Hawksworth Drive, Formby

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	The level of the low spot in the embankment should be raised to the same level as the rest of the embankment.	Environment Agency
2	Investigate if there are flap valves/none return systems on the outfalls into Eight Acre Brook. And if not, consider the merit of installing them.	United Utilities

## Recommendations relevant to Water Street, Thornton

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	The Council will continue to work towards a solution that remedies defects and increases capacity for this area within financial constraints.	Sefton MBC

## Recommendations relevant to Moss Lane, Lydiate

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	Discuss the issues with the riparian land owners and seek to negotiate a solution	Sefton MBC

## United Utilities Response to the Recommendations

Recommendation	What Action will be taken	When	Outcome/Next Step
<p>United Utilities is reviewing other locations where low outfalls and high river levels might create a flooding issue</p>	<p><b>Investigations are ongoing, especially in the area around Fouracres.</b></p>	<p><b>Ongoing</b></p>	<p><b>Where appropriate locations / mitigation measures will be considered for future capital programme of work.</b></p>
<p>United Utilities have Investigated the merit of installing flap valves/non return systems on the outfalls into Whinny Brook and Dover's Brook and will install suitable non return systems when conditions allow (i.e. when outfall is clear and water levels permit access for installation).</p>	<p><b>United Utilities have investigated the area and will fit appropriate measures, e.g. non return valves when the outfall have been cleared and water levels permit access.</b></p>	<p><b>Will be implemented at the earliest opportunity, i.e. when conditions permit access.</b></p>	<p><b>Enhanced protection against back flow from Dover's and Whinney Brook.</b></p>
<p>Investigate if there are flap valves/none return systems on the outfalls into Eight Acre Brook. And if not, consider the merit of installing them.</p>	<p><b>This will be considered when conditions allow inspection of the outfall arrangement.</b></p>	<p><b>Will be inspected when conditions allow and mitigation measures if appropriate will be considered.</b></p>	<p><b>Outfall arrangement will be inspected and mitigation measures will be assessed and prioritised.</b></p>

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## Environment Agency Response to the Recommendations

<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>What Action will be taken</b>	<b>When</b>	<b>Outcome/Next Step</b>
Co-ordination of maintenance priorities and works between the Risk Management Authorities	<b>EA will share their maintenance programme with other RMAs. Other RMAs to share their maintenance/works programmes</b>	<b>April 2013</b>	
Work with landowners with riparian duties to reduce the impact of debris and blockages.	<b>Raise awareness with riparian landowners and remind them of the importance of keeping channels clear.</b>	<b>Ongoing</b>	
Environment Agency should engage in further discussions with the riparian owner at Dover's Bridge about raising the embankment, to raise the low point in the defence.	<b>Previous discussions on the subject have been unsuccessful. We will re-open discussions with the landowner, in light of the recent flooding.</b>	<b>June 2013</b>	
The level of the low spot in the embankment should be raised to the same level as the rest of the embankment.	<b>Undertake crest level survey for 8 Acre watercourse.</b>  <b>Programme works to raise low spot near A565 culvert.</b>	<b>December 2012</b>  <b>13/14</b>	
Environment Agency to explore the feasibility of expanding the flood warning service for this area	<b>New gauging station planned for Dover's Brook.</b>  <b>Assess feasibility of new FWA using this gauge</b>	<b>April 2013</b>  <b>June 2013</b>	

## Recommendations relevant to Sefton MBC

Recommendation	What Action will be taken	When	Outcome/Next Step
The Council should review their Operational Plan for flood events in order to improve response to future events	<b>The Operational plan will be reviewed in light of flood incident to improve co-ordination and operational response</b>	<b>April 2013</b>	<b>Improved co-ordination and operational response.</b>
The Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities need to review how they share intelligence and co-ordinate responsibilities	<b>Will review purpose and scope of "Making Space for Water" meetings (regularly occurring meeting between SMBC, EA and UU).</b>	<b>February 2013</b>	<b>Improved co-ordination and operational response.</b>
The Council should work more closely with the Canal and River Trust in order to understand the role and potential contribution of their systems to flood risk	<b>Canal and River Trust to be invited to Making Space for Water meetings</b>	<b>February 2013</b>	<b>Understanding of the Canal network on flood risk.</b>
Council to discuss with the local farmer any more suitable measures to stop surface water flowing from the field into the highway.	<b>Capita to contact farmer.</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>Reduce flood water on highway</b>
The Council will continue to work towards a solution that remedies defects and increases capacity for this area within financial constraints.	<b>Monies have been secured to make some improvements to the piped watercourse, but awaiting land owners permission and require further investigations</b>	<b>March 2013</b>	<b>Reduce flood risk in Water Street, Thornton</b>
Discuss the issues with the riparian land owners and seek to negotiate a solution	<b>Site meetings held</b>	<b>December 2012</b>	<b>Riparian owners have cleared the watercourse allowing water to divert along its old course.</b>

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## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Lead Local Flood Authority Duty to Investigate

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (FWMA), Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council is designated as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Sefton.

The Council has a duty, where it deems necessary, to record and report flood incidents within its administrative area under Section 19 of the FWMA. In order to assist in the preparation of the report Section 14 of the same Act confers the power to request information from parties that it considers relevant to the investigation.

The Council has chosen to exercise this duty in relation to the floods that occurred in September 2012 at multiple locations. The reason it has chosen to investigate these events is because of the number of properties affected.

This report will:

- describe the locations that flooded and how we would expect their drainage systems to operate under normal conditions,
- describe any history of flooding
- describe the weather event that led to the flooding (set out in full in appendix 1),
- describe the flood event including setting out what the relevant flood risk authorities have done and propose to do
- set out what we believe to be the mechanism by which the flooding occurred,
- conclude if all relevant flood risk authorities undertook their roles and responsibilities appropriately (set out in full in the appendix)
- set out recommendations based on lessons learnt from this event

This report identifies in turn each of the locations where flood events occurred and reaches recommendations as to how such events can be prevented or mitigated in future.

## 2.0 Fouracres, Maghull

### 2.1 Site Location

Fouracres is a small residential cul-de-sac situated at the confluence of Whinny Brook and Dover's Brook on the western side of Maghull. The estate was built circa 1964.

Figure 1: Site location and flood extent



### 2.2 How the Drainage System Works



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The area is drained by normal surface water methods, within the property boundaries drainpipes discharge to gullies which connect to the surface water sewer which, depending on location within Fouracres, either discharges into Dover's Brook or Whinny Brook via an outfall. Similarly highway drainage is collected by gullies and discharges via the same mechanisms.

Figure 2: The sewer network



The main foul sewer drain runs along the centre line of The Crescent and then under the back gardens of the even numbered houses on Fouracres.

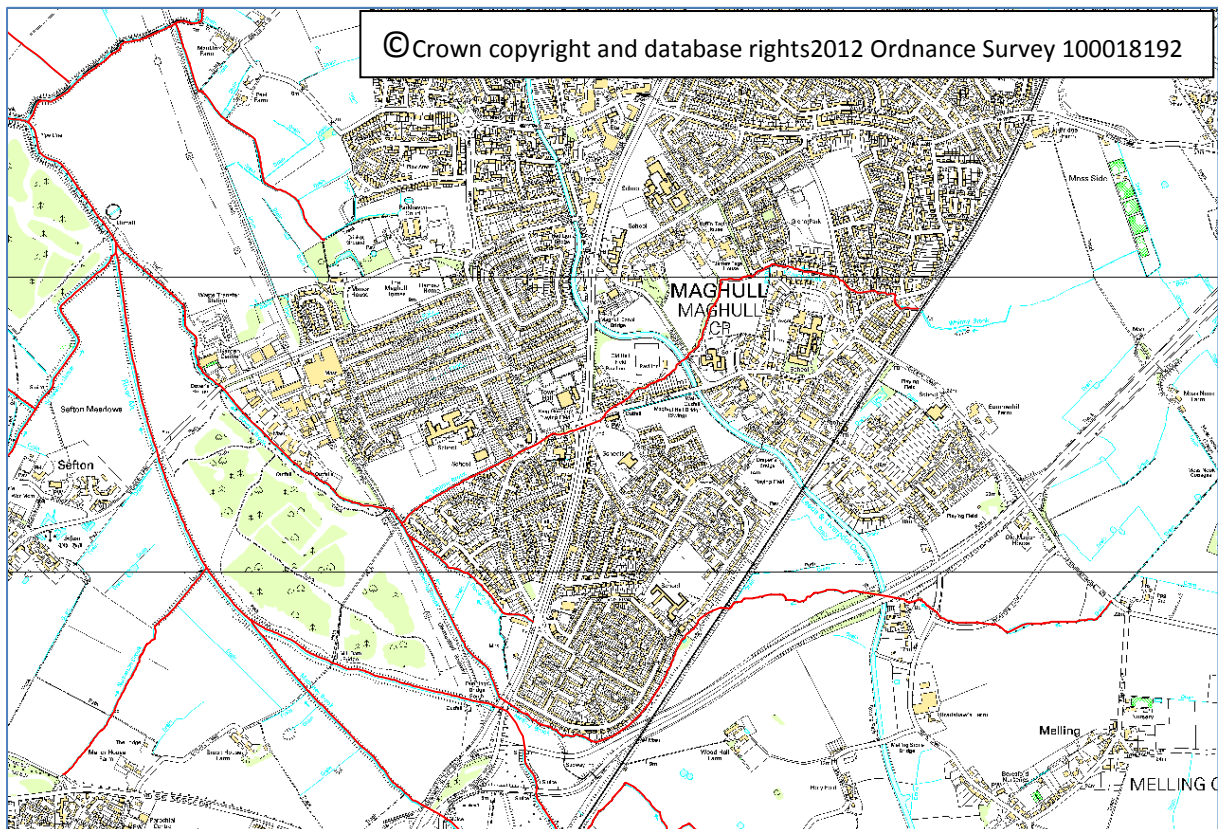
The main river starting point for Dover's Brook is SD3729 0083, it is a rather short section of river starting on the western side of the A59.

The main river starting point for Whinny Brook is SD 3860 0188. Whinny Brook is the main watercourse draining Maghull cutting through the middle of the town. The watercourse is open ditch for much of its length with small sections of culverting under the railway line, canal and roads.

It can be seen from the map below the areas that may be draining into Dover's Brook and Whinny Brook although it was outside the scope of this investigation to establish exactly which areas drain into these Brooks.

The surface water sewer and foul sewer are the responsibility of United Utilities. Dover's Brook and Whinny Brook are defined as main rivers and as such the Environment Agency exercise permissive powers to inspect and maintain them.

*Figure 3: Main River extents in Maghull*



## 2.3 Flooding History

### 2.3.1 Previous Flood Events

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The area is identified as being at flood risk on the Environment Agency's extreme flood zone maps and Sefton Council's Surface Water Management Plan but there are no records of this area having been subject to flood previously. One resident, who has resided there for more than 45 years advised during the course of this investigation that there has never been a flood of this nature before and this has been reinforced by other residents who have said that there has only been a relatively few incidences of ponding in gardens following severe rainfall events. However, in contradiction, one property owner reported that their property has been flooded a few times in the past 5 years with water coming up from the drains but it has never been as severe as during this event.

## **2.4 Flood Incident**

The flood event was preceded by heavy persistent rain that continued during the flood event, this followed a particularly wet summer that had left the ground saturated. The full details of the rainfall event are in appendix 1 and the timeline for the event is in appendix 2.

In response to heavy rainfall, the Environment Agency deployed officers to check assets. One officer was in the vicinity of Fouracres at 4.00pm on September 24<sup>th</sup> 2012 and was approached by a resident and made aware of the concerns. He remained on site at Fouracres until 7.30pm at which point Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service were called. They arrived prior to 8.00pm. Sefton Council's emergency response was present at 11pm, followed by United Utilities by 2.30am and Scottish Power by 5am.

During this time the flood water was rising, starting in the gardens of a number of properties and getting higher until it was approaching and in a number of instances exceeded the threshold of the property leading to internal flooding. The Fire Service deployed pumps which reduced the level of the water to a limited extent and then the levels appeared to remain constant. The Fire Service had marked the peak level of the flood water at three locations to act as a reference. They continued to pump until about 1pm on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

In the same time period the Council were on site in the emergency response role and were engaging with residents to see if they had any welfare needs. United Utilities attended site but could find no issues with their sewers and were told that the flooding was due to a breach in an embankment on the main river so left site. Scottish Power were on site and cut the power to the street for safety reasons at about 5am; this was re-established by 5pm on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

The situation appeared to be stable following the withdrawal of the Fire Service pumps but in the afternoon water levels within the main river and within Fouracres started to increase. At 5pm on the 25<sup>th</sup> the Environment Agency ordered two pumps which arrived on site at 7pm and were set up and operational by 9.30pm. At least one more property flooded during the evening of the 25<sup>th</sup> with the water appearing to come up through the floor.

The pumps were left running overnight and while they did lower the water level they did not clear it. One of the pipes on the pump at the top of the road developed a defect at about 9.30am on the 26<sup>th</sup> and it had to be turned off and repaired the water levels started to increase. With both pumps working at about 11am on the 26<sup>th</sup> the level of water started to drop. Additional small pumps were



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brought in later on the 26<sup>th</sup> to clear garden flooding around The Crescent and Fouracres.

## 2.5 Foul or 'clean' water?

There was foul water flooding to at least 3 properties along The Crescent. Some foul water escaped through the manhole (see Picture 1) in the road but the majority of it came from the manholes in the residence gardens and from the side drain that takes water from the kitchen.

Foul flooding was also reported in Fouracres but there were not enough debris to confirm this. There was clean water flooding to the back gardens of properties on The Crescent and adjacent properties on Fouracres.



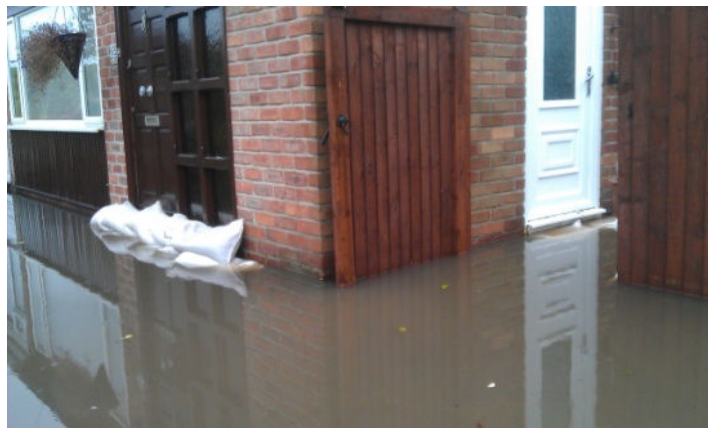
*Figure 4: Toilet type debris emanating from a drain in the road*



*Figure 5: Foul debris residence side passage*

## 2.6 How many properties were affected?

Along Fouracres itself approximately 40 properties were affected by flood water with 24 properties being internally affected. The road itself was not affected by the flood water as it is higher than the properties.



*Figure 6: Illustrating the level of flooding around houses in Fouracres*

## 2.7 Following the Flood

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There was a suggestion that the cause of the flooding was that Dover's Brook had breached its bank, subsequent inspection by the Environment Agency has found no evidence of a breach or overtopping on either Dover's or Whinny Brook. As can be seen in the picture below of Whinny Brook (looking towards the head of Fouracres), the levels in the Brook were high but did not reach its full the capacity.

Dover's Brook, and Whinny Brook were already scheduled for maintenance and this is planned to be completed during this financial year. The Environment Agency will also have completed their Lunt Meadows scheme by the end of the financial year; it was partially operational at the time of the flooding but when fully operational will be able to take a greater amount of water from the system and store it until there is capacity for it to drain away.



*Figure 7: Illustrating the height of water in Whinny Brook (looking towards Fouracres)*

United Utilities have carried out a number of investigations on both the foul sewer and the public sewer. The investigation on the foul sewer system concluded that there was no blockage in the system and flooding occurred due to surface water entering the foul system either via cross connections, directly through foul drains or flood water being discharged into it.

United Utilities did not find a blockage on the surface water sewer system either. However, it was found that neither of the 2 outfalls which discharged into Dover's and Whinny Brook had a flap/non return valve on them. They have undertaken to carry out further investigations on the system to better understand it and check for cross-connections.

Sefton Council organised a meeting for residents shortly after the flood event which both the Environment Agency and United Utilities attended as did the National Flood Forum. The Council have also undertaken an investigation and

produced this report. One of the concerns mentioned by a resident was the possibility of the canal leaking and adding to the amount of water needing to be drained, the Council has undertaken to discuss this issue with the Canal and River Trust and establish the situation.

## **2.8 How did the flood happen?**

Based on the available data it would appear that the high water levels in the Dover's and Whinny Brook not only stopped any outflow from the outfalls but also flowed up the pipework emerging from the gullies within residents gardens; as levels increased it emerged from manholes as well.

Pumping of the water back into Dover's Brook and Whinny Brook reduced the level within Fouracres to a limited extent. It wasn't until the levels in the Brooks significantly dropped that the flow of water in via the pipework ceased and the area started to drain out through the pipework and by the pumps.

Below is a picture of the outfall from Fouracres into Whinny Brook which was taken during a period of low flow, the outfall is still partially submerged.



*Figure 8: Outfall from Fouracres into Whinny Brook, taken 06/11/2012*

A contributory factor to the high levels in the Brooks could be a change in the maintenance regime. The residents voiced concern that anecdotally the Brooks used to be dredged 4 times a year, reduced to twice a year and this year they allege it has not been maintained at all leading to a build up of silt on the bed, reducing the Brooks overall capacity to convey water.

The mechanism for the gardens flooding to the rear of 11, 15, 13 Fouracres and 39, 37, 35 The Crescent is still unclear. The most likely cause is rain water pooling in the low point of the gardens.

## **2.9 Roles and Responsibilities**

The full roles and responsibilities of the Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities are set out in appendix 3 but in relation to this event the key points are:



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The Environment Agency operates under permissive powers to maintain lengths of watercourses that have been designated as main rivers; they do not own these main rivers and do not have a duty to maintain them. They did not have to provide pumps during the event but chose to do so and whilst the maintenance had not been carried out it was scheduled. The reduction in maintenance is a consequence of decisions they have had to take to manage within reduced budgets. While they have satisfied their roles and responsibilities it is possible to better co-ordinate their maintenance priorities and activities with the other risk management authorities to better manage flood risk.

United Utilities attended site initially but under the impression that the cause of the flooding was a breach in the embankment chose to redeploy their resources to other locations where there were significant issues to deal with. They checked the sewer system, thus satisfying their roles and responsibilities, and found it to be working as it should but overwhelmed by the scale of the event. Sefton Council have a role under the Civil Contingencies act and discharged this in relation to checking on and where necessary supporting the welfare of residents affected by the flooding. The Council had officers present to support the efforts to manage the flood water and supplied sand bags. The Council discharged its roles and responsibilities although it should review its operational plan for such events to revise based on the lessons learnt.

## **2.10 Conclusion**

Rainfall data for this event has concluded that a significant amount of rain fell on to an already saturated area with approximately a 1 in 30 year return period. Given the evidence collated for this investigation it is accepted that each Risk Management Authority did discharge its duties as appropriate, whilst recognising that United Utilities effort was hampered by a report of a breach leading to it leaving site earlier than it would otherwise have done.

The flooding mechanism appears to be a back flow of water along the public sewer from the main rivers and as such there was realistically very little that any authority could do to alleviate the situation until the water levels in the main rivers fell. The pumps were only reducing the flood levels slightly until the water levels in the main rivers dropped.

Key Points in relation to the flooding:

- It was a prolonged and heavy rainfall event
- The land that flooded is low lying
- The levels in the main river were high due to the rainfall
- Reduced maintenance of the Brooks may have contributed to the high water levels
- The drainage system allows water to flow from the main river into Fouracres when the water level in the Brooks is high

However, there are a number of recommendations that we would make in order to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding in the future.

## **2.11 Recommendations**



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<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Lead Risk Management Authority</b>
1	Investigate the merit of installing flap valves/non return systems on the outfalls into Whinny Brook and Dover's Brook.	United Utilities
2	Co-ordination of maintenance priorities and works between the Risk Management Authorities	Environment Agency
3	Work with landowners with riparian duties to reduce the impact of debris and blockages.	Environment Agency
4	The Council should work more closely with the Canal and River Trust in order to understand the role and potential contribution of their systems to flood risk	Sefton MBC
5	The Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities need to review how they share intelligence and co-ordinate responsibilities	Sefton MBC
6	The risk management authorities should review other locations where this mechanism for flooding might be an issue	United Utilities

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## 3.0 Sefton Meadows, Maghull

### 3.1 Site Location

Sefton Lane is on the western side of Maghull linking it with Sefton village via Bridges Lane. The road is a busy commuter route which also serves the industrial estate and the waste recycling centre at Sefton Meadows. The road name changes at the bridge over Dover's Brook to Bridges Lane.

The land on either side of Bridges Road has been used as landfill sites but the land to the north is now agricultural and the land to the south forms part of Jubilee Wood.



Figure 9: Site location and flood extent

### 3.2 How the Drainage System Works

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Conventional urban drainage systems are made up of a complex network of sewer pipes, overflows, gullies and culverts (covered watercourses). Ownership and duties are split between various agencies and landowners. On an individual property level, rain falls on to roofs, gardens and driveways and makes its way through the gutters and channels to the drain. The less porous the surface the rain lands on the quicker the water enters the drainage system.

Where drains from individual properties connect together, the responsibility for maintenance transfers from the householder to the sewerage undertaker and is deemed to be a public sewer, this may then discharge into a surface water sewer, a foul sewer, or a combined sewer system (Foul and Surface water) or possibly a watercourse.

Rain that falls on the highway collects at the side of the road at the kerb and is channelled to the gullies and is piped away to either a public sewer or in some cases directly to a watercourse. Sefton Council are responsible for the drainage of local roads and public highways.

The surface water sewer and foul sewer are the responsibility of United Utilities. Dover's Brook is defined as main rivers and as such the Environment Agency exercise permissive powers to inspect and maintain it.

The main river section of Dover's Brooks flows from the A59 Northway to the confluence with the River Alt, approximately 600m away from Dover's Bridge, which discharges into the Mersey Estuary via Altmouth Pumping Station at Hightown.

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Figure 10: Sewer Network at Bridges Lane, Sefton Meadows, Maghull



## 3.3 Flooding History

### 3.3.1 Previous Flood Events

The area is identified as being at flood risk on the Environment Agency's extreme flood zone maps and each Risk Management Authority has a number of records showing flooding at this location over the past 10 years. The area is additionally shown as at risk from flooding in the councils Surface Water Management Plan.

### 3.4 Flood Incident

The flood event was preceded by heavy persistent rain that continued during the flood event, this followed a particularly wet summer that had left the ground saturated. The full details of the rainfall event are in appendix 1.

There were 2 sources of flooding in this area that affected 3 separate locations in this area each separated by a bridge:

The first source (*A, figure 11*), was from the surface water system not being able to discharge into Dover's Brook or the River Alt due to high river levels.

The first area of flooding, travelling from Sefton village towards Maghull, was a 60m stretch between the village and the bridge over the River Alt. Rainwater had come off the field on the north side and pooled in the dip and inundated the road to approximately 15cms deep.



*Figure 11: Bridges Lane, area A, taken 25/09/2012*

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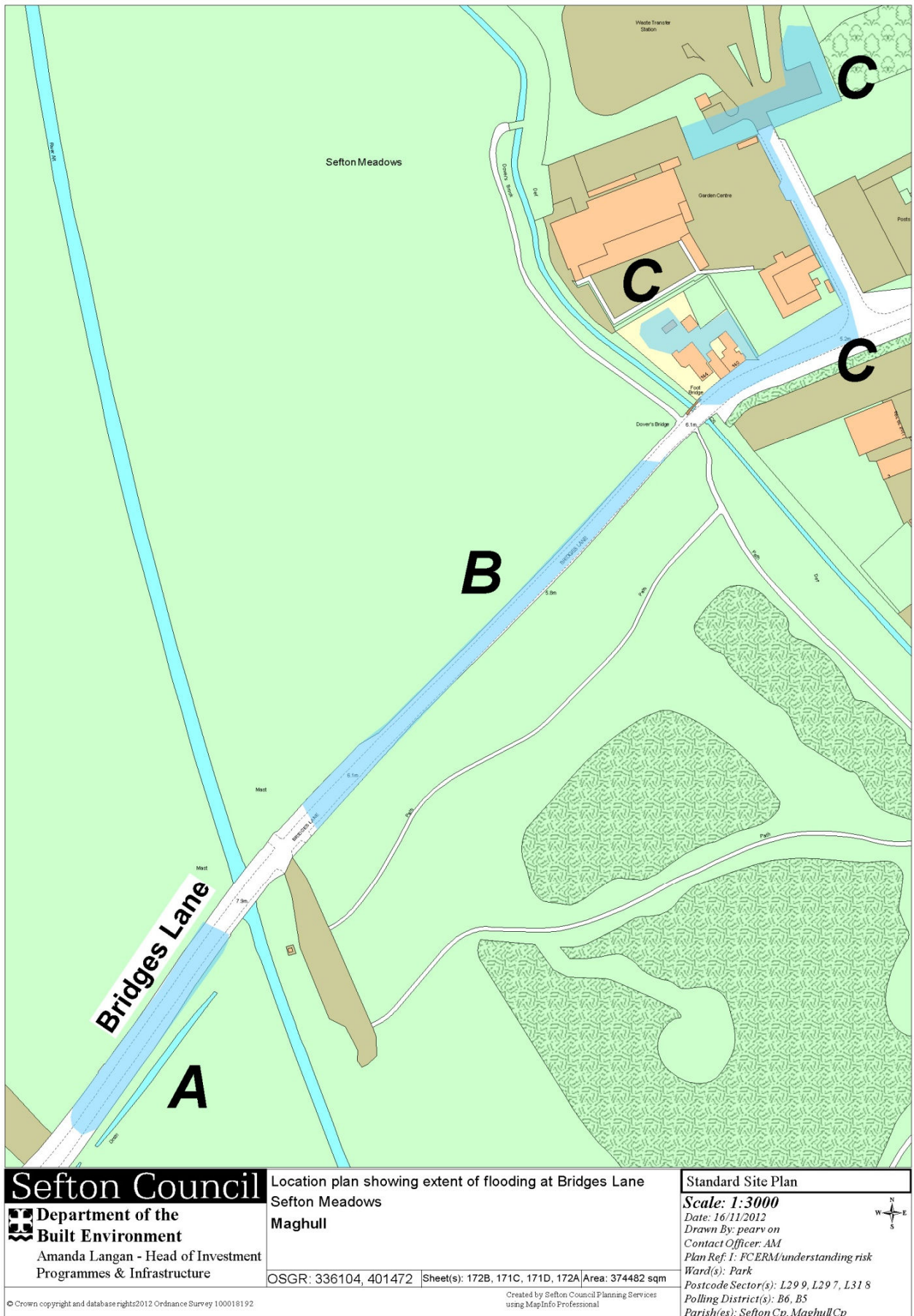


Figure 12: Separate flooding sources at Bridges Lane, Sefton Meadows, Maghull



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The second stretch (B, Figure 13 and figure 14), of highway flooding was between the bridges over the River Alt and Dover's Brook to a depth of approximately 15 cms.



*Figure 13: Bridges Lane, area B, taken 25/09/2012*



*Figure 14: Bridges Lane, area B, taken 25/09/2012*

The final area of flooding (C, Figure 15), was on Sefton Lane between Dover's Brook bridge and the Cheshire Lines Bridge. There was some surface water

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flooding at this site as the highway drain on the opposite side of the road was “tide” locked by the river level on Dover’s Brook.

However, the major source of flooding was from Dover’s Brook overtopping the embankment at a low spot close to Dover’s Bridge, as can be seen in the photograph below (Figure 15). The water flowed along the footpath into the highway and joined up with the surface water flooding, forming a pool across the road, approximately 12cm deep. Some water flowed along the road towards the waste recycling centre and pooled at the entrance, and some water flowed around the backs of the properties on Sefton Lane damaging outbuildings, a caravan and ingressed into at least 1 property.



*Figure 15: Dover’s Brook flooding into Sefton Lane, taken 24/09/2012*

On becoming aware of the situation, the Council closed the section of Sefton Lane at Dover’s Bridge to Bridges Lane near Sefton Old Hall.

### **3.5 How did the flood happen?**

The main cause was that the River Alt and Dover’s Brook were high, due to the significant amount of rainfall, which “tide” locked the highway drainage system which in turn was unable to discharge. Once the pipes had reached their capacity the water started to flow from the gullies into the highway.

There is a possibility that there was a back flow issue here, as one resident pointed out that there was not a flap fitted to the outfall on Dover’s Brook.

The other source of flooding was again caused by high river levels in Dover’s Brook. The water level rose to a sufficient height that it was able to overtop the flood embankment at a low point close to the footbridge.



## 3.6 Roles and Responsibilities

The full roles and responsibilities of the Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities are set out in appendix 3 but in relation to this event the key points are:

The Environment Agency sent a Site Controller to assess the flood but as sandbags had been deployed there was little else that could be done.

It is not known if United Utilities had received any telephone calls about this area or whether they attended this site.

Sefton Council have a role under the Civil Contingencies act and discharged this in relation to checking on and where necessary supporting the welfare of residents affected by the flooding. The Council had officers present to support the efforts to manage the flood water and supplied sand bags. As Highways Authority the council closed the road between Dover's Bridge and Bridges Lane. The Council discharged its roles and responsibilities although it should review its operational plan for such events to revise based on the lessons learnt.

## 3.7 Conclusion

Rainfall data for this event has concluded that a significant amount of rain fell on to an already saturated area with approximately a 1 in 30 year return period.

The flooding mechanism appears to be overtopping of the flood defence at a low spot as well as the surface water system being unable to discharge into swollen rivers.

Key Points in relation to the flooding:

- It was a prolonged and heavy rainfall event
- The land that flooded is low lying
- The levels in the main river were high due to the rainfall
- Reduced maintenance of the Brooks may have contributed to the high water levels
- The drainage system was unable to discharge.

However, there are a number of recommendations that we would make in order to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding in the future.

## 3.8 Recommendations

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	Investigate installing flap valves/non return systems on the outfalls that discharge into Dover's Brook and the River Alt.	Sefton MBC
2	Environment Agency should engage in further discussions with the riparian owner at Dover's Bridge about raising the embankment, to raise the low point	Environment Agency

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	in the defence.	
3	Council to discuss with the farmer any more suitable measures to stop surface water flowing from the field into the highway.	Sefton MBC
4	Environment Agency to explore the feasibility of expanding the flood warning service for this area	Environment Agency

## 4.0 Hawksworth Drive, Formby

### 4.1 Site Location

Hawksworth Drive is a small residential cul-de-sac adjacent to Eight Acre Brook on the northern side of Formby bordering Woodvale.

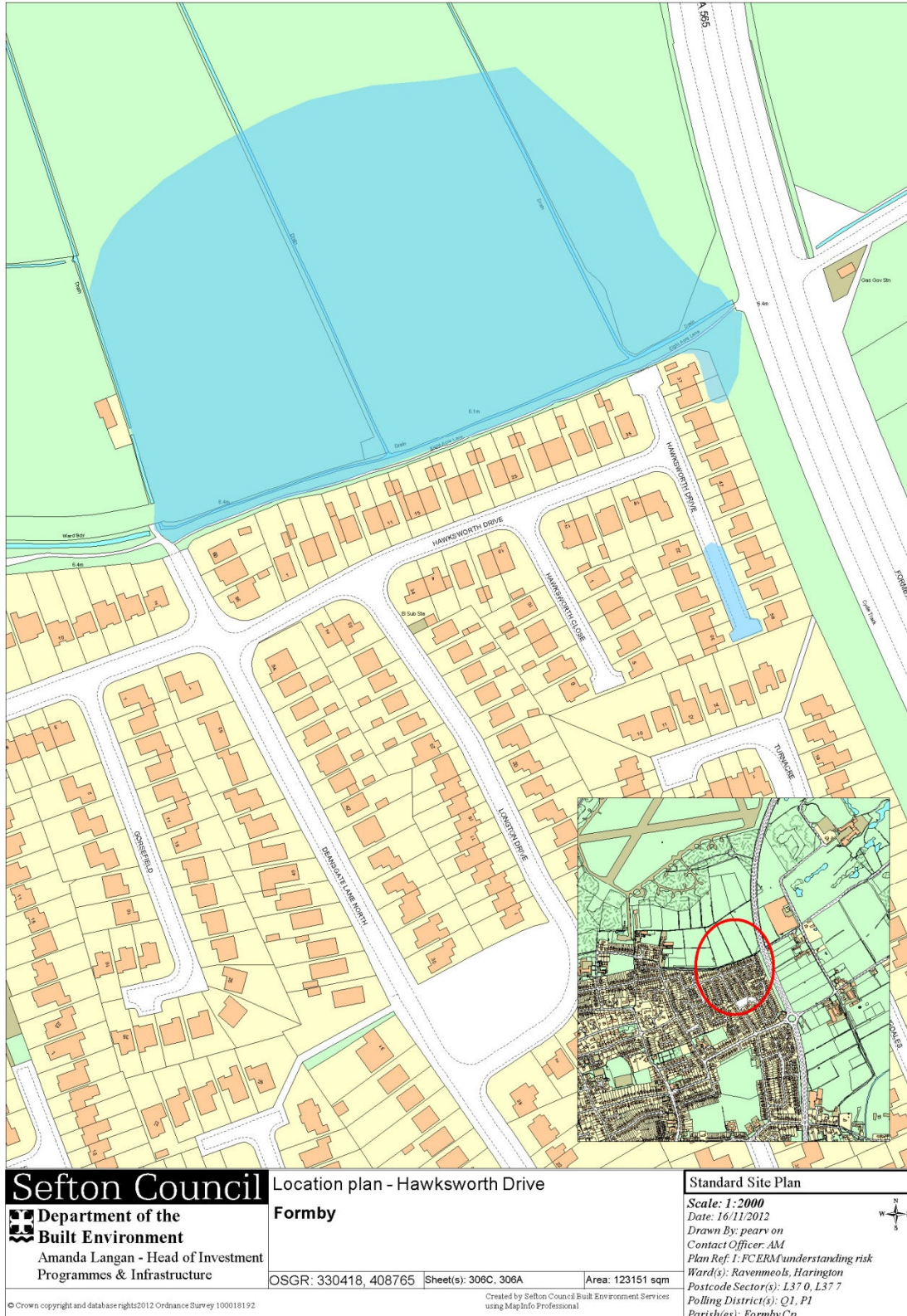


Figure 16: Site location and flooding extent

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## 4.2 How the Drainage System Works

Conventional urban drainage systems are made up of a complex network of sewer pipes, overflows, gullies and culverts (covered watercourses). Ownership and duties are split between various agencies and landowners. On an individual property level, rain falls on to roofs, gardens and driveways and makes its way through the gutters and channels to the drain. The less porous the surface the rain lands on the quicker the water enters the drainage system.

Where drains from individual properties connect together, the responsibility for maintenance transfers from the householder to the sewerage undertaker and is deemed to be a public sewer, this may then discharge into a surface water sewer, a foul sewer, or a combined sewer system (Foul and Surface water) or possibly a watercourse.

Rain that falls on the highway collects at the side of the road at the kerb and is channelled to the gullies and is piped away to either a public sewer or in some cases directly to a watercourse. Sefton Council are responsible for the drainage of local roads and public highways.

Surface water from the area is discharged via the public sewer (shown as the blue line on the Figure 17) into Eight Acre Brook, which is a main river and as such the Environment Agency exercise permissive powers to inspect and maintain it.



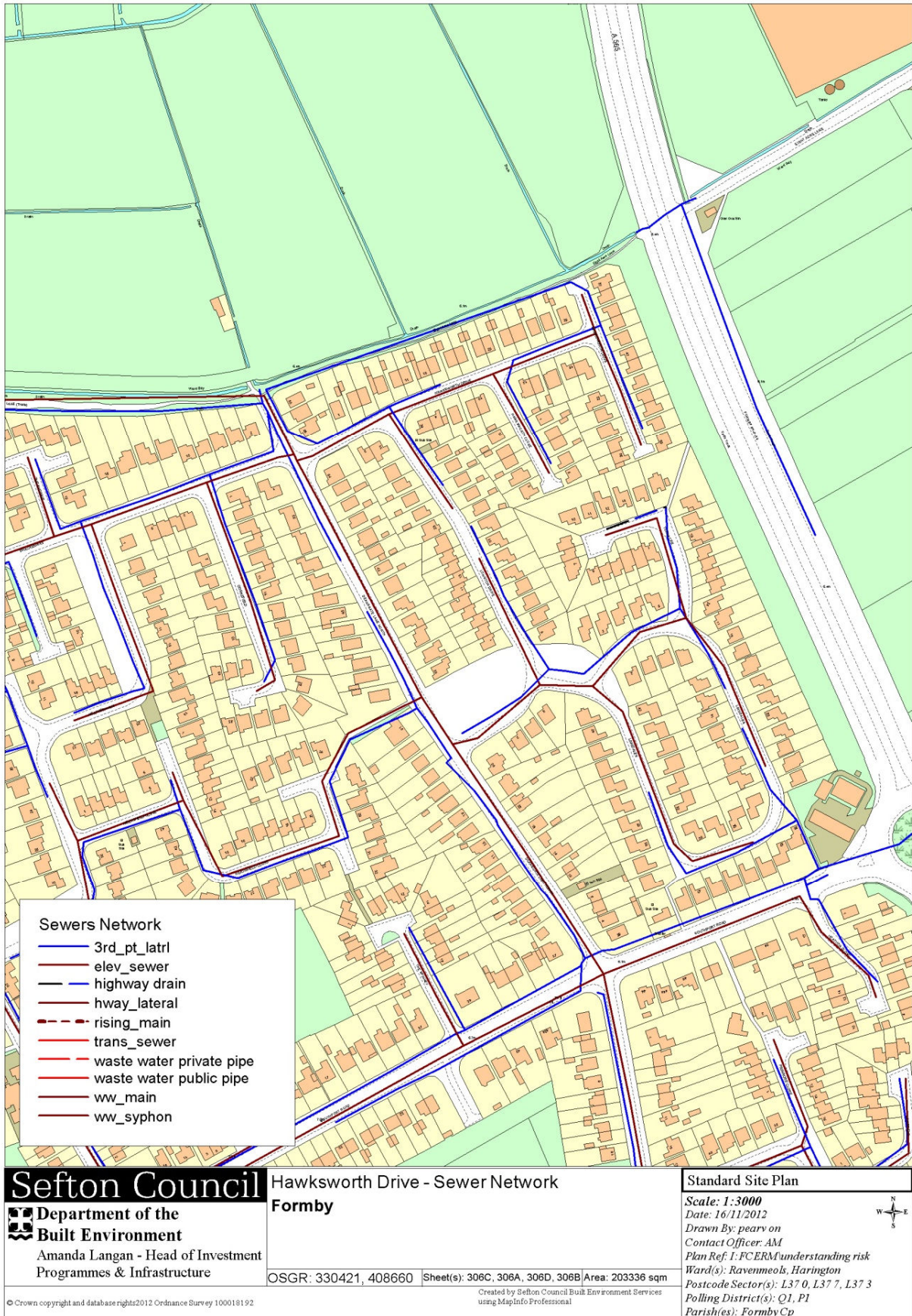


Figure 17: Hawksworth Drive Sewer Network

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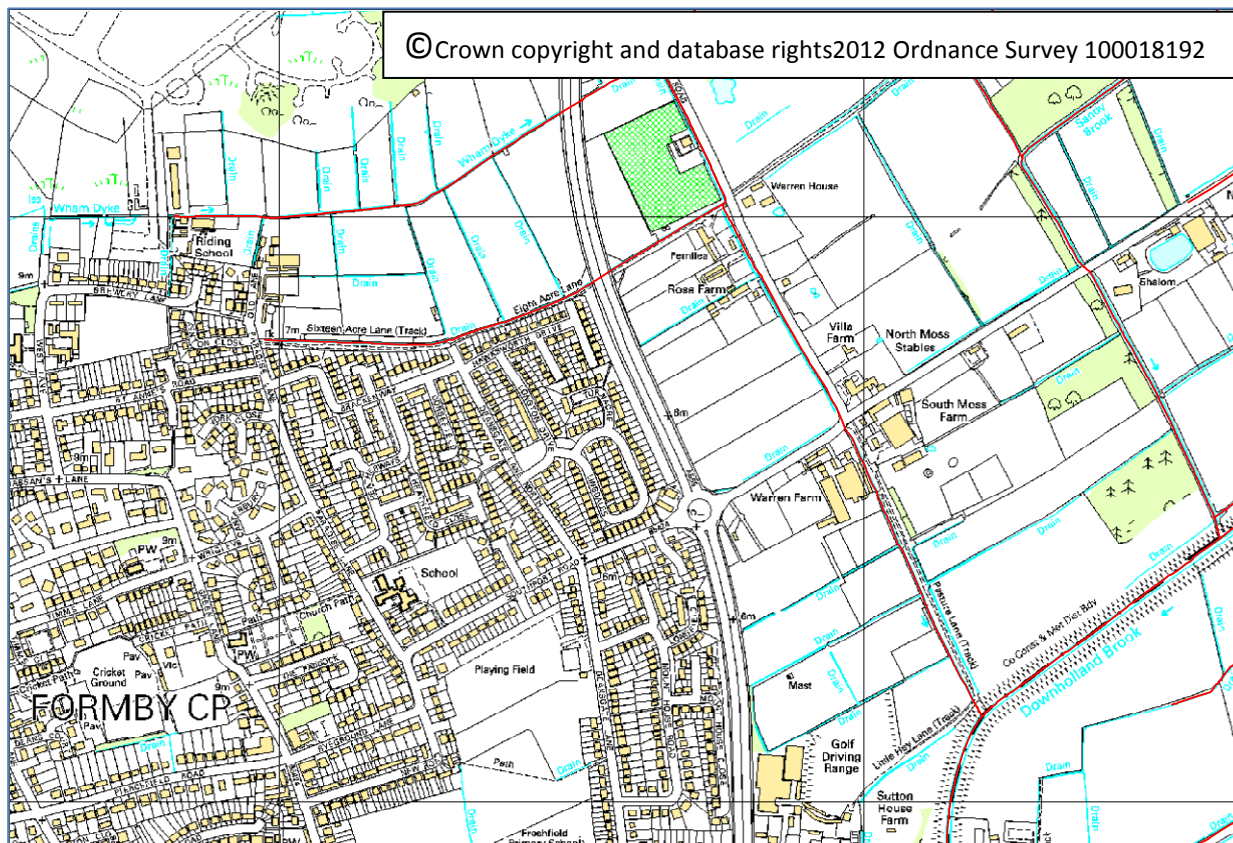


Figure 18: showing the extent of the main rivers

Eight Acre Brook flows easterly where it joins Whams Dyke (see figure 18) and then into Downholland Brook and the River Alt and discharges into the Mersey Estuary via Almouth Pumping Station at Hightown.

## 4.3 Flooding History

### 4.3.1 Previous Flood Events

The area is shown as at risk in the Councils Surface Water Management Plan but is not identified as being at flood risk on the Environment Agency's extreme flood zone maps and the Council has no records of this area flooding.

## 4.4 Flood Incident

The flood event was preceded by heavy persistent rain that continued during the flood event, this followed a particularly wet summer that had left the ground saturated. The full details of the rainfall event are in appendix 1.

There were 2 sources of flooding in this area.

The first source was from the surface water system not being able to discharge into Eight Acre Brook due to high levels. The impact of this was that 4 properties were flooded and there was some minor damage to the highway around a gully.



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The second source of flooding came from Eight Acre Brook overtopping the embankment close to the A565. This water pooled behind the defence and flowed along the footpath.

The council first became aware of a problem at Hawksworth Drive at 16.40 on the 25/09/2012 when a member of public called to "Request for sandbags due to possible further flooding." Forty sandbags were dispatched to the area and a member of Sefton Security was also sent to monitor the situation. The Council contractor was also sent to remove the excess water off the highway.



*Figures 19 and 20: show the flooded area, both taken on the 25/09/2012*



## **4.5 How Did the Flood Happen?**

The probable cause was that Eight Acre Brook was high, due to the significant amount of rainfall, which "tide" locked the highway drainage system which in turn was unable to discharge. Once the pipes had reached their capacity the water started to flow from the gullies into the highway, the water then pooled and found a low point in the pavement line and flowed down into the properties. It is not known by the Council at this time as to whether there are flap valves on the outfalls here, further investigation is required.

The flooding along the footpath was again caused by high river levels in Eight Acre Brook. The water level rose to a sufficient height that it was able to overtop the flood embankment at a low point close to the culvert under the A565.

## **4.6 Roles and Responsibilities**

The full roles and responsibilities of the Council, Environment Agency and United Utilities are set out in appendix 3 but in relation to this event the key points are:

At this point in time it is not known if the Environment Agency or United Utilities had received any telephone calls about this area or attended this incident.

Sefton Council have a role under the Civil Contingencies act and discharged this in relation to checking on and where necessary supporting the welfare of

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residents affected by the flooding. The Council had officers present to support the efforts to manage the flood water and supplied sand bags and gully suckers. The Council discharged its roles and responsibilities although it should review its operational plan for such events to revise based on the lessons learnt.

## 4.7 Conclusion

Rainfall data for this event has concluded that a significant amount of rain fell on to an already saturated area with approximately a 1 in 30 year return period.

The flooding appears to be a result of the high river levels in Eight Acre Brook, tide locking the surface water drainage system and overtopping close to the A565.

Key Points in relation to the flooding:

- It was a prolonged and heavy rainfall event
- The land that flooded is low lying
- The levels in the main river were high due to the rainfall
- Reduced maintenance of the Brook may have contributed to the high water levels
- The system was unable to discharge
- The Brook overtopped at a low point in the embankment

However, there are a number of recommendations that we would make in order to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding in the future.

## 4.8 Recommendations

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	Co-ordination of maintenance priorities and works between the Risk Management Authorities	Environment Agency
2	The level of the low spot in the embankment should be raised to the same level as the rest of the embankment.	Environment Agency
4	Investigate if there are flap valves/non return systems on the outfalls into Eight Acre Brook. And if not, consider the merit of installing them.	United Utilities





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## 5. Water Street, Thornton

### 5.1 Site Location

Water Street is a residential road in the middle of Thornton, close to the greenbelt.



Figure 20: Water Street, Thornton - location plan

## 5.2 How the Drainage System Works

Conventional urban drainage systems are made up of a complex network of sewer pipes, overflows, gullies and culverts (covered watercourses). Ownership and duties are split between various agencies and landowners. On an individual property level, rain falls on to roofs, gardens and driveways and makes its way through the gutters and channels to the drain. The less porous the surface the rain lands on the quicker the water enters the drainage system.

Where drains from individual properties connect together, the responsibility for maintenance transfers from the householder to the sewerage undertaker and is deemed to be a public sewer, this may then discharge into a surface water sewer, a foul sewer, or a combined sewer system (Foul and Surface water) or possibly a watercourse.

Rain that falls on the highway collects at the side of the road at the kerb and is channelled to the gullies and is piped away to either a public sewer or in some cases directly to a watercourse. Sefton Council are responsible for the drainage of local roads and public highways.

Surface water from the area is discharged either directly from the highway drains or via the public sewer (shown as the blue line on the Figure 20), into a piped watercourse that flows from Runnels Lane to Brook Road and discharges into a watercourse which flows into Hunts Brook and then into the River Alt and then into the Mersey Estuary via Altmouth Pumping Station at Hightown.



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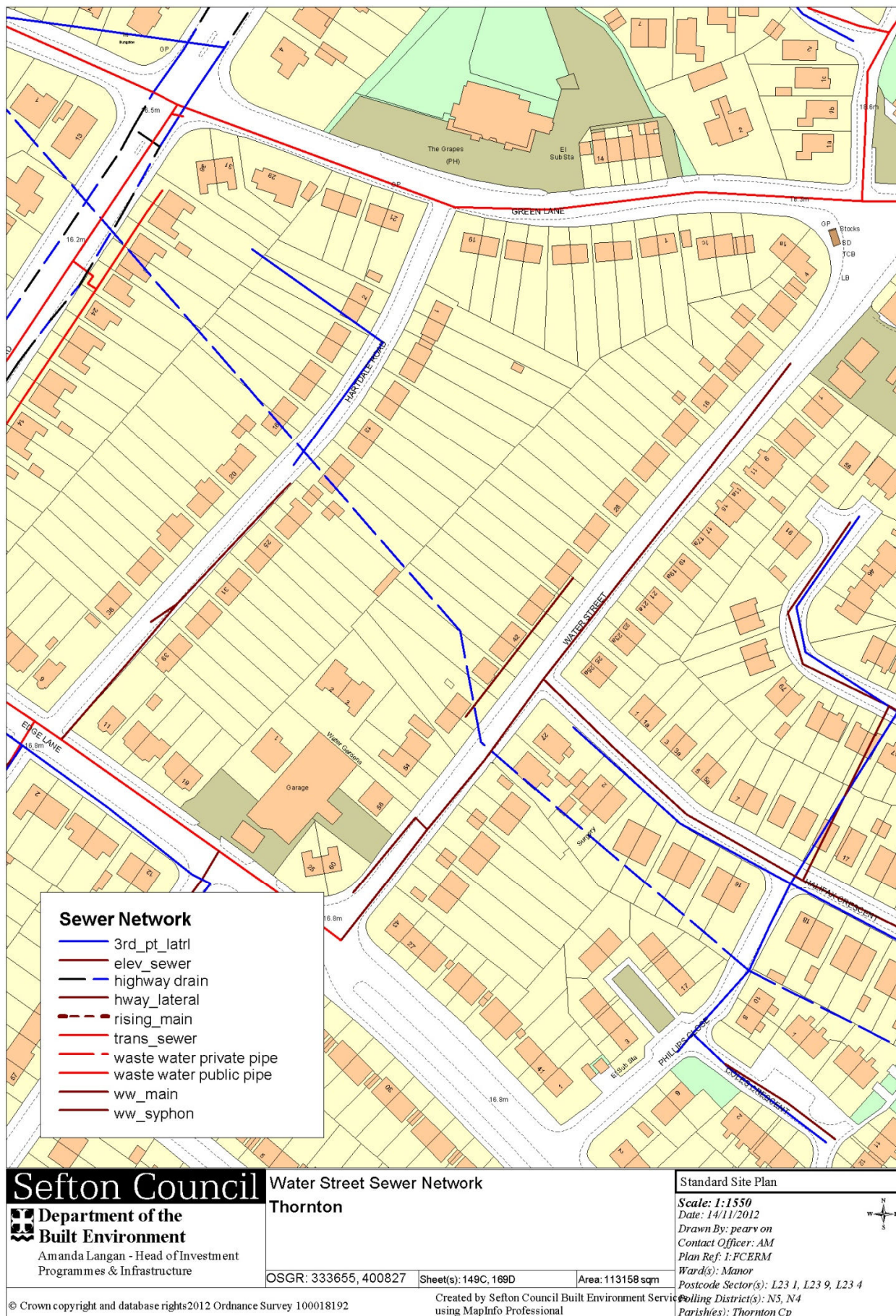


Figure 21: Water Street, Thornton – sewer network

## 5.3 Flooding History

### 5.3.1 Previous Flood Events

This area is prone to flooding and has a history of frequent flooding, this year alone Water Street has been inundated 4 times. The photograph below (figure 22) shows the extent of flooding on Water Street taken during an incident in July 2010.



*Figures 22: showing the flooded area, taken in July 2010*

### 5.3.2 Flood Incident

The flood event was preceded by heavy persistent rain that continued during the flood event, this followed a particularly wet summer that had left the ground saturated. The full details of the rainfall event are in appendix 1.

The initial source of flooding is from the surface water drains not being able to discharge into the piped watercourse, this leads to puddles forming around the gullies. Subsequently the flooding surcharges the manholes, firstly Water Street and then Hartdale Road.

The impact was of internal flooding to at least 1 property with gardens and out buildings also flooded.

The Council upon becoming aware of the flooding sent sandbags and put signs across the road advising drivers of the flood water.

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## 5.3.3 How did the flood happen?

Prior to the August flooding the Council had undertaken hydraulic modelling of the piped watercourse. The width of the culvert got narrower down stream of Water Street and this constriction led to water backing up within the system and eventually surcharging the manholes located within Water Street. This flooding then rose to a level which was sufficient to cause internal flooding.

After the August flooding the Council carried out a cctv survey of the culvert which showed that a section of pipe had completely collapsed and is now exploring options to resolve this and increase the capacity of the system.

## 5.4 Roles and Responsibilities

The Council had officers present to support the efforts to manage the flood water and supplied sand bags and flood warning signs. The Council discharged its roles and responsibilities although it should review its operational plan for such events based on the lessons learnt.

## 5.5 Conclusion

Rainfall data for this event has concluded that a significant amount of rain fell on to an already saturated area with approximately a 1 in 30 year return period.

Given the evidence collated for this investigation it is accepted that the council as the sole Risk Management Authority involved did discharge its duties as appropriate.

The flooding mechanism appears to be insufficient capacity of the culvert due to the collapse of it near Brook Road.

Key Points in relation to the flooding:

- It was a prolonged and heavy rainfall event
- The drainage system is not working effectively.

## Recommendations

Number	Recommendation	Lead Risk Management Authority
1	The Council will continue to work towards a solution that remedies defects (including the collapsed pipe) and increases capacity for this area within financial constraints.	Sefton MBC



## 6. Moss Lane, Lydiate

### 6.1 Site Location

Moss Lane is situated on the rural outskirts of Lydiate, close to the boundary with West Lancashire District Council.

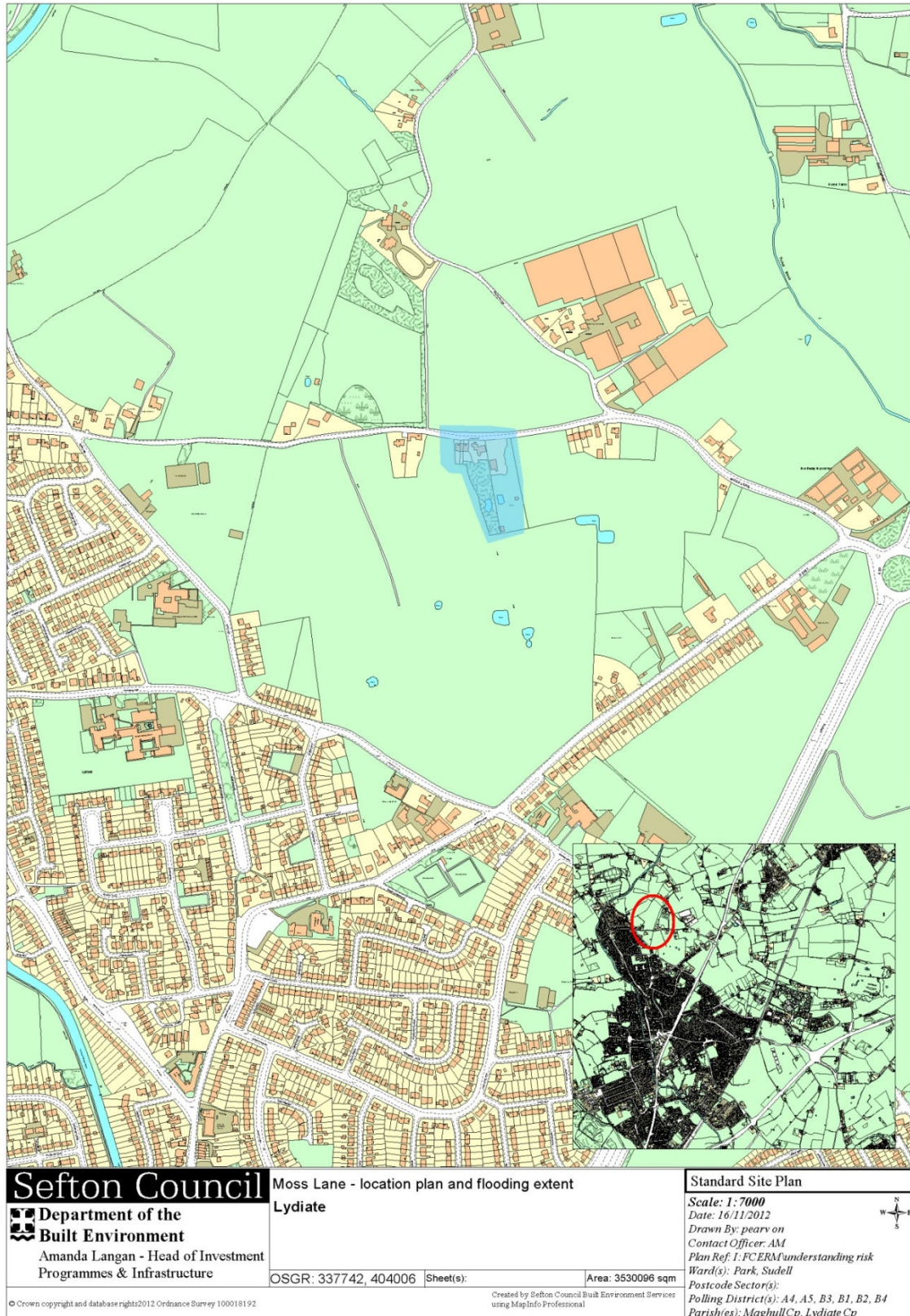


Figure 23: Site location and flooding extent

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## **6.2 How the Drainage System Works**

Due to its rural location there is no public sewer system, the rainwater drains via the watercourses that cross the area. There is a small watercourse that flows north which drains the properties on Moss Lane and the adjacent agricultural land. Close to the properties the watercourse enters a culvert and flows under the highway before discharging into Sudell Brook (which is classed as main river). The fields to the south of the properties are higher and water falling on this area contributes to the flow in the watercourse.

## **6.3 Flooding History**

### **6.3.1 Previous Flood Events**

There is a history of frequent flooding for this area dating back to 2001. One of the more significant floods was in 2008 when there was an extreme rainfall event which led to excessive internal flooding to 8 properties in Moss Lane, with flood depths of over 600mm. Apart from internal flooding to properties, the floodwater affected the high-grade agricultural land and led to collapses in the highway due to floodwater washing away structural elements of the carriageway.

### **6.3.2 Flood Incident**

Following a prolonged period of rainfall water draining from the fields was sufficient to overwhelm the drainage system causing it to overflow. The water overflowing from the drainage system found its way to the properties following the natural ground contours.

The impact was of internal flooding to at least 1 property with gardens and out buildings also flooded.

The Council upon becoming aware of the flooding sent sandbags. Unfortunately this was not sufficient so after receiving a phone call from a resident on the afternoon of the 24<sup>th</sup> pumps were also sent to help. The combination of sandbags and pumping limited the impact of the event to residents.

## **6.4 How did the flood happen?**

The capacity of the culvert which the watercourse flows into was not sufficient to handle the flow during this event. The watercourse serving the agricultural land at the rear of the even numbered properties in Moss lane connects to this culvert near to 68 Moss Lane. This culvert is inadequate for flows of this magnitude and this leads to flooding as storm water backs up and overflows the banks of the open ditch affecting the farmed fields, residential properties and the highway.

Moss Lane is served by a 150mm and a 225mm culvert that connects into the 450mm diameter pipe at the junction with the A59-North Road. It is not known if the culvert capacity was ever sufficient for these types of flows or whether something has changed upstream to affect the rate of discharge from the land.



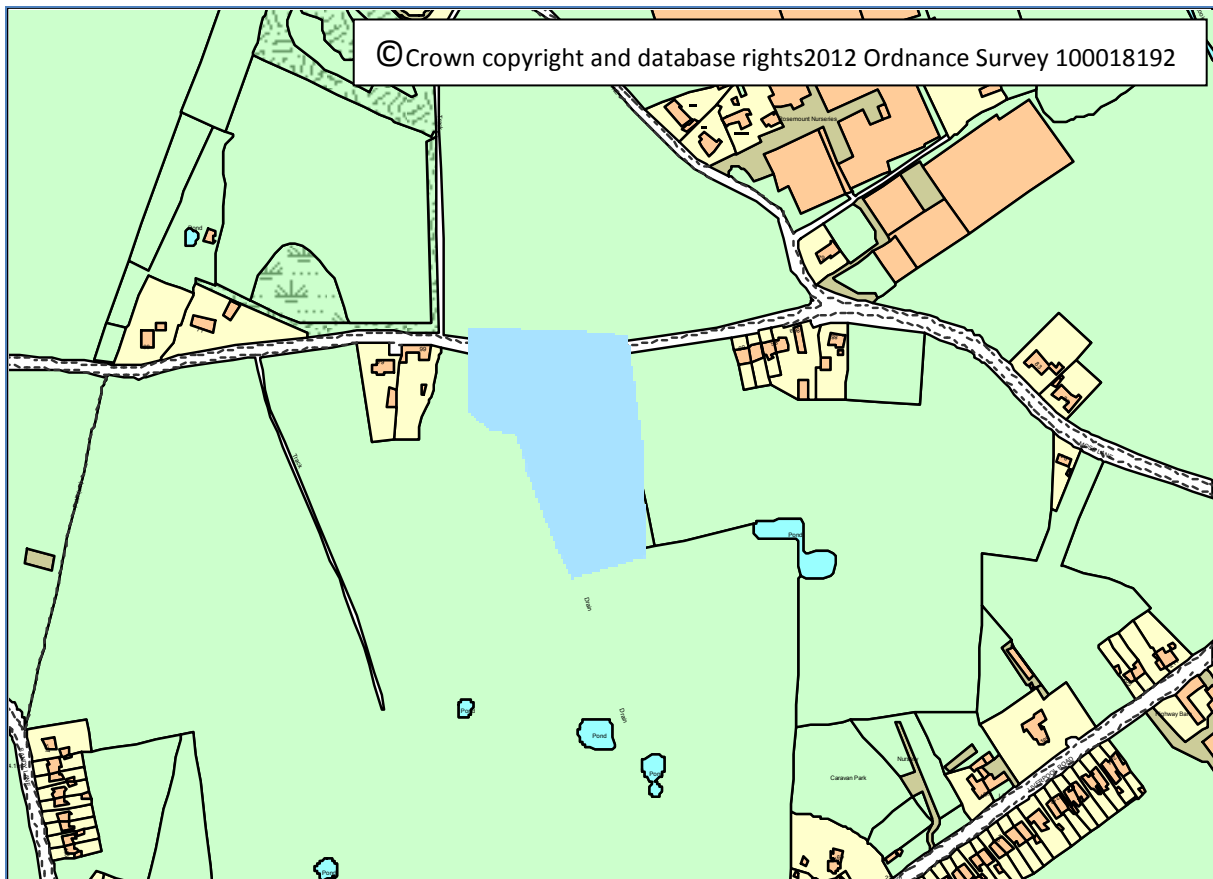


Figure 24: map showing the approximate flood envelope

## 6.5 Roles and Responsibilities

The Council had officers present to support the efforts to manage the flood water and supplied sand bags and pumping equipment. The Council discharged its roles and responsibilities although it should review its operational plan for such events based on the lessons learnt.

## 6.6 Conclusion

Rainfall data for this event has concluded that a significant amount of rain fell on to an already saturated area with approximately a 1 in 30 year return period.

Given the evidence collated for this investigation it is accepted that the Council as the sole Risk Management Authority involved did discharge its duties as appropriate.

The flooding mechanism appears to be insufficient capacity of the culvert that runs behind the even numbered properties on Moss Lane.

Key Points in relation to the flooding:

- It was a prolonged and heavy rainfall event
- The land that flooded is low lying
- There are multiple landowners responsible for the drainage system

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However, there are a number of recommendations that we would make in order to reduce the likelihood and impact of flooding in the future.

## Recommendations

<b>Number</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>Lead Risk Management Authority</b>
1	Discuss the issues with the riparian land owners and seek to negotiate a solution	Sefton MBC

## 7. Overall Conclusions / Lessons Learnt

- 7.1 It is clear that the rainfall event of 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012 was exceptional, came during an extended period of exceptionally wet weather when the ground was already heavily saturated and river / brook levels high. While the rainfall itself amounted to a one year in thirty event, combined with other factors, it created an extreme scenario. Add to the fact that the areas affected are low lying and in essence a flood event was to some extent unavoidable,
- 7.2 As Lead Local Flood Authority, the Council's duty is to investigate flood events. As Highway Authority, the Council's role is to keep the highway clear. In terms of civil contingencies, the council's role is to ensure that the welfare of residents / those affected by such events, is considered.
- 7.3 The main responsibilities for addressing emergency flood issues rest with the Fire and Rescue Service, United Utilities and the Environment Agency. It is clear that all agencies attended the sites affected during the event and all fulfilled their minimum statutory responsibilities and, together with the Council's actions, prevented more homes being affected by floodwater.
- 7.4 In addition to the weather events and ground conditions being exceptional, two other major factors contributed towards the flooding events;
- Inadequate drainage systems
  - Poorly maintained infrastructure limiting capacity
- 7.5 The Council is responsible for highway drainage and it is clear that regular maintenance is required in order to maintain capacity and also, where outfalls to adjacent brooks exist, that non return systems are fitted in order to prevent 'backflow' when brook levels become raised.
- 7.6 The Environment Agency have permissive powers to maintain those watercourses that are designated as Main Rivers. However, their powers are not mandatory.
- 7.7 Owners with Riparian duties have responsibilities for;
- maintaining watercourse beds and banks;
  - allowing the flow of water to pass without obstruction;
  - controlling invasive alien species such as Japanese knotweed.
- 7.8 United Utilities is responsible for maintaining water supply pipework and public sewerage system.
- 7.9 While the report concludes that each agency undertook their role in an acceptable manner, it is incumbent upon all affected agencies that the reasons for the flood events are determined and corrective action put in place so as to mitigate future events. In pursuance of this, the Council will discuss with the agencies concerned a plan of action intended to improve drainage and reduce the likelihood of flood events.

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- 7.10 The council will also discuss with private owners with Riparian duties the actions that they require to undertake in order to prevent a repeat of flooding should similar events re-occur in the future.
- 7.11 A programme of work related to highway drainage will be developed and considered by Cabinet Members for Environment and Transportation, both of whom have a role to play in flood events. Meetings will be convened with the other named agencies in order to agree a wider response and joint action plan in order to prevent / mitigate future flood events.
- 7.12 In terms of the Council's emergency response, each major event is analysed subsequently in order to ascertain if the Council needs to review its approach. In this case, it appears that the response was effective, with teams on the ground during the evening of the event pumping water and providing sandbags, with welfare teams offering alternative accommodation. Follow up responses included the provision of further advice and assistance on a range of issues relating to flood recovery and insurance and financial issues.
- 7.13 Ultimately, it was the severity and longevity of rainfall, exacerbated by existing saturated ground and high river levels, that led to flood events that affected the borough. While improved maintenance of infrastructure, together with effective co-ordination between the relevant agencies will improve the response and mitigate the impact of severe weather events, the low lying nature of the area and increased frequency of extreme weather events does mean that future events of this nature cannot be ruled out.

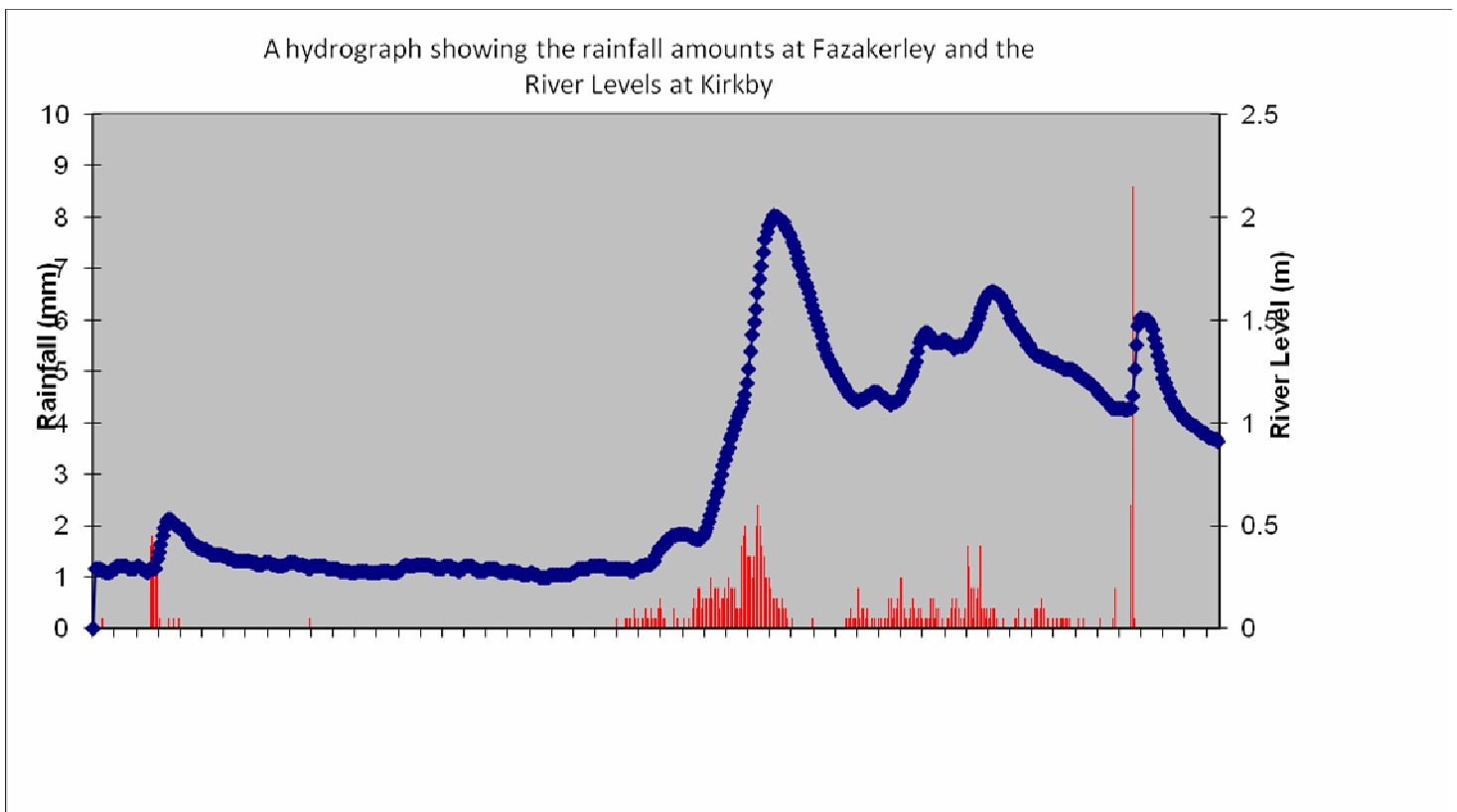
## Appendix 1

### Description of weather event for the 24<sup>th</sup> September 2012

The flood guidance statement on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2012 forecast "heavy, persistent rain from Sunday to Tuesday with significant disruption possible across much of England and Wales." At this point the alert level was raised to yellow. At 06.00 on the 24<sup>th</sup> September the alert level was raised to amber (medium risk). At 10.49 on the 24<sup>th</sup> the Environment Agency issued a Flood Alert for the Alt catchment.

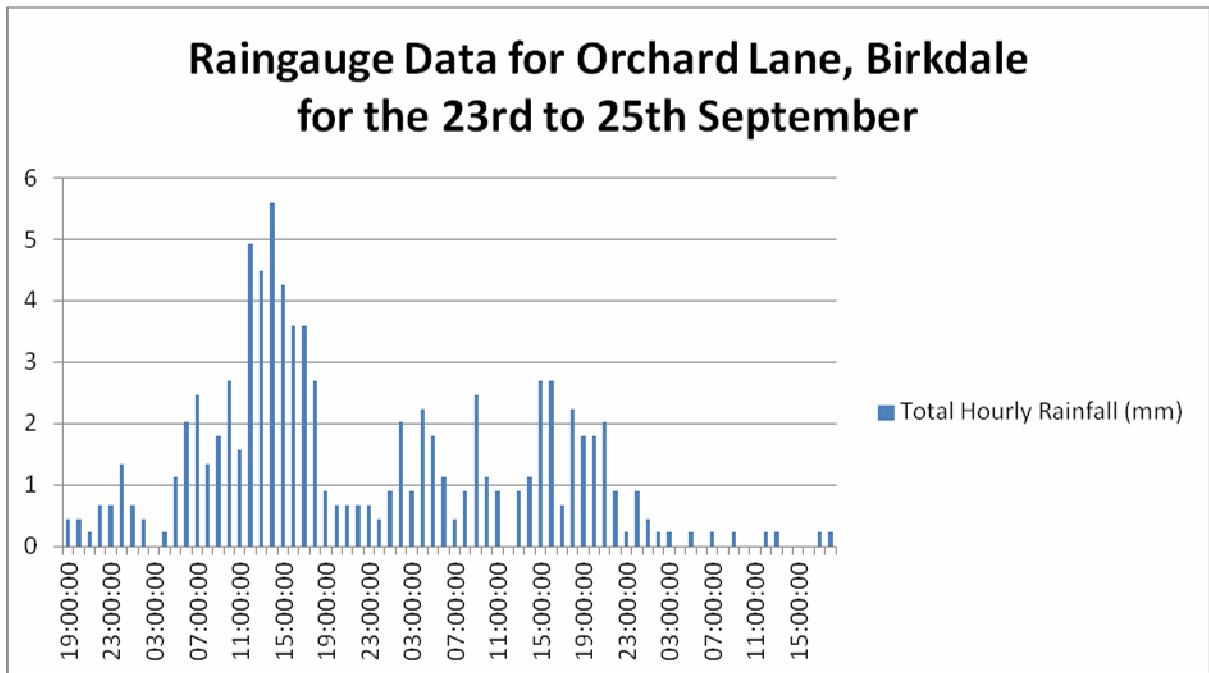
The rainfall started at 18.45 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> September the peak rate was 1.98mm in 15mins achieved at 12.45 on the 24<sup>th</sup>. The total amount of rainfall recorded at Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre raingauge for this event was 55.74mm. Whilst the total amount of rainfall recorded at Orchard Lane, Birkdale, raingauge, was 86.4mm. Whilst the EA raingauge at Fazakerley recorded 89mm in 60 hours giving an approximate 1 in 35 year return period.

In response to the heavy rainfall the River Alts levels, measured at the Environment Agency's Kirkby gauging station, rose from 0.285m at 21.00 on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and peaked at 2.01m at 15.45 on the 24<sup>th</sup> September, as shown in the graph below.



NB all gauging times are GMT.

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## Appendix 2

### Timeline of event for Fouracres

24/09

16.00 According to the EA NIRS records, a Site Controller arrived at Fouracres.

19.30 EA Site Controller called Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service (MFRS)

20.00 MFRS on site holding a fire bronze meeting at 20:00.

23.00 SMBC arrive on site

25/09

\*It was reported that the emergency services were on site at 01.00 and had opened some manhole covers and had started pumping.

02.30 UU arrived on site and checked their assets and there was no fault at that time and were informed the river had burst its banks and after speaking to a number of residents left site.

05.00 Scottish Power cut the power to the road after an Operational Coordinating Group meeting, with Police, Fire, SMBC and Scottish Power

08.00 SMBC Core Crisis Team arrived to check on householders looking for vulnerable people who may require assistance.

12.02 SMBC FCERM Officers arrive MFRS pump hoses being directed straight into Whinney Brook.

13.00 MFRS disinfect and remove pumps.

14.00 Multi Agency meeting held at Magdalen House, Bootle, SMBC, MFRS and Police attend.

15.30 EA site controller reports Brook close to breaching/overtopping.

16.00 SMBC FCERM officers arrive back on site

16.48 EA order 2 pumps.

17.00 Power restored to Fouracres.

18.00 FCERM officers leave site and head to Moss Lane, then Hawksworth Drive.

18.30 Core Crisis team back at site – maybe earlier

19.15 FCERM officers return to Fouracres

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19.20 Sandbags arrived from Town Council

19.40 Sandbags arrive from SMBC

19.30 EA pumps arrive

21.30 EA pumps are activated.

23.45 SMBC staff leave the site.

26/09

08.30 SMBC staff back at Four Acres

11.00 SMBC made aware of foul sewer flooding at the Crescent

11.30 MFRS return to assist with further pumping, but as water had receded and Council pumps were on site, MFRS were thanked for their offer and left site

13.00 EA and SMBC staff discuss issues all known flooding in Sefton

14.00 SMBC staff leave site

27/09

08.15 SMBC staff on site

10.00 SMBC staff turn 1 pump off due to no water being present in the pipe

11.40 SMBC staff leave site

28/09

08.30 SMBC arrive on site, both pumps now off.

09.00 SMBC leave site

10.00 EA email SMBC to report one pump being removed.

10.30 Resident Clive phones AM to say HIAB are on site to remove both pumps and he is worried with the heavy rainfall forecast for the weekend.

10.35 AM calls EA to explain the situation, both pumps are left on site.

29/09

08.45 SMBC staff arrive on site, UU engineer already on site at No.41. Pumps off



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09.45 SMBC staff leave site

18.30 SMBC staff arrive and leave site after brief inspection

30/09

09.00 SMBC staff arrive on site and leave site after brief inspection

16.15 SMBC staff arrive on site and walk down Whinney Brook

17.30 SMBC staff leave site after brief inspection

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## **Appendix 3**

### **Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **Sefton MBC**

As a Lead Local Flood Authority, Sefton MBC has a lead role and responsibility for overseeing local flood risk management in respect of surface water, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.

Under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 Sefton have the powers to:

- commission works to manage flood risk from surface runoff or groundwater
- request information from any person in connection with the authority's flood and coastal erosion risk management functions
- give consent for any changes to ordinary watercourses
- designate any features which have a significant impact on flood risk so they cannot be removed or replaced without consent
- ensure that developments drain in a manner which does not increase flood risk elsewhere, as well as trying to reduce the risk of flooding wherever possible.

Sefton also has the duties to:

- record flood assets and identify those responsible for maintaining them
- work with organisations such as the Environment Agency and United Utilities to develop a local flood risk management strategy for managing surface runoff, groundwater and ordinary watercourses.
- record, investigate and publish reports on significant floods in the borough

Sefton also has responsibilities as a Planning Authority, Highways Authority and a Maritime Authority.

As the Lead Local Flood Authority the council is carrying out the flood investigation. The council is also leading on Recovery with the assistance of the other Risk Management Authorities.

#### **Environment Agency**

The Environment Agency has the role of implementing government policy on flood risk, and has a strategic overview of coastal erosion and flooding from all sources.

The EA has responsibilities for its flood defences and powers and duties relating to the drainage, maintenance and operations of the main rivers. Its overall aim is to reduce the risk of flooding from main rivers and the sea. The EA has the duty to produce flood risk maps and issue flood warnings.

The EA develops a number of management plans to understand the threat of flooding, and plan for the sustainable management of those risks over the long-term. It is also a statutory consultee to the development planning process and certain planning applications that affect its interests.

## **United Utilities**

United Utilities will:

- In exercising flood risk management have regard to local and national strategies and guidance.
  - Co-operate with other relevant authorities in the exercise of their flood risk management functions.
  - Share appropriate information with another relevant authority.
  - Comply with requests made by an overview and scrutiny committee for information or response to a report.
  - Have regard to reports and recommendations of an overview and scrutiny committee.
- 
- More generally in relation to sewer flooding; United Utilities will:
  - Provide & maintain sewers for the drainage of buildings and associated paved areas within property boundaries.
  - Implement a prioritised programme of investment to address underlying hydraulic issues.
  - Offer a prioritised response to sewer flooding based on whether such problems are affecting a property internally or externally and subject to work/incident volumes.
  - When attending sewer flooding incidents make all efforts to reactively resolve operational problems such as blockages etc. within one visit. Where this is not possible necessary further work will be carried out in such a manner as to attempt to avoid any repeat incident.
  - When sewer flooding is caused by overloaded sewers, i.e. no operational defect present, United Utilities will clean up as flood waters subside.
  - For all types of sewer flooding; external hard surfaced areas will be cleaned and disinfected and internally flooded property occupants will be offered an assisted clean up service.
  - All sewer flooding incidents will be investigated by at least undertaking a CCTV survey of the local sewer network.
  - Where upon inspection it is established that the flooding is not connected with United Utilities assets our representatives will advise customers accordingly and direct them to the responsible party or authority where known.
  - United Utilities will not carry out work in connection with assets for which they are not responsible.

## **Riparian Owners**

Under common law, a riparian owner is someone who has a watercourse within or adjacent to a boundary of their property. Where a watercourse is sited between two or more property boundaries each owner may be equally responsible.

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Under the Flood and Water Management Act, riparian owners retain all the duties and responsibilities for watercourses on their land as set out in the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Riparian landowners have certain rights and responsibilities, including the following:

- i. They must maintain the bed and banks of the watercourse, and also the trees and shrubs growing on the banks.
- ii. They must clear any debris, even if it did not originate from their land, this debris may be natural or man-made.
- iii. They must keep any structures that they own clear of debris. These structures include culverts, trash screens, weirs and mill gates.
- iv. If they do not carry out their responsibilities, they could face legal action under the Land Drainage Act 1991.

Riparian landowners must be aware that any works in, over or under a watercourse, require formal consent from Sefton MBC for Ordinary Watercourses and the Environment Agency for Main Rivers.

More information regarding riparian Rights and Duties can be found in the Environment Agency document titled "[Living on the Edge](#)"

## **Residents**

Residents are encouraged to understand the flood risk in their local area, or may encounter during their daily routine i.e. routes to work etc, and have a flood plan to steer their response in times of flooding to reduce the consequences of flooding.

It is recommended that residents sign up to appropriate warnings for their area and when and where possible alert neighbours to the risks. When flooding does occur residents are encouraged to document as much information as possible to aid the investigations of all operating authorities and to provide information to their loss adjusters and insurers.

It should be noted that land owners/householders have a responsibility to prevent surface water runoff flowing onto neighbouring land.



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# PRELIMINARY FLOOD RISK ASSESSMENT Preliminary Assessment Report



Sefton Metropolitan Borough  
Council  
May 2011





## Revision Schedule

### DOCUMENT INFORMATION

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Amendments following initial review	Philip Raynor		1.4

### AUTHOR

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Name	Title	Signature	Date

### DISTRIBUTION

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Claire Bursnoll	Merseyside Flood Risk Management Co-ordinator

### RELATED DOCUMENTS

Doc Ref	Document Title	Author	Date of Issue	Version

## Executive Summary

### **Background**

This report has been prepared for Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Sefton MBC) primarily to deliver the first step of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009).

Sefton MBC is defined as a Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) under the Flood Risk Regulations (the Regulations). The first step of the Regulations is for LLFAs to produce undertake a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA), comprising this document, the supporting spreadsheet and GIS layers that show areas that are at flood risk. The timetable for production of PFRAs and subsequent documents and strategies is defined by the Floods Directive. Some of the information within this report will also assist Sefton MBC to manage local flood risk, in accordance with their duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 (the Act).

The PFRA process is aimed at providing a high level overview of past and future flood risk within a local area, primarily considering surface water, groundwater, ordinary watercourses and canals. The methodology for producing this PFRA has been based on the EA's Final PFRA Guidance and Defra's Guidance on selecting Flood Risk Areas, both published in December 2010.

The assessment of historical flooding is based on records collated by Sefton MBC and also historical flood outlines provided by the EA. The assessment of future flooding has been based on national datasets provided by the Environment Agency. The EA's Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (ASStWF) dataset is the agreed local surface water information used to assess the consequences of future flooding. Surface water flooding is the source of flooding that is expected to have the most significant consequences across Sefton when compared to other local sources of flooding.

### **Indicative Flood Risk Areas**

At a national level, the Environment Agency has used a methodology that was set out by Defra to identify broad indicative Flood Risk Areas across England where flooding could result in 'significant harmful consequences'. Ten indicative Flood Risk Areas have been identified and of the ten one is for Liverpool, including parts of the Sefton administrative area that lie within the southern part of the borough (Crosby, Sefton & Maghull).

Significant harmful consequences were assessed at a national scale and are based on a set of National Indicators developed by Defra:

- Human health – 30,000 people or 150 critical services (e.g. schools, hospitals, etc) impacted;
- Economic activity – 3,000 non-residential businesses impacted; and
- Impacts on environmental designations, heritage sites and with a risk of pollution.

LLFAs have been free to develop their own relevant thresholds, based on these indicators, for events that are considered to represent locally significant consequences.

### **Review of Indicative Flood Risk Areas**

Information relating to past flood events, caused by flooding from local sources, was collated and analysed. Comprehensive details on the extents of flooding and therefore consequences of these events were largely unavailable, however, based on the evidence that was collected, eleven past flood events could be determined with any certainty to have had 'significant harmful consequences' at the local scale. Details have been included in Annex 1 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet.

Following consultation with the Environment Agency and United Utilities (UU), the Flood Risk Area boundary originally identified by the EA in the Sefton MBC study area has been amended slightly to reflect five areas that have been identified to be at significant local flood risk.

## Glossary

Term	Definition
Aquifer	Water bearing rock, sand or gravel capable of yielding significant quantities of water.
Asset Management Plan (AMP)	In the context of water services, a plan for managing water and sewerage company (WaSC) infrastructure and other assets in order to deliver an agreed standard of service.
AStSWF	Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding – The first generation broad scale national mapping of surface water flooding prepared for the Environment Agency.
Catchment Flood Management Plan (CFMP)	A high-level planning strategy through which the Environment Agency works with their key decision makers within a river catchment to identify and agree policies to secure the long-term sustainable management of flood risk.
CIRIA	Construction Industry Research and Information Association
Civil Contingencies Act 2004	This Act delivers a single framework for civil protection in the UK. As part of the Act, Local Resilience Forums must put into place emergency plans for a range of circumstances including flooding.
CLG	Government Department for Communities and Local Government
Climate Change	Long term variations in global temperature and weather patterns caused by natural and human actions.
Critical Drainage Area (CDA)	Areas of significant flood risk, characterised by the amount of surface runoff that drains into the area, the topography and hydraulic conditions of the pathway (e.g. sewer, river system), and the receptors (people, properties and infrastructure) that may be affected.
Culvert	A buried or underground channel or pipe that carries a watercourse below the level of the ground.
Defra	Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
DEM	Digital Elevation Model – three dimensional digital representation of unfiltered topography surface of an area.
DG5 Register	A water-company held register of properties which have experienced sewer flooding due to hydraulic overload, or properties which are 'at risk' of sewer flooding more frequently than once in 10 years.
DTM	Digital Terrain Model – three-dimensional digital representation of a bare earth surface (i.e. with buildings, trees removed)
EA	Environment Agency – Who's play a central role in delivering the environmental priorities of central government and the Welsh Assembly Government through functions and roles
Indicative Flood Risk Areas	Areas determined by the Environment Agency as potentially having a significant level of flood risk, based on guidance published by Defra and WAG and the use of certain national datasets. These indicative areas are intended to provide a starting point for the determination of Flood Risk Areas by LLFAs.
FMfSW	Flood Map for Surface Water – second generation mapping prepared for the Environment Agency on the risk of surface water flooding
Flood defence	Infrastructure used to protect an area against floods. For example, floodwalls and embankments; they are designed to a specific standard of protection (design standard).
Flood Risk Area	An area determined as having a significant risk of flooding in accordance with guidance published by Defra and WAG.
Flood Risk Regulations (FRR)	Transposition of the EU Floods Directive into UK law. The EU Floods Directive is a piece of European Community (EC) legislation to specifically address flood risk by prescribing a common framework for its measurement and management.
Flood and Water Management Act	An Act of Parliament passed into law in 2010 which forms part of the UK Government's response to Sir Michael Pitt's Report on the Summer 2007 floods, a major recommendation of which is to clarify the legislative framework for managing surface water flood risk in England.
Fluvial Flooding	Flooding resulting from water levels exceeding the bank level of a river or stream.

<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
IDB	Internal Drainage Board - Internal Drainage Boards (IDBs) are independent bodies responsible for land drainage in areas of special drainage
IUD	Integrated Urban Drainage
LDF	Local Development Framework
Lead Local Flood Authority	Local Authority responsible for taking the lead on local flood risk management
LiDAR	Light Detection and Ranging
LLFA	Lead Local Flood Authority
Local Resilience Forum	A multi-agency forum, bringing together all the organisations that have a duty to cooperate under the Civil Contingencies Act, and those involved in responding to emergencies. They prepare emergency plans in a co-ordinated manner.
LPA	Local Planning Authority
LRF	Local Resilience Forum
Main River	A watercourse shown as such on the Main River Map, and for which the Environment Agency has responsibilities and powers
NRD	National Receptor Dataset – a collection of risk receptors produced by the Environment Agency
Ordinary Watercourse	All watercourses that are not designated Main River, and which are the responsibility of Local Authorities or, where they exist, IDBs
Partner	A person or organisation with responsibility for the decision or actions that need to be taken.
PFRA	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
Pitt Review	Comprehensive independent review of the 2007 summer floods by Sir Michael Pitt, which provided recommendations to improve flood risk management in England.
Pluvial Flooding	Flooding from water flowing over the surface of the ground; often occurs when the soil is saturated and natural drainage channels or artificial drainage systems have insufficient capacity to cope with additional flow.
PPS25	Planning and Policy Statement 25: Development and Flood Risk
Resilience Measures	Measures designed to reduce the impact of water that enters property and businesses; could include measures such as raising electrical appliances.
Resistance Measures	Measures designed to keep flood water out of properties and businesses; could include flood guards for example.
Risk	In flood risk management, risk is defined as a product of the probability or likelihood of a flood occurring, and the consequence of the flood.
Risk Management Authority (RMA)	As defined by the Floods and Water Management Act
River Basin District (RBD)	A River Basin or Basins used for both strategic planning and reporting to the European Commission for the Water Framework Directive. There are eleven RBDs in England and Wales.
Sewer Flooding	Flooding caused by a blockage or overflowing in a sewer or urban drainage system.
SFRA	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment
SIRS	Sewer Incident Recording System
Sefton MBC	Sefton Metropolitan District Council
Stakeholder	A person or organisation affected by the problem or solution, or interested in the problem or solution. They can be individuals or organisations, includes the public and communities.
SuDS	Sustainable Drainage Systems
Sustainable Drainage Systems	Methods of management practices and control structures that are designed to drain surface water in a more sustainable manner than some conventional techniques.
Surface Water	Rainwater (including snow and other precipitation) which is on the surface of the ground (whether or not it is moving), and has not entered a watercourse, drainage

# Agenda Item 5

Term	Definition
	system or public sewer.
SWMP	Surface Water Management Plan
UU	United Utilities Ltd
WaSC	Water and Sewerage Company
WIRS	Water incident Recording System

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# 1 Introduction

## 1.1 What is a Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment?

- 1.1.1 A Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) is a high-level screening exercise used to identify areas where the risk of flooding from local sources is considered to be significant and warrants further examination and management through the production of flood risk and flood hazard maps and flood risk management plans. Local sources are identified as those not including main rivers, the sea or large raised reservoirs.
- 1.1.2 The approach for producing this PFRA was based upon the Environment Agency's PFRA Final Guidance, which was released in December 2010. The PFRA involves collecting existing and readily available information on past and future (potential) floods, assembling the information into a Preliminary Assessment Report (PAR) and identifying Flood Risk Areas.
- 1.1.3 The PFRA has been based on information from a number of available sources such as the Environment Agency's national information, for example Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (ASStWF), existing local products, such as the Knowsley Council and Sefton Council Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA), and information available data from the ongoing Sefton Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP).
- 1.1.4 This PAR for Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council (Sefton MBC) provides a high level summary of significant flood risk, describing both the probability and harmful consequences of past and future flooding.

## 1.2 Background

- 1.2.1 The primary driver behind the PFRA is the Flood Risk Regulations 2009, which came into force on the 10th December 2009 and which transpose the European Union (EU) Floods Directive (Directive 2007/60/EC on the assessment and management of flood risks) into domestic law in England and Wales and to implement its provisions.
- 1.2.2 In particular the Regulations place duties on the Environment Agency and Local Lead Flood Authorities to prepare a number of documents across an ongoing 6-year cycle including:
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessments – deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2001
  - Flood hazard and flood risk maps – deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2013
  - Flood Risk Management Plans – deadline 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2015
- 1.2.3 The purpose of the PAR under the Regulations is to provide the evidence for identifying Flood Risk Areas<sup>1</sup>. The report will also provide a useful reference point for all local flood risk management and informs local flood risk strategies.
- 1.2.4 The scope of the PFRA is to consider past flooding and potential future flooding from local sources of flooding other than main rivers, the sea and reservoirs. In particular this includes surface runoff, groundwater, canals and ordinary watercourses and any interaction these have with drainage systems.

<sup>1</sup> Flood Risk Areas are defined in guidance available at <http://archive.defra.gov.uk/environment/flooding/documents/interim2/flood-risk-method.pdf>

## 1.3 Objectives

1.3.1 The key objectives of the PFRA are summarised as follows:

- Identify relevant partner organisations involved in future assessment of flood risk; and summarise means for future and ongoing stakeholder engagement
- Provide a summary of the systems used for data sharing and storing and the provision for quality assurance, security and data licensing arrangements
- Describe arrangements for partnership and collaboration for ongoing collection, assessment and storage of flood risk data and information
- Assess historic flood events within the study area from local sources and the consequences and impacts of these events
- Establish an evidence base of historic flood risk information, which will be built upon in the future and used to support and inform the preparation of Sefton's Local Flood Risk Management Strategy
- Review the Indicative Flood Risk Areas provided by the Environment Agency and where necessary provide explanation and justification for any additions required to the Indicative Flood Risk Areas

## 1.4 Study Area

1.4.1 The study area for this Preliminary Assessment Report (PAR) is defined by the administrative boundary of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council. The geographical extent of the study area is illustrated in Figure 1-2. Sefton is bordered to the east by Knowsley Borough Council and West Lancashire County Council, to the west by the Irish Sea; and to the south by Liverpool.

1.4.2 The administrative area of Sefton Metropolitan Borough has a total area of 155 square kilometres with 36 kilometres of coastline, extensive areas of sand dunes, coastal salt marsh and a diverse mixture of industrial, commercial and urban development coupled with rural green belt divides. It has a major port and extensive commuter travel into Liverpool from the key urban areas of Southport, Formby, Crosby, Litherland, Maghull and Bootle.

1.4.3 The primary watercourse within Sefton is the River Alt, which flows from Liverpool and Knowsley in the south east towards Formby, before turning south west to discharge at Hightown. The River Alt drains a catchment of approximately 235km<sup>2</sup> and includes a large number of smaller watercourses, including Downholland Brook, Dovers Brook and Whinny Brook. Along the north eastern boundary of Sefton, a number of watercourses, including Fine Jane's Brook and Three Pools Waterway, discharge to the sea via Crossens.

1.4.4 The hydrology of the wider area, as described in the Alt Crossens CFMP, is very artificial and water levels are controlled under different winter and summer regimes to prevent flooding, to provide irrigation and to prevent peat shrinkage.

1.4.5 The topography of the study area is also complex. A low lying ridge up to 20m AOD runs north east to south west from the southern edge of Southport around the western edge of Formby, which results in most rivers flowing inland away from the coast. South of Formby there is low lying land at 3m to 4m AOD through which the Alt discharges to the sea. This low lying area extends south westwards where very low land at a level of 2m to 3m AOD splits higher ground in Maghull and Litherland/Bootle, both of which are 35m AOD in places.



Figure 1-2: Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council Administrative Area

## 2 LLFA Responsibilities

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The Flood Risk Regulations 2009, which came into force on the 10th December 2009, define new responsibilities for flood risk management. Under this legislation, all Unitary Authorities are designated 'Local Lead Flood Authorities' (LLFA) and have formally been allocated a number of key responsibilities with respect to local flood risk management.

### 2.2 Leadership & Partnership

2.2.1 As a Unitary Authority, Sefton MBC is responsible for leading local flood risk management, including establishing an effective partnership with stakeholders such as the Environment Agency, United Utilities Ltd, British Waterways and others.

2.2.2 A partnership between Sefton MBC, the Environment Agency and United Utilities has been developed through the preparation of the ongoing SWMP and it is recommended that this partnership be developed further. It is recommended that representatives from British Waterways be invited to attend future meetings in addition to representatives from other relevant third parties. Regular meetings should be held to facilitate the delivery of the future requirements of the Flood Risk Regulations and the actions that will come out of the SWMP.

2.2.3 These working arrangements should be formalised to ensure clear lines of communication, mutual co-operation and management through the provision of Level of Service Agreements (LoSA) or Memorandums of Understanding (MoU).

2.2.4 Local Governance arrangements for Sefton are presenting in Figure 2-1, overleaf

### 2.3 Stakeholder Engagement

2.3.1 Sefton MBC has engaged stakeholders representing the following organisations and authorities:

- Environment Agency
- United Utilities Ltd
- Liverpool Council

2.3.2 The Environment Agency and United Utilities have been actively engaged in the PFRA and in the ongoing SWMP process and have assisted in the preparation of this document. British Waterways has not been actively engaged at this time but should be consulted in future developments and as part of the development of a local flood risk management strategy.



FCERM Governance Structure: Sefton

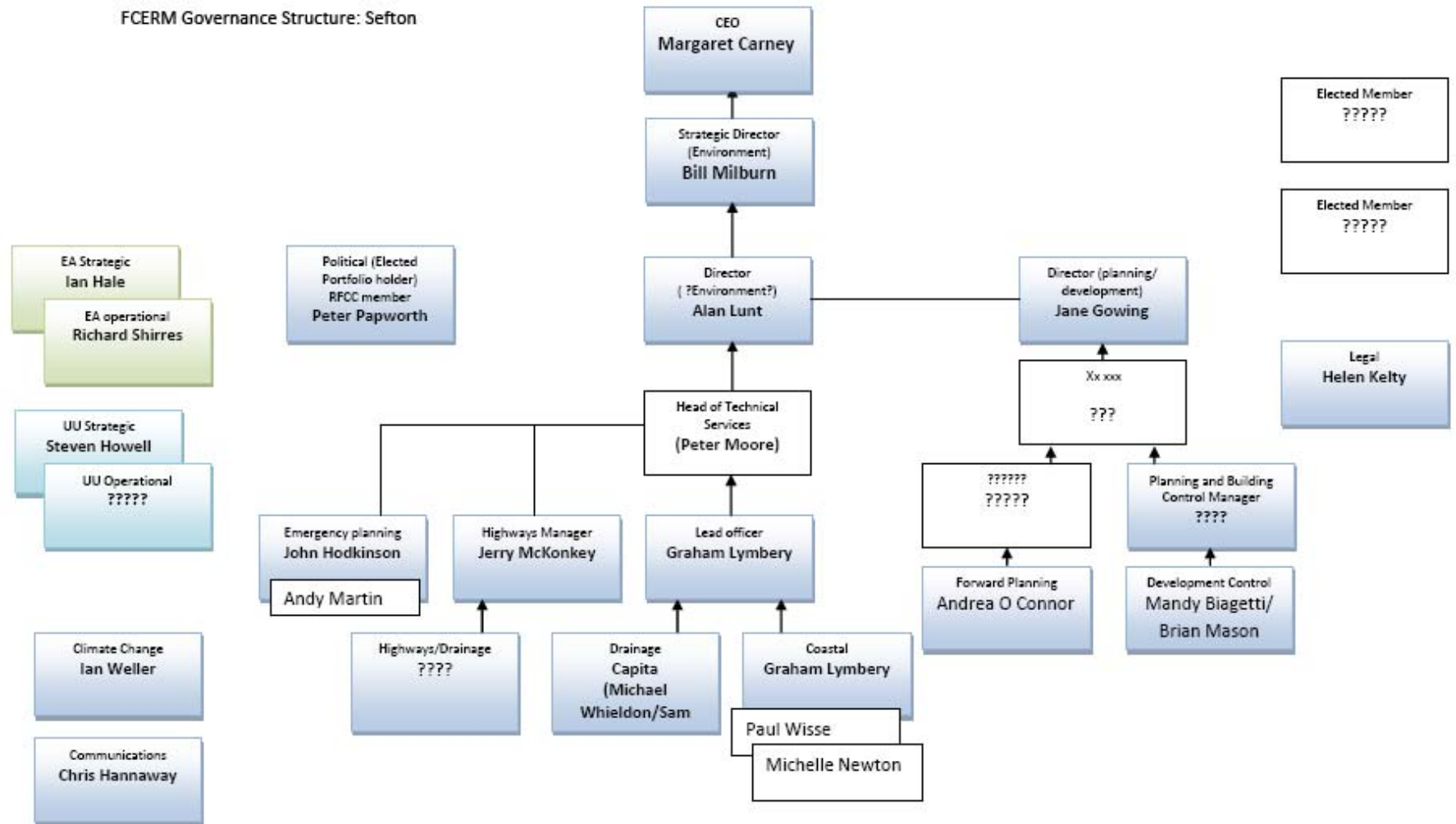


Figure 2-1: Local Flood Risk Management Governance in Sefton



- 2.3.3 Members of the public may also have valuable information to contribute to the PFRA and to an improved understanding and management of local flood risk within the study area. Members of the public have not been engaged at this time, however, it is recognised that public engagement can afford significant benefits to local flood risk management including building trust, gaining access to additional local knowledge and increasing the chances of acceptance of options and decisions proposed in future flood risk management plans. Public engagement will be undertaken as part of future aspects of the SWMP process and in the development of a local flood risk management strategy.

## 2.4 Other Responsibilities

- 2.4.1 Aside from forging partnerships and coordinating and leading on local flood management, there are a number of other key responsibilities that have arisen for Local Lead Flood Authorities from the Flood & Water Management Act 2010. These responsibilities include:

- **Investigating flood incidents** – LLFAs have a duty to investigate and record details of significant flood events within their area. This duty includes identifying which authorities have flood risk management functions and what they have done or intend to do with respect to the incident, notifying risk management authorities where necessary and publishing the results of any investigations carried out. .
- **Asset Register** – LLFAs also have a duty to maintain a register of structures or features which are considered to have an effect on flood risk, including details on ownership and condition as a minimum. The register must be available for inspection and the Secretary of State will be able to make regulations about the content of the register and records.
- **SuDS Approving Body** – LLFAs are designated the SuDS Approving Body (SAB) for any new drainage system, and therefore must approve, adopt and maintain any new sustainable drainage systems (SuDS) within their area. This responsibility is anticipated to commence from April 2012.
- **Flood risk management strategies** – LLFAs are required to develop, maintain, apply and monitor a strategy for local flood risk management in its area. The local strategy will build upon information such as national risk assessments and will use consistent risk based approaches across different local authority areas and catchments.
- **Works powers** – LLFAs have powers to undertake works to manage flood risk from surface runoff and groundwater, consistent with the local flood risk management strategy for the area.
- **Designation powers** – LLFAs, as well as district councils and the Environment Agency have powers to designate structures and features that affect flooding in order to safeguard assets that are relied upon for flood risk management. Once designated, the owner must seek the consent of the LLFA to alter, remove or replace it.

## 3 Methodology & Data Review

### 3.1 Data Sources & Availability

3.1.1 Table 3-1 provides a summary of the data sources that were collected from partner organisations and provides a description of the dataset and whether it was used during the PFRA.

**Table 3-1: Data Sources**

Source	Dataset	Description	Quality (Scale 1 to 4)*	Obtained	Used
Environment Agency	Flood Map (Flood Zones)	Shows extent of flooding from rivers with a catchment area greater than 3km <sup>2</sup> during a 1 in 100yr flood and 1 in 1000yr flood. Shows extent of flooding from the sea during 1 in 200yr and 1 in 1000yr flood events. Ignores the presence of defences.	2	✓	✓
	Historic Flood Map	Attributed spatial flood extent data for flooding from rivers, sea and groundwater.	3	✓	✓
	Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding	A national outline of surface water flooding held by the EA and developed in response to Pitt recommendations.	3	✓	✓
	Flood Map for Surface Water	A second generation of surface water flood mapping which was released at the end of 2010.	3	✓	✗
	Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding	Broad-scale mapping showing the proportion of areas within a 1km <sup>2</sup> grid cell that is susceptible to groundwater flooding.	4	✓	✓
	National Receptors Dataset	A nationally consistent dataset of social, economic, environmental and cultural receptors including residential properties, schools, hospitals, transport infrastructure and electricity substations.	1	✓	✓
	Indicative Flood Risk Areas	National mapping highlighting key flood risk areas, based on the definition of 'significant' flood risk agreed with the Defra.	3	✓	✓
	Source protection zones	Show the risk of contamination that might cause pollution in the area. The maps show three main zones (inner, outer and total catchment).	3	✗	✗
	Asset data	Details on the location and extent of flood defences.	2	✗	✗
	Alt Crossens Catchment Flood Management Plan	Catchment Flood Management Plans (CFMPs) give an overview of the flood risk from all sources across each river catchment, recommending ways of managing those risks now and over the next 50-100 years.	2	✓	✗
	Mersey Estuary Catchment Flood Management Plan		2	✓	✗

Source	Dataset	Description	Quality (Scale 1 to 4)*	Obtained	Used
	Lower Mersey and North Merseyside Groundwater Resources Study (2009)	A report consolidating the current knowledge of the Permo-Triassic Sandstone Aquifer system of the Lower Mersey and North Merseyside area.	2	✓	✓
Sefton MBC	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	SFRAs may contain useful information on historic flooding, including local sources of flooding from surface water, groundwater and flooding from canals.	2 to 4	✓	✓
	Flooding incidents database	Records of flooding incidents from all sources collated by Sefton MBC.	2	✓	✓
United Utilities	DG5 Register for United Utilities areas	DG5 Register logs and records of sewer flooding incidents in each area.	2	✓	✓
	SIRS / WIRS	Sewer Incident Reporting System / Water Incident Reporting System	2	✓	✓
	Sewer pipe network	GIS dataset providing the georeferenced location of surface water, foul and combined sewers. Includes pipe size and some information on invert levels.	2	✓	✗
British Waterways	British Waterway's canal network	Detailed GIS information on the British Waterway's canal network, including the location of canal centrelines, sluices, locks, culverts, etc.	2	✗	✗
	Records of canal breaches and overtopping events	Records of historical canal overtopping and drainage misconnections.	2	✗	✗
British Geological Society	Geological datasets	Licensed GIS datasets including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Geological indicators of flooding;</li> <li>Susceptibility to groundwater flooding;</li> <li>Permeability;</li> <li>Bedrock and superficial geology.</li> </ul>	2 to 4	✗	✗

\* Scale of 1 is best possible, no better data available, e.g. LiDAR, rain gauge data. Scale of 4 is poor, a heroic assumption, e.g. ground roughness for 2D models

## 3.2 Limitations

### Records of Past Floods

- 3.2.1 The most significant data gap across the borough relates to records of past 'local' flooding incidents. Recording of past incidents of surface water, sewer, groundwater or ordinary watercourse flooding has been inconsistent.
- 3.2.2 Sefton MBC's flooding incidents database now follows a standard reporting system. Before the current system (Mayrise) was developed incidents were recorded on spreadsheets and there are gaps in the data collected. Local flood records are available from February 2001 to March 2002, from August 2004 to September 2004, and for events on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 and between

the 19<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2010. The records have been digitised into a GIS layer and some information is available to indicate the influence of blockage or other sources.

- 3.2.3 United Utilities has provided its current surface water DG5 register, which provides street-level data on flooding incidents and the year of occurrence. The DG5 dataset does not include the number of properties considered to be at risk from external or internal flooding (i.e. those that are at risk but which have not flooded are not identified) and it only includes those likely to flood more frequently than once in 30 years.
- 3.2.4 In addition, United Utilities has also provided its Sewers Incident Reporting System (SIRS) (pre-2008) and Water Incident Reporting System (WIRS) (post-2008) databases, containing detailed information on the location and cause of flooding incidents over the last 21 years although both have some incomplete records and in some cases multiple causes of flooding. All United Utilities incidents databases have been digitise into GIS where grid reference data is available and these area presented in Figure A-2 in Appendix A.
- 3.2.5 The Environment Agency's Historic Flood Map shows 2 incidents within the borough. No information is available regarding the date, duration or source of flooding for these incidents.
- 3.2.6 A canal breach is known to have occurred in October 1994, flooding parts of Maghull. British Waterways has not been consulted for information at this time but will be consulted in the future.

#### **Future Groundwater Flooding**

- 3.2.7 Groundwater flooding data provided for the PFRA included the Environment Agency's 'Areas susceptible to groundwater flooding' dataset. This is a very broad scale map (1 km<sup>2</sup> grid) intended to give a broad feel for wider areas that may be at risk of groundwater flooding. Only isolated locations within the susceptible area are likely to suffer groundwater flooding.
- 3.2.8 The Lower Mersey and North Merseyside Groundwater Resources Study indicates that the Alt in particular has a significant contribution to its baseflow by local groundwater from the Permo-Triassic Sandstone, suggesting that those areas within the Alt Catchment are more at risk than others.

#### **Future Surface Water Flooding**

- 3.2.9 The Environment Agency data sets 'Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding' and second generation 'Flood Map for Surface Water' are national scale assessments suitable for broadly identifying surface water flood risk. The datasets are of a resolution suitable for the PFRA, however are limited in their use in addressing the next stages of the Flood Risk Regulations (2009), e.g. Hazard Maps.

### **3.3 Security, Licensing and Use Restrictions**

- 3.3.1 All of the datasets collected from stakeholders have been collated and stored in a central / local server that is password protected. The data collected is licensed either for the purposes of undertaking this PFRA only or are licensed for the purposes of local flood risk management.
- 3.3.2 The future use of some of the datasets, in particular, the records of property flooding held by the United Utilities Ltd as well as the records of property flooding collected by Sefton MBC, are restricted because the information they provide could be considered as sensitive.
- 3.3.3 It is recommended that all third party data owners be contacted to discuss future use of their data and to ensure that the data used is the most up-to-date.

**Table 3-2: Data Licencing**

Source	Dataset	Used	Licence Description
<b>Environment Agency</b>	Flood Map (Flood Zones)	✓	Local Flood Risk Management
	Historic Flood Map	✓	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
	Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding	✓	Local Flood Risk Management
	Flood Map for Surface Water	✗	Local Flood Risk Management
	Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding	✓	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
	National Receptors Dataset	✓	Local Flood Risk Management
	Indicative Flood Risk Areas	✓	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
	Alt Crossens Catchment Flood Management Plan	✗	Local Flood Risk Management. Available via: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/cy/ymchwil/cynllunio/33606.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/cy/ymchwil/cynllunio/33606.aspx</a>
	Mersey Estuary Catchment Flood Management Plan	✗	Local Flood Risk Management. Available via: <a href="http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/cy/ymchwil/cynllunio/33600.aspx">http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/cy/ymchwil/cynllunio/33600.aspx</a>
	Lower Mersey and North Merseyside Groundwater Resources Study (2009)	✓	Local Flood Risk Management
<b>Sefton MBC</b>	Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)	✓	Free to download at: <a href="http://www.sefton.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8353">http://www.sefton.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=8353</a>
	Flooding incidents database	✓	Local Flood Risk Management
<b>United Utilities</b>	DG5 Register for United Utilities Areas	✓	Local Flood Risk Management – not for distribution
	SIRS / WIRS	✓	Local Flood Risk Management – not for distribution
	Sewer pipe network	✗	Local Flood Risk Management – not for distribution

## 3.4 Quality Assurance

3.4.1 Table 3.1, above, includes data quality flags based on a simple scoring system outlined in Defra’s Technical Guidance for undertaking surface water management plans<sup>2</sup>. The scoring system applies a value ranging from 1 for the best available data that could not easily be improved upon to 4 for what are essentially assumptions.

3.4.2 As is indicated, elements of most of the datasets are known to be of lesser quality and they would benefit from being replaced as soon as new data becomes available or, with respect to the data collected by third parties, they would benefit from improvements to the data collection systems. This is particularly the case for records collated by Sefton MBC and the opportunity

<sup>2</sup> Defra (2010) *Surface Water Management Plan Technical Guidance*

should be taken to discuss data collection across all partners and the needs of future flood risk management so that a consistent approach to data collection is made.



## 4 Past Flood Risk

### 4.1 Summary of Past Floods

- 4.1.1 To assist LLFAs in determining Flood Risk Areas, the Environment Agency produced indicative Flood Risk Areas based on an assessment of 1km grid squares. A square was classified as being a 'place where flood risk is an issue' if more than 200 people or 20 businesses or 1 critical service are flooded to a depth of greater than 0.3m during a 1 in 200 year storm event (using the FMfSW dataset).
- 4.1.2 The criteria for determining local significance when proposing new or expanding Flood Risk Areas has been left to each LLFA, though it was recommended that some measure of equivalent risk was applied. The Merseyside group of authorities have determined that flood events that resulted in impacts to 20 people (equivalent to 8 or more properties) should be considered as having had locally significant harmful consequences. The threshold of 20 properties was chosen as it is an order of magnitude less than was required to identify a 1km<sup>2</sup> grid cell as being a 'place where flood risk is an issue' in the national assessment of indicative Flood Risk Areas that was undertaken by the Environment Agency.
- 4.1.3 A full list of historical flood events from surface water, sewer, canal or groundwater sources is presented in Appendix A Table A-1. Table 4-1 provides a summary of the past floods that are understood to have had locally significant consequences.

**Table 4-1: Historic Significant Floods and Consequences**

Date	Main source of flooding	Description	Data Source	Significant harmful consequences?
19/07/2010 to 22/07/2010	Surface Water	A total of 77 surface water flooding incidents affected properties in Aintree, Birkdale, Bootle, Brighton-le-Sands, Crosby, Formby, Litherland, Maghull, Melling, Netherton, Seaforth, Sefton, Southport, Thornton and Waterloo. Impacts in Maghull were locally significant in isolation.	SMBC	Yes (Local)
06/10/2009 to 08/10/2009	Surface Water	9 records of flooding in Maghull and Southport	UU (WIRS)	Yes (local)
21/01/2008	Surface water / ordinary watercourse	An intense storm system produced surface water flooding across Sefton. There were 98 records of flooding in Ainsdale, Aintree, Blundellsands, Bootle, Crosby, Crossens, Formby, Lunt, Lydiate, Maghull, Melling, Netherton, Southport and Thornton. Impacts in Formby, Maghull and Southport were locally significant in isolation.	SMBC	Yes (Local)
20/07/2007 to 22/07/2007	Surface water	Flooding incidents reported across Sefton (75 in total). Some internal flooding of properties. Incidents concentrated in Crosby, Sefton &	SMBC	Yes (local)

Date	Main source of flooding	Description	Data Source	Significant harmful consequences?
		Maghull		
30/11/2004	Surface Water	55 records of flooding in Ainsdale, Aintree, Birkdale, Bootle, Formby, Litherland, Maghull, Melling, Seaforth and Southport. Impacts in Maghull and Southport were locally significant in isolation.	SMBC	Yes (local)
01/08/2004	Surface Water	10 residential properties were recorded having suffered internal and external flooding in Southport.	SMBC	Yes (Local)
30/04/2001	Surface water / ordinary watercourse	Records of 5 properties flooding are held by Sefton MBC, though it is understood that nearer 25 properties were impacted.	SMBC	Yes (Local)
12/04/2001	Surface Water	59 residential properties were recorded having suffered internal and external flooding at Claremont Avenue area in Maghull and 10 residential properties were recorded having suffered internal and external flooding at Hawksworth Drive area in Formby.	SMBC	Yes (Local)
24/11/1996 to 25/11/1996	Surface Water	11 records of flooding in Litherland, Maghull and Southport	UU (SIRS)	Yes (local)
01/10/1994	Canal	The Leeds and Liverpool Canal broke through into the Maghull Brook culvert at the point at which the culvert passes beneath the canal. Inundation of the canal water into the culvert led to the progressive failure of the culvert and resulted in the canal bursting its bank. Over 200 properties are understood to have flooded	SMBC	Yes (local)
31/07/1994 to 03/08/1994	Surface Water	8 records of flooding in Southport and Waterloo	UU (SIRS)	Yes (local)
24/01/1994 to 27/01/1994	Surface Water	9 records of flooding in Bootle, Crosby, Formby, Litherland and Waterloo	UU (SIRS)	Yes (local)
13/12/1993 to 15/12/1993	Surface Water	8 records of flooding in Aintree, Formby, Lydiate, Maghull and Southport	UU (SIRS)	Yes (local)

## 4.2 Interactions with Other Flooding Sources

4.2.1 Flooding is often the result of water combining from more than one source. Flooding in a watercourse can be influenced and affected by flooding in a downstream watercourse or high water levels in the sea that prevents it from discharging. Water can also build up in a drainage system, resulting in flooding, because it is prevented from discharging normally by high levels at the point of discharge.

- 4.2.2 Past flooding can often be from an unknown source, because records are insufficient to identify where the water came from, or it can be a result of interactions between different sources some of which may not have been identified.
- 4.2.3 From the records available to Sefton MBC there is no direct evidence that past floods in Sefton have been a result of interactions between local flooding sources and flooding from the sea, though it should be acknowledged that because significant areas of Sefton are pumped it is highly likely that levels in main rivers have been affected by the sea level at the time, which may have consequently impacted local sources of flooding.
- 4.2.4 There is some evidence that past floods, particularly in Formby, have been related to high water levels within Main Rivers, particularly the River Alt and its tributaries, and there is some evidence that past floods have related to ordinary watercourses, for example Dobb's Gutter in Formby.
- 4.2.5 There is also no direct evidence that any of the local flooding sources are related to groundwater, though this may again be due to a lack of information rather than a lack of connection between the two, as groundwater is known to influence baseflows in the River Alt.
- 4.2.6 A breach of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal in October 1994 resulted in significant inundation of properties in Maghull. The canal breach resulted in the collapse of the culvert through which the Maghull Brook passed, however, it is not clear whether the brook then contributed to this flooding or whether the inundation was due entirely to the water within the canal.
- 4.2.7 Table A-1 in Appendix A presents the full list of notable recorded flood events that have impacted more than one property or area coincidentally within Sefton between September 1992 and July 2010. Figures A-1 and A-2 present maps of the records available from Sefton MBC and United Utilities and Figure A-3 presents the Environment Agency's Historical Flood Map.

## 5 Future Flood Risk

### 5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 The Environment Agency has several national datasets showing risk of flooding from surface water, groundwater and main rivers and ordinary watercourses that are available to LLFAs:

- Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (AStSWF);
- EA Flood Map for Surface Water (FMfSW);
- Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding (AStGWF); and
- EA Flood Zone Map

### 5.2 Locally Agreed Surface Water Information

5.2.1 The national Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding dataset has been used for the PFRA to define future flood risk. In accordance with the PFRA guidance (2010), this dataset, combined with known historic flooding records, represents the locally agreed surface water information for Sefton.

5.2.2 Figures B-1, included in Appendix B, shows the Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding Less Risk, Intermediate Risk and More Risk classifications.

5.2.3 In addition to these national datasets more locally specific surface water information is available for the study area as part of a SWMP. As part of this study, direct rainfall modelling has been undertaken to simulate surface water flooding in parts of the study area.

### 5.3 Summary of Future Flood Risk

5.3.1 Table 5-1 shows a summary of potential future floods from all local sources and an indication of whether they could result in significant consequences. More detailed information is provided in the spreadsheet included as Annex 2.

**Table 5-1: Summary of Potential Future Floods and Consequences**

Main source of flooding	Probability	Description	Data Source	Significant consequences?
Surface Water / Ordinary watercourses	Less (0.1 to 0.3m deep)	Environment Agency's Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding maps. A national map identifying areas more susceptible to surface water flooding based primarily on topography and depth. The study used a 1 in 200 probability rainfall depth for a 6.5 hour duration storm applied to a composite 5m DTM . There was no allowance made for drainage.	Environment Agency Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding	Yes
	Intermediate (0.3 to 1.0m deep)			Yes
	More (>1.0m deep)			No
	Unknown	Historical records of surface	Sefton MBC	Locally significant

Main source of flooding	Probability	Description	Data Source	Significant consequences?
		water flooding		only
			United Utilities	Locally significant only
			Environment Agency Historical Flood Map	No
Groundwater	Unknown	Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding (AStGWF) is a strategic scale map showing groundwater flood areas on a 1km square grid. Flood plains are not explicitly identified; the mapping identifies where groundwater is likely to emerge, and not where the water is subsequently likely to flow or pond.	Environment Agency Areas susceptible to groundwater flooding	No

### Ongoing Studies

- 5.3.2 A Surface Water Management Plan is currently under development for the whole of the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council area. Results from this study will be used to inform the second cycle of the PFRA process and the production of flood hazard and flood risk maps for this area.

### Locally Agreed Surface Water Information

- 5.3.3 A significant area amounting to over 21% of the Sefton borough is classified as being Less Susceptible to surface water flooding. This is a reflection of the generally flat topography with minor features that are shown to either form flow paths or shallow areas of ponding.
- 5.3.4 The areas classified as having an Intermediate Susceptibility to surface water flooding typically correlate to those areas where ponding could collect to deeper depths, for example in Southport, but also correlates well to the location of ordinary watercourses or watercourses that have now been subsumed into the surface water drainage system, for example Maghull Brook and Rimrose Brook.
- 5.3.5 The areas that are classified as being More Susceptible to surface water flooding are again associated with main rivers, such as the River Alt, some ordinary watercourses, such as Rimrose Brook, and areas of deeper ponding. Many of these are shown to lie in the dune areas to the west of Formby and Southport.
- 5.3.6 Using the AStSWF dataset, the number of buildings at risk of surface water flooding within Sefton has been estimated by analysing the underlying Ordnance Survey Mastermap data. The results indicate that 99,600 buildings lie in the areas classified as Less Susceptible, 29,400 buildings lie in areas classified as having an Intermediate Susceptibility and 2,400 buildings lie in areas classified as More Susceptible.
- 5.3.7 To put these values into context, there are approximately 173,000 buildings within the borough and approximately 70% of these are residential dwellings. This suggests that there are in the region of 163,100 people at risk in the Less Susceptible areas, 48,200 people at risk in areas of Intermediate Susceptibility and 3,900 people at risk in More Susceptible areas.

- 5.3.8 Further details on the potential harmful consequences of future flooding are included in Annex 2 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet.

### **Flooding from ordinary watercourses**

- 5.3.9 The Environment Agency Flood Map was reviewed to assess whether it provided useful information on flooding from ordinary watercourses. In Sefton, the EA's Flood Map is generally restricted to areas on the Main River network (responsibility of the Environment Agency) and therefore they were not considered to provide information on flooding from ordinary watercourses. Instead the assessment of flooding from ordinary watercourses has primarily been based on the national surface water flooding datasets.

- 5.3.10 As the extent of flooding is often topographically defined flooding from surface runoff and small ordinary watercourses is likely to be similar in many cases. This is the case in Sefton, where flooding is shown along the path of existing ordinary watercourses, and perhaps more noticeably along the path of historical watercourses that are now largely incorporated into the drainage system and built over. This relationship is particularly clear in mapping of those areas with an Intermediate Susceptibility to surface water flooding.

### **Groundwater**

- 5.3.11 There is no local information available which provides evidence on future groundwater flood risk across Sefton. The Environment Agency's national dataset, Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding, has been used to form the basis of the assessment of future flood risk from groundwater. This dataset is illustrated in Figure B-3 (Appendix B) and areas at high risk from groundwater flooding are identified.

- 5.3.12 The data shows that groundwater flood risk across Sefton mainly arises from the permeable superficial deposits along the coast (Formby, Ainsdale and Southport), where large areas of the Borough (>75%) are potentially susceptible to groundwater flooding.

- 5.3.13 Local groundwater monitoring data does exist in 19 locations within the borough however the information held has not been reviewed to assess whether it can provide an indication of whether groundwater has contributed to historical surface water flooding. It is recommended that this be undertaken to inform future flood risk management.

- 5.3.14 The Alt Crossens CFMP indicates that there are parts of the borough in which groundwater emergence may have been influenced by the cessation of pumping from former mines. The lower Alt catchment is identified as one of the areas at risk. This conclusion is supported by the Lower Mersey and North Merseyside Groundwater Resources study, which indicates that there was a significant proportion of baseflow in the River Alt that came from the Permo-Triassic Sandstone.

- 5.3.15 The consequences of rising groundwater may not necessarily impact the location at which it emerges but are likely to be an increased probability and duration of flooding in those areas affected by flowing and ponding water in general, as identified in the AStSWF maps.

### **Canals**

- 5.3.16 British Waterways has not been contacted for information on future flood risk for this study. British Waterways is currently working on a study to better understand the future flood risk from canals, which will be available to inform the second cycle of the PFRA process.

### **Sewers**

- 5.3.17 Detailed information on the probability and consequences of future sewer flooding, based on detailed modelling of the sewer network, is not available for this PFRA. United Utilities has



provided some information from their sewer network models which indicates that the capacity of the network varies greatly across the borough and in places is as low as capacity for a 1 in 1 year storm event. There are sections of the network in all parts of Sefton that have an existing capacity of less than 1 in 5.

- 5.3.18 Analysis indicates that most, but not all, historical records of surface water flooding from UU and Sefton MBC's databases coincide with these sections of low capacity network. Similarly, most, but not all, DG5 records also coincide with these areas of low capacity. The consequences of climate change are discussed below, however, it is likely that future flooding will increase the probability of flooding as a result of larger areas of the network reaching capacity.

## 5.4 Impact of Climate Change

### The Evidence

- 5.4.1 There is clear scientific evidence that global climate change is happening now. It cannot be ignored.
- 5.4.2 Over the past century around the UK we have seen sea level rise and more of our winter rain falling in intense wet spells. Seasonal rainfall is highly variable. It seems to have decreased in summer and increased in winter, although winter amounts changed little in the last 50 years. Some of the changes might reflect natural variation, however the broad trends are in line with projections from climate models. Locally, sea levels have risen at a rate of 2mm/yr throughout the 20<sup>th</sup> Century, though this is understood to be a combination of both sea level rise and land subsidence.
- 5.4.3 Greenhouse gas (GHG) levels in the atmosphere are likely to cause higher winter rainfall in future. Past GHG emissions mean some climate change is inevitable in the next 20-30 years. Lower emissions could reduce the amount of climate change further into the future, but changes are still projected at least as far ahead as the 2080s.
- 5.4.4 We have enough confidence in large scale climate models to say that we must plan for change. There is more uncertainty at a local scale but model results can still help us plan to adapt. For example we understand rain storms may become more intense, even if we can't be sure about exactly where or when. By the 2080s, the latest UK climate projections (UKCP09) are that there could be around three times as many days in winter with heavy rainfall (defined as more than 25mm in a day). It is plausible that the amount of rain in extreme storms (with a 1 in 5 annual chance, or rarer) could increase locally by 40%.

### Key Projections for North West River Basin District

- 5.4.5 If emissions follow a medium future scenario, UKCP09 projected changes by the 2050s relative to the recent past are:
- Winter precipitation increases of around 14% (very likely to be between 4 and 28%)
  - Precipitation on the wettest day in winter up by around 11% (very unlikely to be more than 25%)
  - Relative sea level very likely to be up between 38 and 45cm from 1990 levels (not including extra potential rises from polar ice sheet loss)
  - Peak river flows in a typical catchment likely to increase between 11 and 18%
  - Increases in rain are projected to be greater near the coast than inland.

- 5.4.6 The North West River Basin District is presented in 5-1.
- 5.4.7 A study into the UKCP09 Predictions for the Formby-Southport Area<sup>3</sup> indicate similar patterns, with:
- Winter precipitation increases of around 20% (may be between 8 and 60%)
  - Precipitation on the wettest day in winter up by around 15 to 20% for short (6-hour) storm events and unlikely to be more than 30%
  - Relative sea level very likely to be up between 38 and 45cm from 1990 levels (not including extra potential rises from polar ice sheet loss)

### **Implications for Flood Risk**

- 5.4.8 Climate changes can affect local flood risk in several ways. Impacts will depend on local conditions and vulnerability.
- 5.4.9 Wetter winters and more of this rain falling in wet spells may increase river flooding especially in steep, rapidly responding catchments. More intense rainfall causes more surface runoff, increasing localised flooding and erosion. In turn, this may increase pressure on drains, sewers and water quality. Storm intensity in summer could increase even in drier summers, so we need to be prepared for the unexpected.
- 5.4.10 Drainage systems in the district have been modified to manage water levels and could help in adapting locally to some impacts of future climate on flooding, but may also need to be managed differently. Rising sea or river levels may also increase local flood risk inland or away from major rivers because of interactions with drains, sewers and smaller watercourses. As indicated in Section 5.3.15, there are sections of the sewer network in which the hydraulic capacity is frequently exceeded and this will only be exacerbated by more intense rainfall as a result of climate change.
- 5.4.11 Where appropriate, we need local studies to understand climate impacts in detail, including effects from other factors like land use. Sustainable development and drainage will help us adapt to climate change and manage the risk of damaging floods in future.

### **Adapting to Change**

- 5.4.12 Past emission means some climate change is inevitable. It is essential we respond by planning ahead. We can prepare by understanding our current and future vulnerability to flooding, developing plans for increased resilience and building the capacity to adapt. Regular review and adherence to these plans is key to achieving long-term, sustainable benefits.
- 5.4.13 Although the broad climate change picture is clear, we have to make local decisions against deeper uncertainty. We will therefore consider a range of measures and retain flexibility to adapt. This approach, embodied within flood risk appraisal guidance, will help to ensure that we do not increase our vulnerability to flooding.
- 5.4.14 A draft Climate Change Adaptation Plan<sup>4</sup> is available for Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, which identifies flooding as one of the key risks associated with climate change. Risks were identified to assets (buildings and infrastructure), to the environment, to the councils ability to deliver services and of additional demand for resources and services. Opportunities were identified for reducing flood risk by increasing green infrastructure.

<sup>3</sup> Clarke, Dr. D (2009) UKCP09 Predictions for the Formby-Southport Area: Draft Report for IMCORE Project

<sup>4</sup> Quantum (2011) Adapting to Climate Change: Assessment of Risks for Sefton MBC (Draft)

5.4.15 Adaptation actions were identified across all services of the council. These actions included the ongoing preparation of the Surface Water Management Plan and future development of a Flood Risk Management Plan under the Flood Risk Regulations. In addition to this, adaptation actions also included:

- Assessing flood risk to properties and assets
- Identifying and incorporating flood resilience/resistance measures into assets
- Green Infrastructure Policy
- LDF policies on development in flood risk areas
- LDF policies on flood resilience/resistance measures
- Maintain exist flood management mechanisms
- Assess flood risk to key transport routes
- Communicate the need for work on flood risk reduction
- Communicate with residents and business and assist those at most risk to take steps to minimise the risk
- Assess response to large scale or repeated flooding affecting vulnerable groups
- Develop a plan involving external service providers to manage the post-flood recovery phase

## 5.5 Long Term Developments

5.5.1 It is possible that long term developments might affect the occurrence and significance of flooding. However current planning policy aims to prevent new development from increasing flood risk.

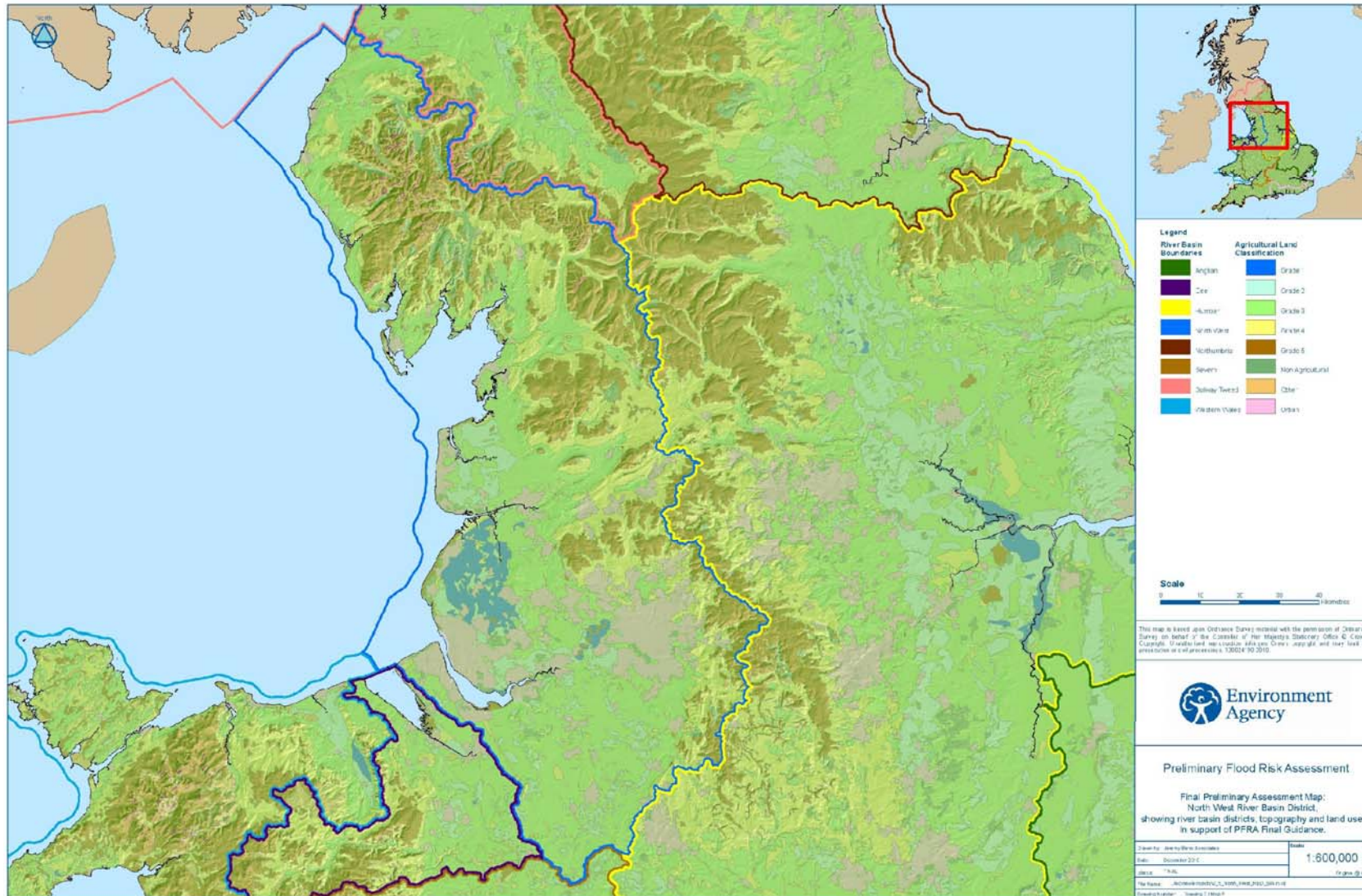
5.5.2 In England, Planning Policy Statement 25 (PPS25) on development and flood risk aims to "ensure that flood risk is taken into account at all stages in the planning process to avoid inappropriate development in areas at risk of flooding, and to direct development away from areas at highest risk. Where new development is, exceptionally, necessary in such areas, policy aims to make it safe without increasing flood risk elsewhere and where possible, reducing flood risk overall."

5.5.3 Adherence to Government policy ensures that new development does not increase local flood risk. However, in exceptional circumstances the Local Planning Authority may accept that flood risk can be increased contrary to Government policy, usually because of the wider benefits of a new or proposed major development. Any exceptions would not be expected to increase risk to levels which are "significant" (in terms of the Government's criteria).

5.5.4 A review of proposed development locations identified in the SFRA indicates that some industrial and transport related development is planned in Southport and Formby and that these typically contain some areas at a Low or Intermediate Susceptibility to surface water flooding. There is generally part of the network in or nearby the areas that has low capacity (<5yrs) and some sites lie near DG5 locations. Development may therefore have the potential to increase the pressure on the local drainage systems.

- 5.5.5 There are also some developments proposed in the Maghull area that typically contain some areas at a Low or Intermediate Susceptibility to surface water flooding. A development near Dovers Brook in particular lies at the downstream side of an area with significant historical records of surface water flooding and with a number of DG5 properties. This development could contribute to an increased pressure on the local drainage systems.
- 5.5.6 The majority of new development, however, is proposed in Bootle, Litherland and around Aintree. Most locations contain some areas at a Low or Intermediate Susceptibility to surface water flooding and some lie in areas with low capacity in the surface water sewer system (<5yrs). However, a few stand out as also lying in areas with historical flooding issues and DG5 properties. These are located to the west of Dunnings Bridge Road and Heysham Road, the areas north and south of Princess Way and Croxteth Avenue and areas to the east of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal along Hawthorne Road and areas by Wadham Road. Development in these areas may therefore have the potential to increase the pressure on the local drainage systems.





5-1: North West River Basin District

## 6 Review of Indicative Flood Risk Areas

### 6.1 Extent of Flood Risk Areas

- 6.1.1 In order to ensure a consistent national approach, Defra has identified significance criteria and thresholds to be used for defining flood risk areas. Guidance on applying these thresholds has been released in Defra's document "Selecting and reviewing Flood Risk Areas for local sources of flooding". In this guidance document, Defra has set out agreed key risk indicators and threshold values which must be used to determine Flood Risk Areas.
- 6.1.2 The methodology is based on using national flood risk information to identify 1km squares where local flood risk exceeds a defined threshold; these areas within Sefton are illustrated in Figure 6-1. Where a cluster of these grid squares leads to an area where flood risk is concentrated and over 30,000 people are predicted to be at risk of flooding, this area has been identified as an Indicative Flood Risk Area.
- 6.1.3 Of the ten national Indicative Flood Risk Areas, two fall in the North West and one of them is the Liverpool Indicative Flood Risk Area, shown in Figure 6-2.

### 6.2 Review Comments

- 6.2.1 Figure 6-2 shows the geographical extent of the indicative Flood Risk Area for Liverpool. As discussed in the previous section, the proposed Flood Risk Area includes southern areas of Sefton and also covers most of Liverpool District.
- 6.2.2 The Indicative Flood Risk Areas have been reviewed in the context of the locally agreed surface water information, including historical records of flooding within the borough, which generally supports the current extent of the Indicative Flood Risk Area.
- 6.2.3 Recognising that some communities have experienced past flooding that is considered to be locally significant but which are not adequately identified within the AStSWF Map, and following discussions with the Environment Agency and United Utilities, the decision has been taken to include these additional communities in order to more accurately reflect local conditions. Sefton MBC's proposed Flood Risk Areas are presented in Figure C-1 in Appendix C, though this does not affect the Indicative Flood Risk Area.



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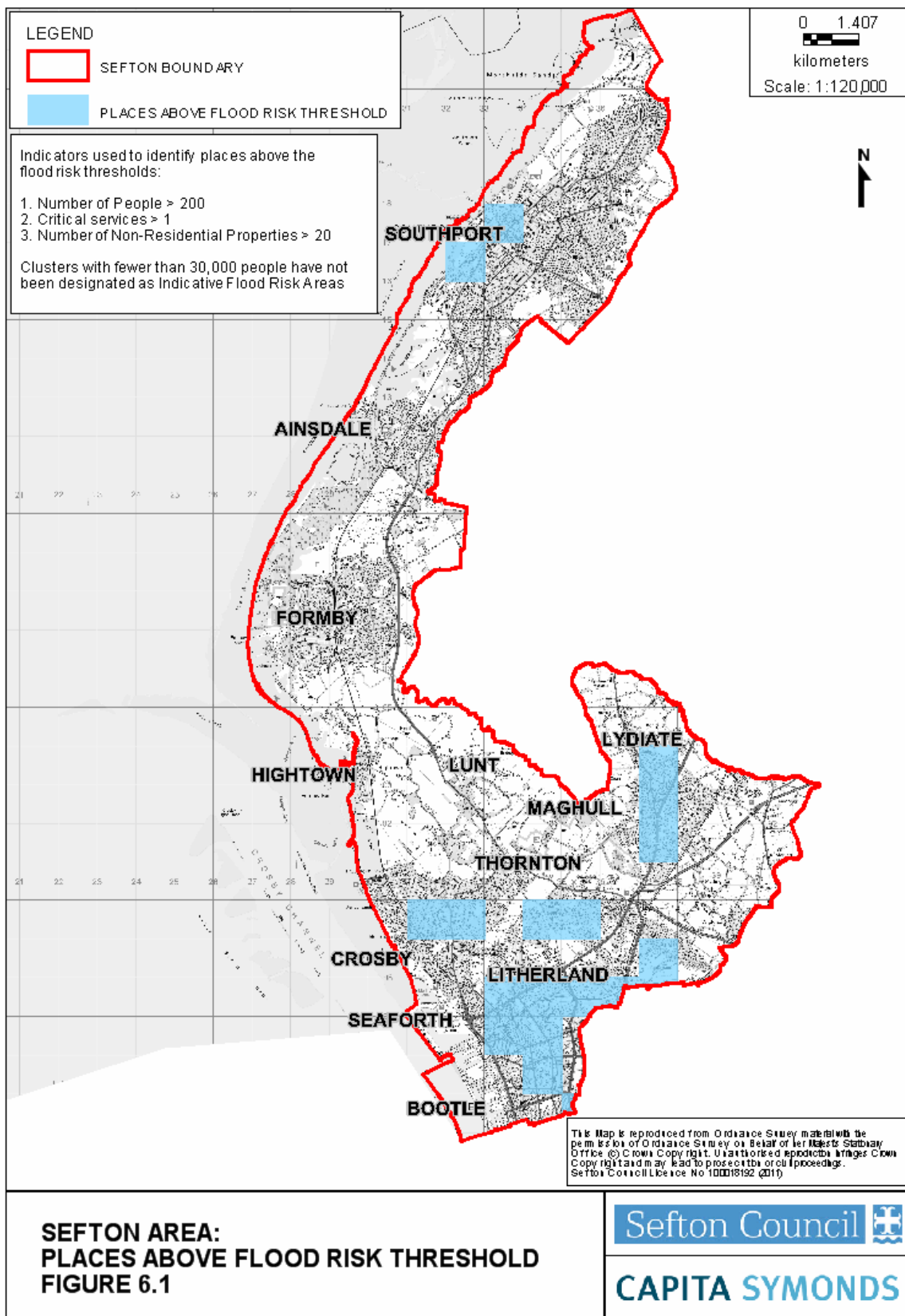
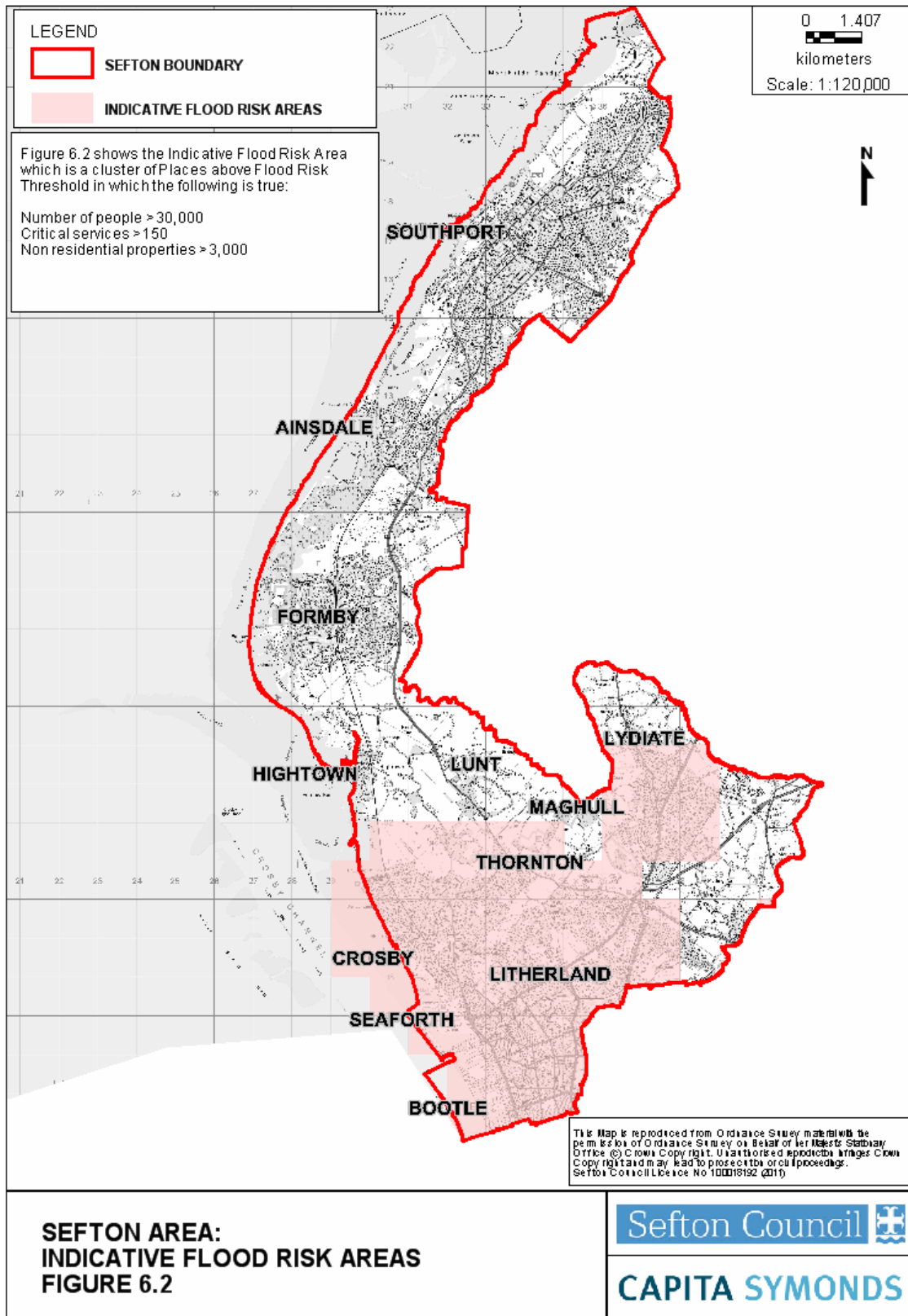


Figure 6-1: Sefton Areas Above Flood Risk Threshold



**Figure 6-2: Liverpool Indicative Flood Risk Area with New Flood Risk Areas identified by Sefton MBC.**

## 7 Identification of Flood Risk Areas

### 7.1 Amendments to Flood Risk Areas

7.1.1 Five minor changes to the boundary of the Indicative Flood Risk Area have been made to avoid partial exclusion of a number of communities in which locally agreed significance criteria have been exceeded and which aren't identified in the AStSWF map.

7.1.2 These five changes are based on historical flood events in which more than 8 properties were flooded in conjunction with a predicted risk of future flooding, as shown by the locally agreed surface water

7.1.3 Future cycles of the PFRA process will use the outputs from the Sefton SWMP to define areas at significant risk from future flooding and for the production of flood hazard and flood risk maps for this area.

#### **Area 1: Beresford Drive**

7.1.4 Flooding in Beresford Drive was known to have affected more than 8 properties and the area is currently shown in both the FMfSW and the AStSWF datasets to be impacted by flooding. There are local records of flooding from both Sefton MBC and UU records.

7.1.5 Future flooding in isolation is likely to result in "locally harmful consequences".

#### **Area 2: Hawksworth Drive**

7.1.6 Flooding in Hawksworth Drive in January 2008 was known to have affected more than 8 properties, however, the area is not currently shown in the AStSWF dataset to be impacted by flooding. There are local records of flooding from both Sefton MBC and UU records dating back to the early 1990s.

7.1.7 Future flooding in isolation is likely to result in "locally harmful consequences".

#### **Area 3: Hoggs Hill Lane**

7.1.8 Flooding records from Sefton MBC and UU indicate locally significant flooding in January 2008 as well as numerous times dating back to the early 1990s. The area is currently shown in the AStSWF dataset to be impacted by flooding..

7.1.9 Future flooding in isolation is likely to result in "locally harmful consequences".

#### **Area 4: Willow Hey**

7.1.10 Flooding records from Sefton MBC and UU indicate locally significant flooding at numerous times dating back to the early 1990s, particularly focussed in 32 to 34 Willow Hey. The area is currently shown in the FMfSW dataset to be impacted by flooding, as well as the AStSWF dataset.

7.1.11 Future flooding in isolation is likely to result in "locally harmful consequences".

#### **Area 5: Claremont Avenue**

7.1.12 Flooding records from Sefton MBC and UU indicate locally significant flooding at numerous times dating back to the early 1990s, some of which is associated with historical drains that run at the back of gardens. The area is currently shown in the FMfSW dataset to be impacted by flooding, as well as the AStSWF dataset.

7.1.13 Future flooding in isolation is likely to result in “locally harmful consequences”.

## 7.2 Amended Flood Risk Area

7.2.1 Figure C-1 in Appendix C illustrates the Local Flood Risk Areas proposed. The amendments are also presented in Annex 3, which outlines the consequences of flooding within the Flood Risk Area and the rational for inclusion.

## 8 Next Steps

### 8.1 Scrutiny & Review

- 8.1.1 The scrutiny and review procedures that must be adopted when producing a PFRA are set out in the Flood Risk Regulations. Meeting quality standards is important in order to ensure that the appropriate sources of information have been used to understand flood risk and the most significant flood risk areas are identified for future assessment. Scrutiny and review also ensures that the standards of the EU Floods Directive are met.
- 8.1.2 The Regulations specify that the Environment Agency and the Lead Local Flood Authority must review the PFRA and associated Flood Risk Areas and that subsequent to this review, either partner may prepare a revised PFRA. The first review cycle of the PFRA will be led by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council and must be submitted to the Environment Agency by the 22nd of June 2017. The Environment Agency will then submit it to the European Commission by the 22nd of December 2017. Subsequent reviews must be undertaken at intervals of no more than 6 years.

### 8.2 Data Collection & Management

- 8.2.1 As identified in Section 3.2, a number of data gaps have been identified that limit the capacity to accurately summarise the risk of flooding in Sefton from 'local' sources.
- 8.2.2 Key activities that will assist with addressing these gaps prior to the next round of PFRAs (expected in 2016) include:
- Investigation and recording of significant past flooding incidents (as discussed below);
  - Refining of the Sefton SWMP modelling in critical drainage areas to improve the understanding of flood mechanisms and flood hazard, and therefore whether the consequences of future flooding in these areas should be classified as significant;
  - Work in partnership with flood risk management organisations (e.g. United Utilities, the Environment Agency and British Waterways) to refine and share information on groundwater flooding, sewer flooding and canal flooding.
- 8.2.3 In order to fulfil their role as Local Lead Flood Authority, Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council is required to investigate future flood events and ensure continued collection, assessment and storage of flood risk data and information. They must also create a register of structures or features that are considered to have an effect on flood risk.
- 8.2.4 At present reports of flooding incidents received by any Sefton MBC department are collated in the 'Mayrise' recording system. It is recommended that a proforma for recording incidents be developed and provided to the council departments and partner organisations to ensure consistency in the format and detail of information collated. Sefton MBC would be responsible for collating the data into a single database at regular intervals.
- 8.2.5 It is anticipated that there will be areas identified through the SWMP process in which incorporation of the sewer network into the existing models will benefit the understanding of flood risk mechanisms and hazards. The SWMP process will identify these areas and recommend options to improve the understanding of flood risk such that future significant flood risks can be identified where necessary.

## 8.3 Other FRR Requirements

- 8.3.1 In accordance with the Flood Risk Regulations, Sefton MBC will prepare Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps for Flood Risk Areas, followed by a Flood Management Plan.
- 8.3.2 The Surface Water Management Plan currently being prepared for Sefton is expected to deliver many of the requirements in the first cycle of the Flood Risk Regulations. Once guidance on Flood Hazard Mapping and Flood Risk Management Plans is issued, Sefton MBC will review its Surface Water Management Plan to determine compliance and any further work required.
- 8.3.3 As a minimum the Flood Hazard Maps must show the information below and must relate to High, Medium and Low probabilities of flooding for sources other than those for which the Environment Agency has responsibility:
- Flood extent (including level and depth); and
  - Direction and velocity;
- 8.3.4 High probability is classed as defined as an annual probability of more than 1%, medium probability is defined as an annual probability between 1% and 0.1% and low probability is defined as an annual probability of less than 0.1%.
- 8.3.5 The Flood Risk Maps must show the information below and must also relate to High, Medium and Low probabilities of flooding for sources other than those for which the Environment Agency has responsibility:
- The number of people living in the area likely to be affected in the event of flooding;
  - The type of economic activity likely to be affected in the event of flooding;
  - Any industrial activities in the area likely to be affected in the event of flooding;
  - Any relevant protected areas likely to be affected in the event of flooding;
  - Any areas of water subject to specified measures or protection of water quality likely to be affected in the event of flooding; and
  - Any other effect on human health, economic activity and the environment
- 8.3.6 Flood Hazard Maps and Flood Risk Maps must be published by December 22<sup>nd</sup> 2013 and the first review must take place by the Environment Agency and the LLFA by the 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2019. Subsequent reviews must be undertaken at intervals of no more than 6 years.
- 8.3.7 A Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) must also be prepared by the LLFA for review by the Environment Agency and publication by 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2015.
- 8.3.8 The FRMP must include:
- Details of objectives to be met by the LLFA;
  - The proposed measures for achieving those objectives;
  - a map showing the boundaries of the flood risk area;
  - a summary of the conclusions of the Flood Hazard and Flood Risk Maps; and
  - A description of the timing and manner of implementation of the measures and on the way in which implementation will be monitored;



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- 8.3.9 The objectives should reduce the likelihood of flooding and the adverse consequences of flooding on human health, economic activity and the environment. The proposed measures should include options to prevent flooding and to protect individuals, communities and the environment against flooding. Measures should also include mechanisms for flood forecasting and warning.

## 9 References

Environment Agency, December 2010, Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) Final Guidance, Report GEHO1210BTGH-E-E

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Clarke, Dr. D, 2009, UKCP09 Predictions for the Formby-Southport Area: Draft Report for IMCORE Project

Quantum, 2011, Adapting to Climate Change: Assessment of Risks for Sefton MBC (Draft)

ESI, 2009, Lower Mersey and North Merseyside Groundwater Resources Study: Final Report

## Annexes

### **Annex 1: Records of past floods and their significant consequences (Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet)**

Please refer to Annex 1 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet attached with this report. Please note that two flood events have been considered to have 'locally significant harmful consequences'.

### **Annex 2: Records of future floods and their significant consequences (Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet)**

Please refer to Annex 2 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet attached with this report. This spreadsheet includes a complete record of future flood risk within Sefton, including details of the potential consequences of flooding to key risk receptors within the borough.

### **Annex 3: Records of Flood Risk Areas and its rationale (Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet)**

Please refer to Annex 3 of the Preliminary Assessment Spreadsheet attached with this report. This spreadsheet includes information and details about the identified Flood Risk Area within Sefton.

### **Annex 4: Review Checklist**

Please refer to Annex 4, attached to this report, which contains the Review Checklist that has been provided by the Environment Agency to act as a checklist for reviewing PFRA submissions.

## Appendix A Past Floods

**Figure A-1** Sefton MBC Surface Water Flooding Records

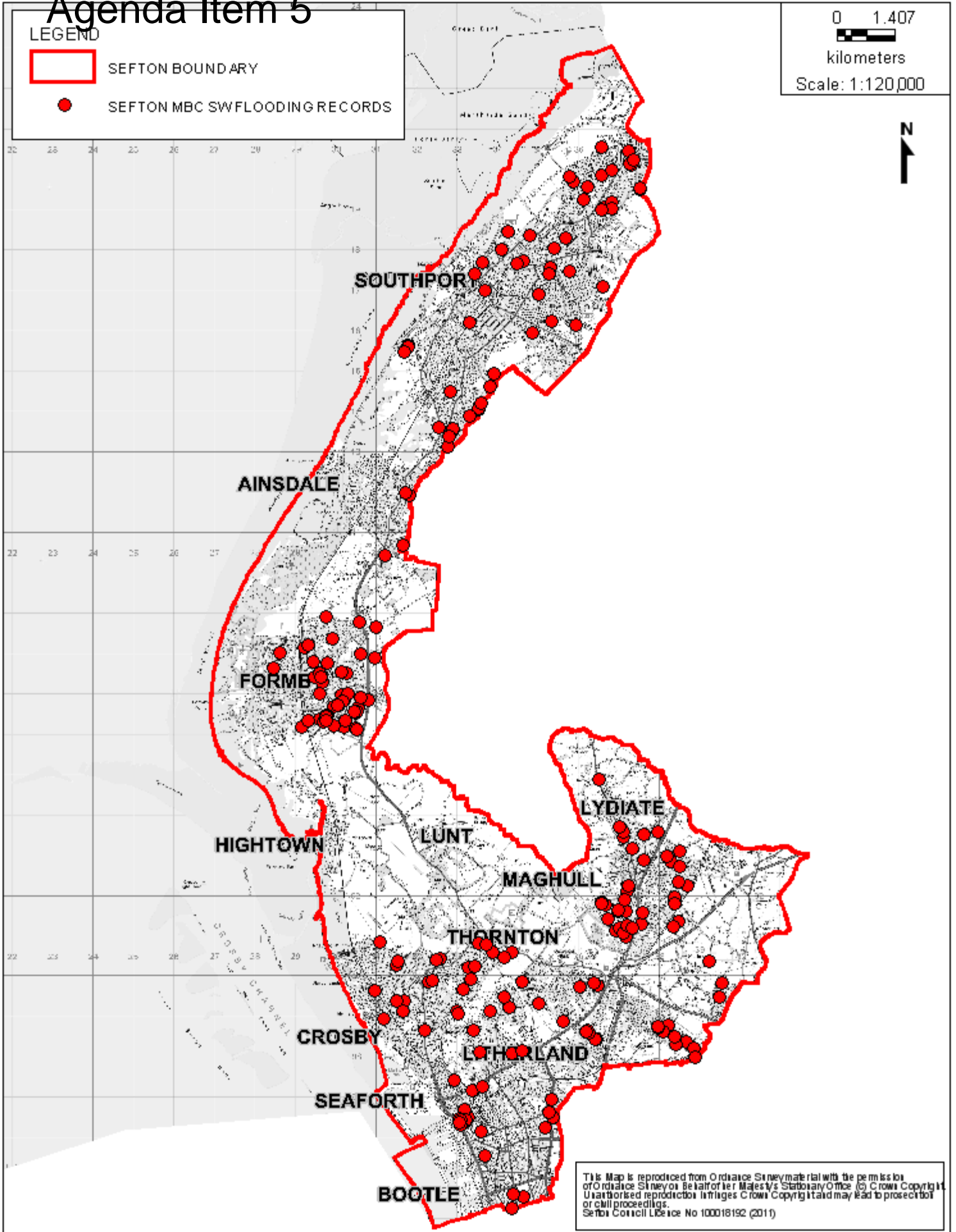
**Figure A-2** Sewer Flooding Records

**Figure A-3** Environment Agency Historical Flood Records (whole Borough)

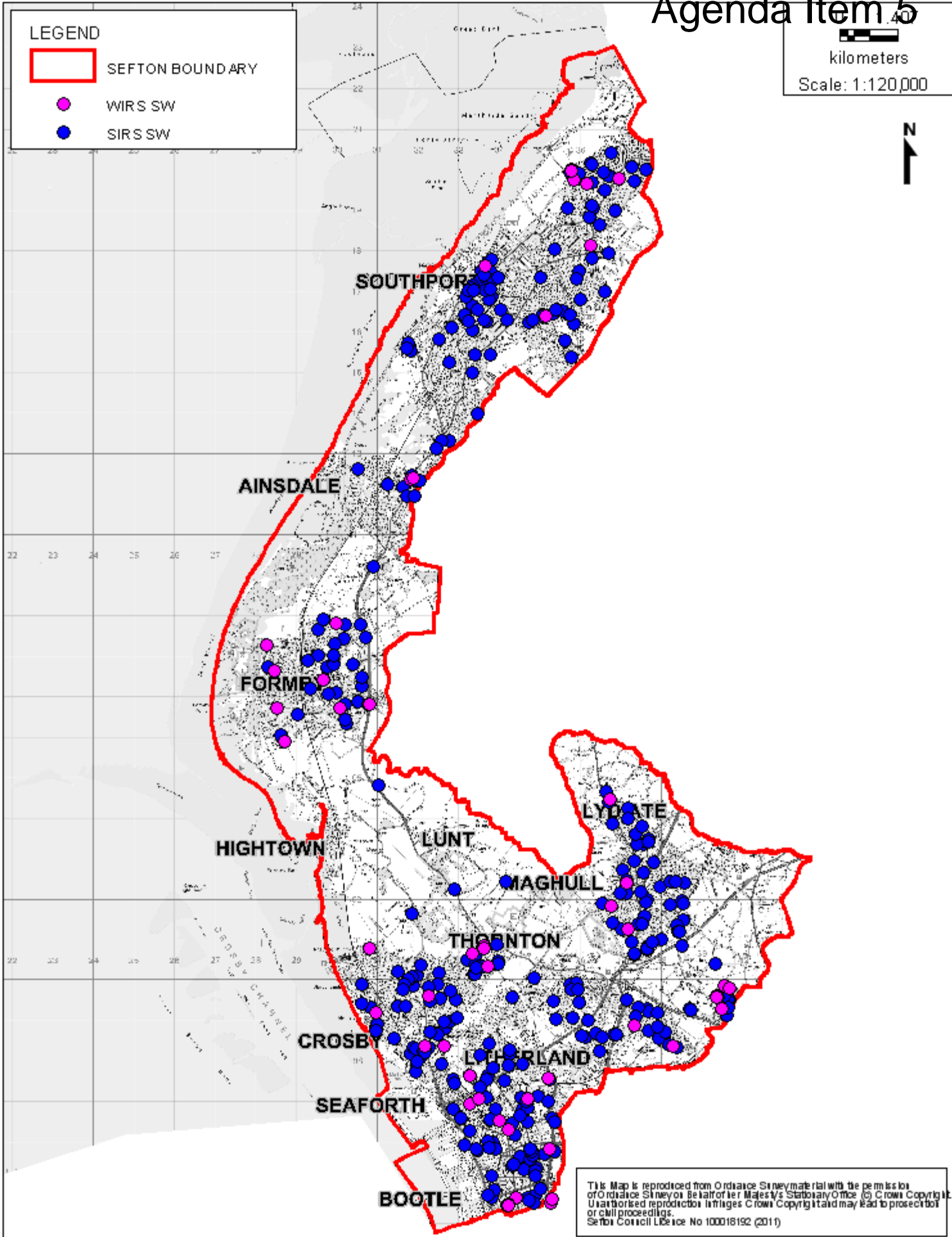
**Figure A-3.1** Environment Agency Historical Flood Records (Detailed)

**Table A-1** Significant local flood events

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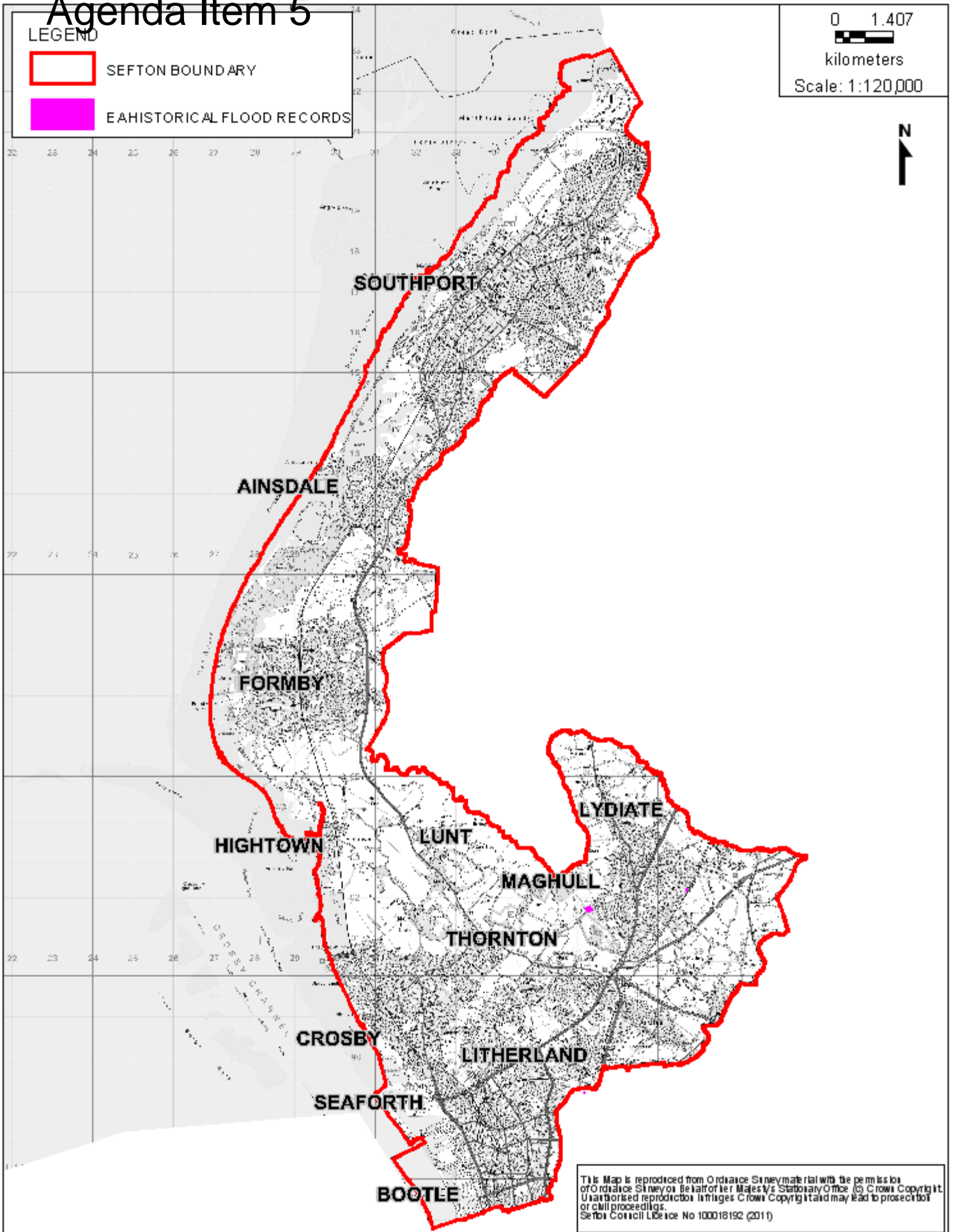


SEFTON AREA:  
SEFTON MBC SURFACE WATER FLOOD RECORDS  
FIGURE A-1

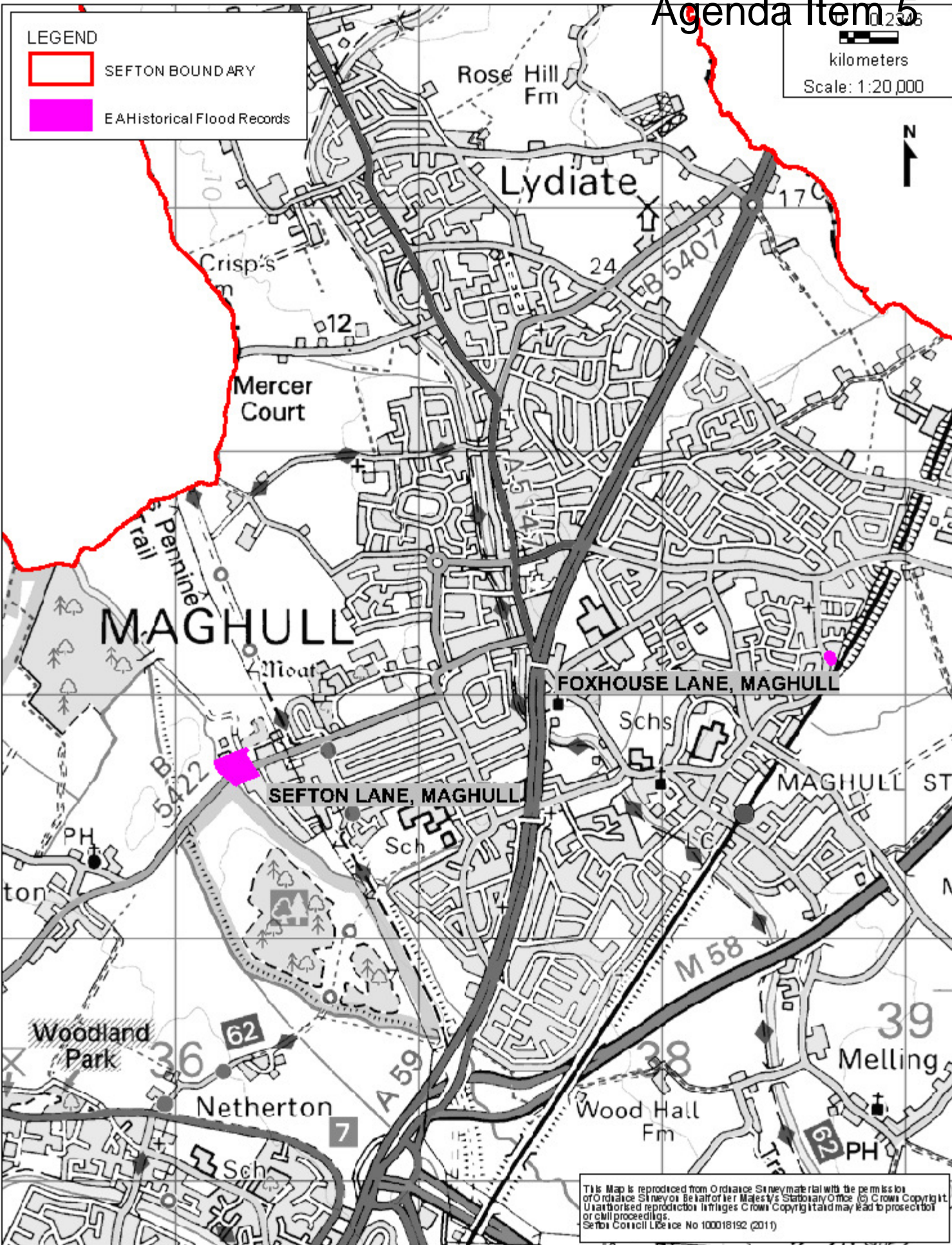




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SEFTON AREA:  
ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
HISTORICAL FLOOD RECORDS  
FIGURE A-3



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**SEFTON AREA:  
 ENVIRONMENT AGENCY  
 HISTORICAL FLOOD RECORDS  
 FIGURE A-3.1**



## Appendix B Future Floods

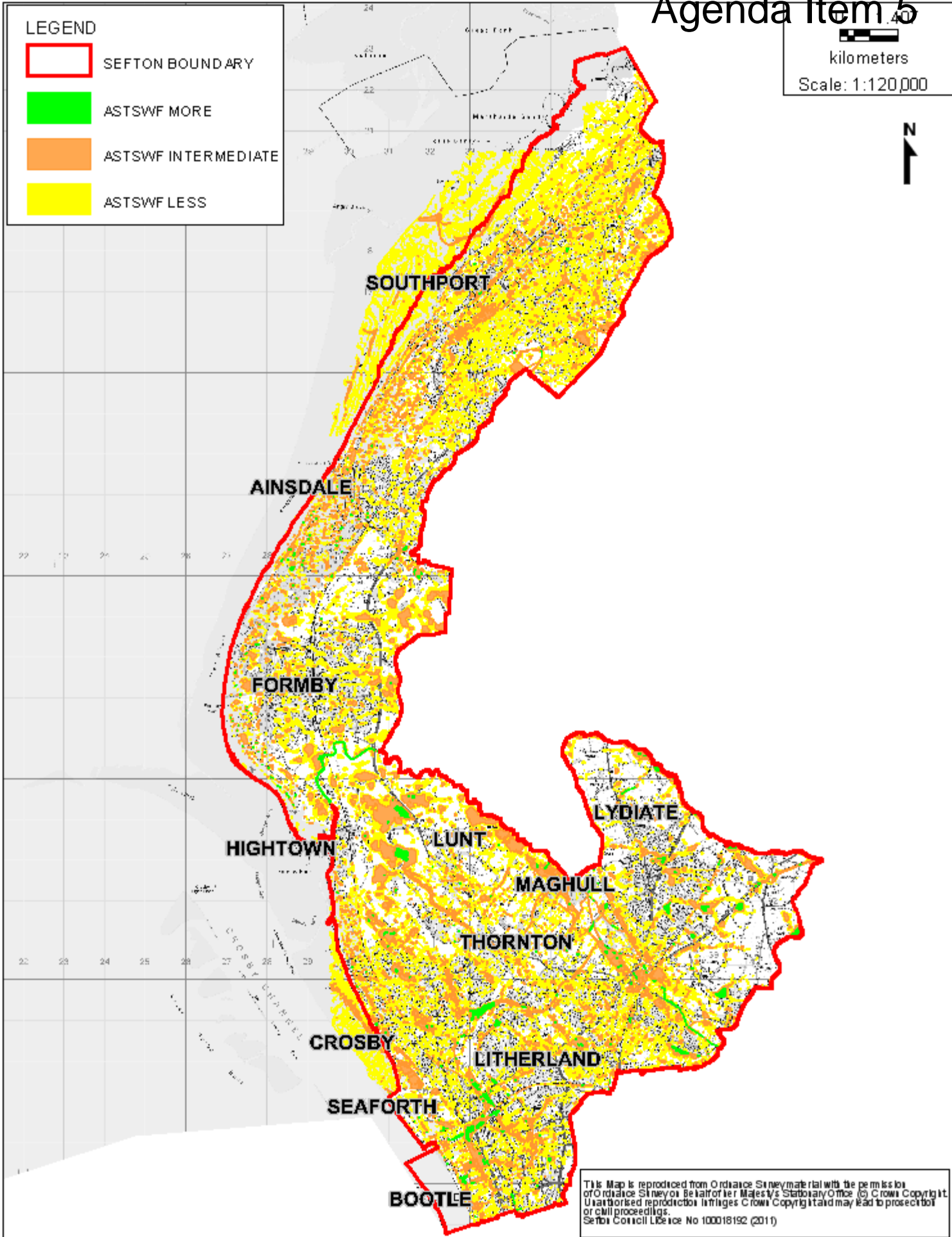
**Figure B-1** Areas Susceptible to Surface Water Flooding (Less, Intermediate and More Susceptible)

**Figure B-2** Areas Susceptible to Groundwater Flooding

LEGEND

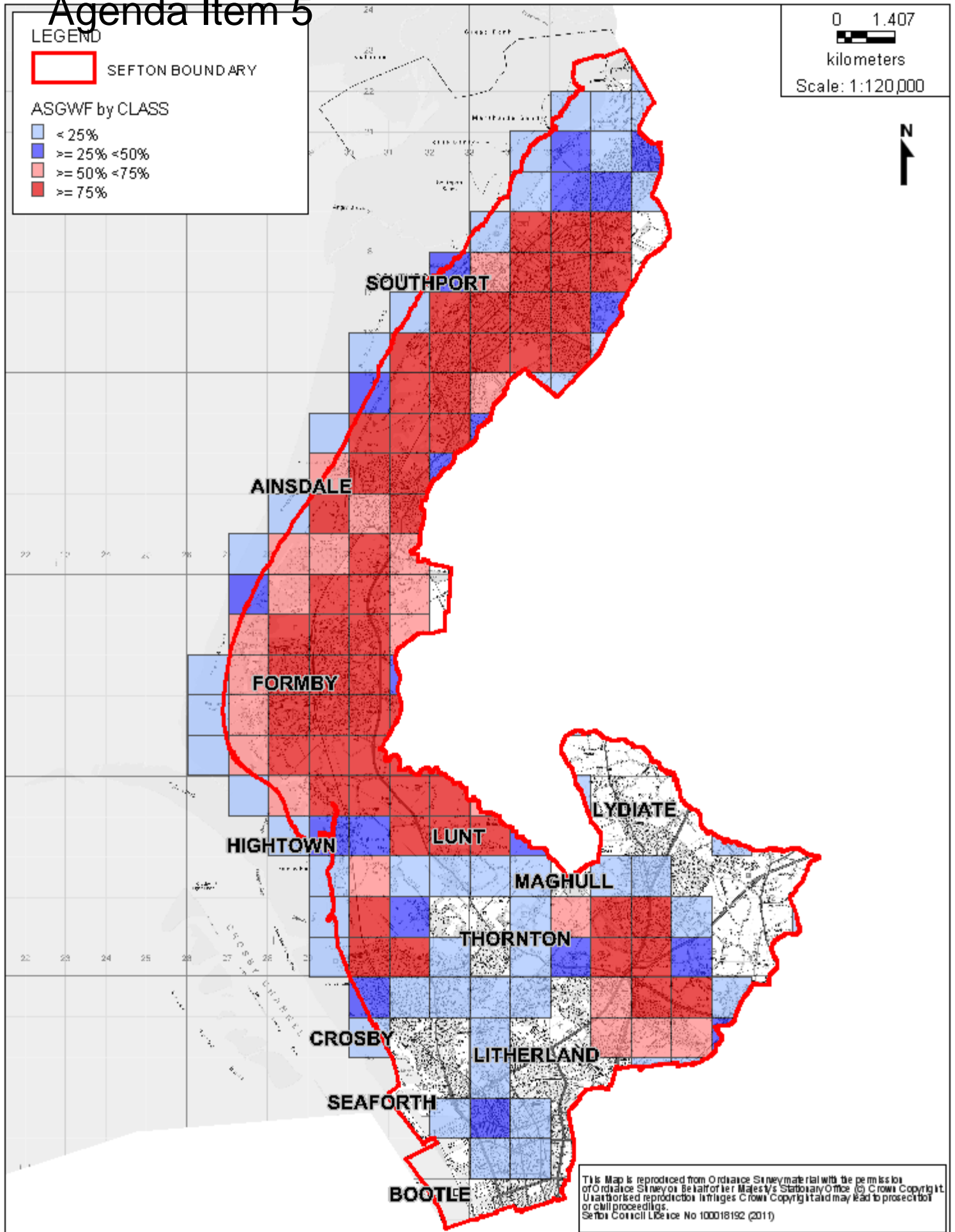
- SEFTON BOUNDARY
- ASTSWF MORE
- ASTSWF INTERMEDIATE
- ASTSWF LESS

kilometers  
Scale: 1:120,000



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# Agenda Item 5

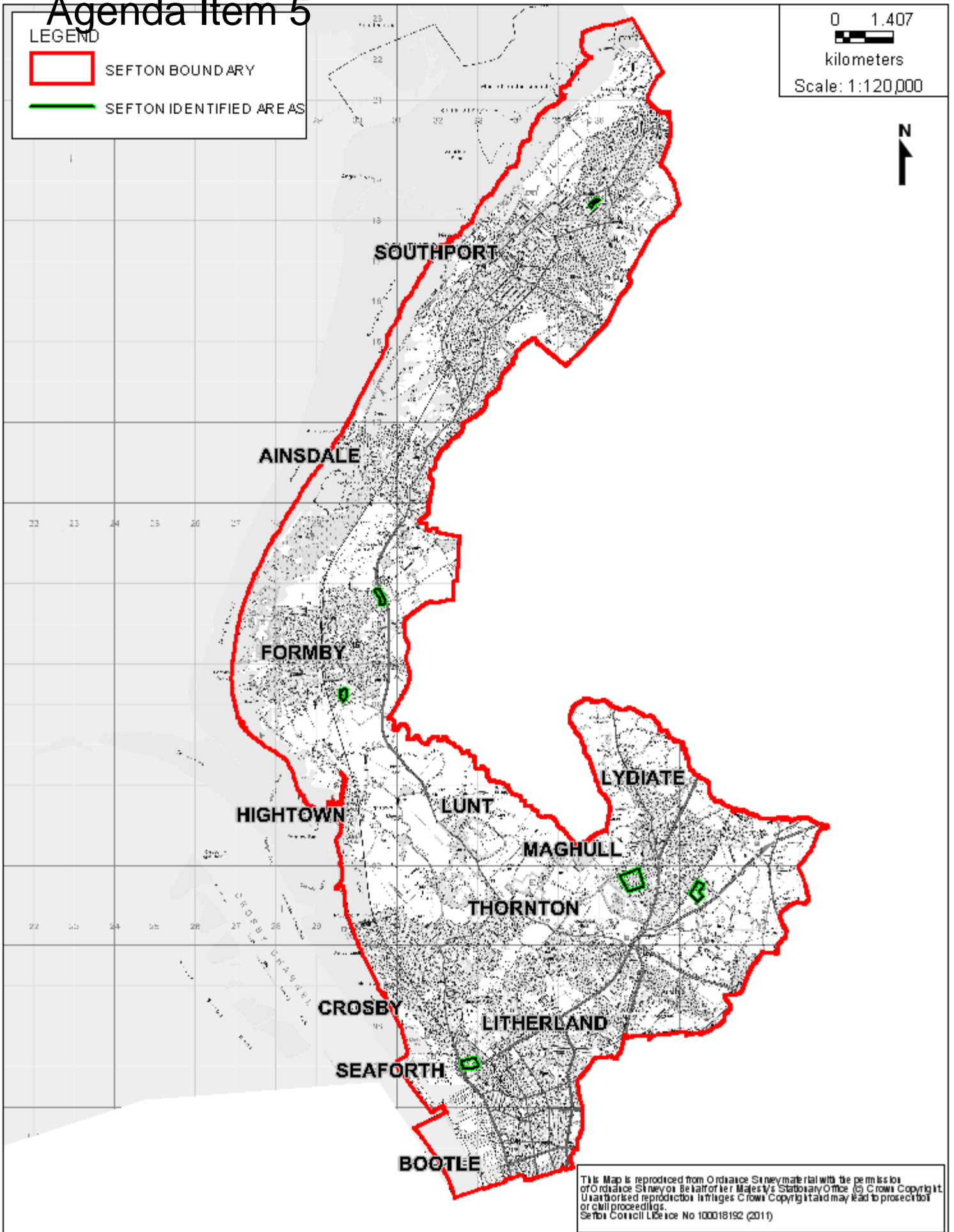


## Appendix C Flood Risk Areas

**Figure C-1** Agreed Indicative Flood Risk Areas



# Agenda Item 5



**SEFTON AREA:  
LOCAL FLOOD RISK AREAS  
FIGURE C-1**

## Appendix D Review Checklist

# Agenda Item 5

## Appendix E GIS Layer of Flood Risk Area(s)

# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 7 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Town Centres (Scrutiny Review Working Group) Report		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Regeneration and Housing	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Regeneration & Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To draw to a conclusion the Town Centres (Scrutiny Review Working Group) periodic reporting mechanism and note the new reporting mechanism.

## Recommendation(s):

(1) That this report is noted.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with the decision of Cabinet for an update report and confirm the new reporting arrangements.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

Not applicable.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue cost implications arising from this report.

### (B) Capital Costs

# Agenda Item 6

There are capital cost implications arising from this report.

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> There are no resource implications arising from this report.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> There are no legal implications arising from this report.
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications arising from this report.

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable.
Place – leadership and influencer: The Town Centre Frameworks provide a high-level vision for future investment and a direction of travel for Bootle, Crosby and Southport. Action Plans have been drawn up illustrating the work streams and themes that will be progressed for each Town Centre but delivered by numerous stakeholders.
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The Town Centre Frameworks provide a high-level vision for future investment and a direction of travel for Bootle, Crosby and Southport. Action Plans have been drawn up illustrating the work streams and themes that will be progressed for each Town Centre but delivered by numerous stakeholders.
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable.
Cleaner Greener Not applicable.

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD4911/17) has been consulted and notes no direct financial implications arise from the recommendations of the report. The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4195/17) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paula Lowrey
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	Tel: 0151 934 2734
<b>Email Address:</b>	paula.lowrey@sefton.gov.uk

### Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## 1. Introduction/Background

1.1 On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2015, Cabinet resolved to accept the Final Report of the Town Centres Working Group Final Report. The report recommended that its recommendations be monitored and reported back to Overview and Scrutiny every six months.

1.2 The Head of Investment and Employment provided a comprehensive update to Overview and Scrutiny on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016, stating completed actions or highlighting actions that are now redundant as a result of other actions. The report also noted the changes to the senior Management Structure of the Authority and where thematic responsibilities now rested.



# Agenda Item 6

- 1.3 Significant progress has been made in relation to the town centres. A high level vision for future investment and a direction of travel had been prepared and published for each of the following Town Centres:
- Bootle Town Centre Investment Framework, published 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016
  - Crosby Development Strategy, published 5<sup>th</sup> November 2015
  - Southport Development Framework published 1<sup>st</sup> November 2016
- 1.4 Action Plans have been drawn up for Bootle Crosby and Southport, illustrating the work streams and themes that will be progressed for each Town Centre. Each Action Plans is a long-term living document and will evolve as new opportunities and developments emerge. The work streams identified for each Town Centre are being actively progressed.
- 1.5 As discussed at the Overview and Scrutiny meeting of 4<sup>th</sup> July, Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills will report on Town Centre progress going forward.

# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee's (Adult Social Care and Health); (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) (Regeneration and Skills); and (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 October 2017 31 October 2017 7 November 2017 14 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Call-In Procedure		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Regulation and Compliance	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To submit to all four Overview and Scrutiny Committees the proposed procedure to be adopted by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee when considering a decision that has been called in.

## Recommendation:

That the call in procedure, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, be adopted as the procedure to be followed by the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee when considering a decision that has been called in.

## Reasons for the Recommendation:

To assist the Committee in its deliberations when considering a decision that has been called in.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

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

No Revenue/Capital costs associated with this proposal.

# Agenda Item 7

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
None
<b>Legal Implications:</b>
The procedure would be included as an appendix to the Constitution to be used when an Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers a decision that has been called in.
<b>Equality Implications:</b>
The procedure will provide equality to all parties associated with the call in.

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: The call in procedure should promote confidence in the function of Overview and Scrutiny, in its role of holding the Executive to Account.
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.4887/17) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4171/17) have been consulted and have no comments on the report

### (B) External Consultations

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ruth Harrison
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	Tel: 0151 934 2042
<b>Email Address:</b>	ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

Appendix 1 – Current “Call-in” Procedure note

Appendix 2 – Proposed “Call-in” Procedure Note as amended by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board.

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 One of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee functions is to hold the Executive to account. The Executive is held to account when a decision is “called-in”.
- 1.1 A decision made by the Cabinet Member for Locality Services was recently “called-in” and considered at a Special Meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) held on 7 September 2017. At that Special Meeting the Committee resolved to refer the Procedure Note for “call-in” to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for it to consider.
- 1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board met on 26 September 2017 and considered the current “call-in” procedure note, as detailed in Appendix 1 to the report.
- 1.3 After consideration and debate, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board suggested some changes to the procedure note, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report. The Board requested that the amended procedure note be referred to all four Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a recommendation to adopt the procedure note, as detailed in Appendix 2 to the report, as the procedure to be followed when considering a decision that has been called-in.

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## APPENDIX 1

### **CALL - IN PROCEDURE NOTE** **Minute number and Title**

The Chair to explain the call-in process as follows:-

A – Is the call-in valid? – Democratic Services Officer to advise

B – To determine whether the Committee is concerned about the decision as follows:

1. 1 of the 3 Councillors that have called-in the decision to address the Committee explaining the reason for call-in.
2. A representative of the public to make representations – 5 minutes  
(This is subject to the agreement of the Committee)
3. Leader of the Council and/or the Cabinet Member to explain the decision and the reasons why it was taken.
4. Officer Representative(s) to report on the issues and the reasons for their recommendation and advice to Cabinet/Cabinet Member.
5. Committee Members to ask questions of:-
  - (a) the lead call-in Member
  - (b) the Leader of the Council and/or Cabinet Member
  - (c) officer representative(s)
6. Leader of the Council and/or Cabinet Member to sum up
7. Lead call-in Member to sum up
8. Is the Committee concerned about the decision in the light of what it has heard?

The options are:-

referral of the matter back to Cabinet or Cabinet Member for re-consideration setting out the nature of the Committee's concerns; or

referral of the matter to Council to decide whether it wishes to object to the decision. (NB. 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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## APPENDIX 2

### CALL - IN PROCEDURE NOTE Minute number and Title

The Chair to explain the call-in process as follows:-

A – Is the call-in valid? – Democratic Services Officer to advise

B – To determine whether the Committee is concerned about the decision as follows:

1. 1 of the 3 Councillors that have called-in the decision to address the Committee explaining the reason for call-in. (No more than 5 minutes)
2. A representative of the public to make representations – 5 minutes  
(This is subject to the agreement of the Committee)
3. Leader of the Council and/or the Cabinet Member to explain the decision and the reasons why it was taken. (No more than 5 minutes)
4. Officer Representative(s) to report on the issues and the reasons for their recommendation and advice to Cabinet/Cabinet Member. (No more than 5 minutes)
5. Committee Members to ask questions of:-
  - (a) the lead call-in Member
  - (b) the Leader of the Council and/or Cabinet Member
  - (c) officer representative(s)
6. Leader of the Council and/or Cabinet Member to sum up (No more than 5 minutes)
7. Lead call-in Member to sum up (No more than 5 minutes)
8. Is the Committee concerned about the decision in the light of what it has heard?
  - i) No the Committee is not concerned; or
  - ii) The Committee is concerned and should proceed to option (a) or (b) below

The options are:-

(a) referral of the matter back to Cabinet or Cabinet Member for re-consideration setting out the nature of the Committee's concerns; or

(b) referral of the matter to Council to decide whether it wishes to object to the decision. (NB. 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.)



# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2017/18, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Regulation and Compliance	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To update the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2017/18, topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee and to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

## Recommendation:

That:-

- (1) the Work Programme for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The determination of the Work Programme containing items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2017/18 and the identification of scrutiny review topics demonstrates that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny 'adds value' to the Council.

The pre-scrutiny process assists effective decision making by examining issues before the Cabinet Member or Cabinet make formal decisions.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:** (including any Risk Implications)

# Agenda Item 8

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to approve its Work Programme and identify scrutiny review topics.

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

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

**(A) Revenue Costs – see above**

**(B) Capital Costs – see above**

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report but reference in the Work Programme to the Peer Review Working Group – Final Report which reviewed Sefton's approach to Serious and Organised Crime (SOC), in light of the Home Office Peer Review findings in November 2015 highlighted that Working Group Members were reassured that those leading on the Agenda of SOC in Sefton have a sound approach and would continue to ensure that Sefton was a safe community to live, work and visit.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above.
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of reports, as referenced in the Work Programme, relating to the review of Winter Service and Operational Plan; the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2017/18; Refuse Collection; and the Parks and Greenspaces Final Report
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report but reports would be submitted to the Committee detailing how the Council is leading on beneficial changes to be made with reference to United Utilities charging policies and new houses being sold as leasehold.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of reports, as referenced in the Work Programme, relating to the Economic Strategy for Growth; and the implementation of recommendations arising from Working Groups relating to Town Centres; the Port Masterplan; Employment Development; and Not in Education, Employment or Training.
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report but the Committee would be made aware of such issues via the receipt of reports, as referenced in the Work Programme, relating to the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service

Delivery Plan 2017/18; Refuse Collection; and Parks and Greenspaces together with the implementation of recommendations arising from the Shale Gas Working Group.
---

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 4910/17) has been consulted and notes the report indicates there are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time. The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4194/17) have been consulted and has no comments on the report.

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk">Paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk</a>

## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2017/18
- Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## Introduction/Background

### 1. WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

- 1.1 The Committee at its meeting held on 4 July 2017 approved a Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2017/18 and the Work Programme is set out in **Appendix 1** to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 1.2 Members are also requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the



# Agenda Item 8

Committee during 2017/18 and updated, as appropriate.

## 2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2017/18

- 2.1 At its meeting held on 19 September 2017 the Committee established a Working Group to look at the topic of Sefton's Housing Development Company. To date Councillors Michael O'Brien, Roche, Sayers and Bill Welsh have volunteered to serve on the Working Group.
- 2.2 The Parks and Greenspaces Working Group previously established by this Committee has now completed its review and the Final Report is currently being drafted.

## 3. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

- 3.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four month period.
- 3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists effective decision making by examining issues before the Cabinet Member or Cabinet make formal decisions.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 The latest Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix 2** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 The Committee is invited to consider items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in **Appendix 2** to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above.

## APPENDIX 1

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) WORK PROGRAMME 2017/18

Date of Meeting	4 JULY 2017	19 SEPTEMBER 2017	7 NOVEMBER 2017	23 JANUARY 2018	13 MARCH 2018
Cabinet Member Update Report	X	X	X	X	X
Work Programme Update	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Service Operational Reports:</b>					
Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report			X		
Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan		X			
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2017/18				X	
United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges	X		X		X
Economic Strategy for Growth				X	
Refuse Collection		X			
New Houses being sold as leasehold		X			
Peer Review Working Group – Final Report	X				
Parks and Greenspaces Final Report		X			
<b>Scrutiny Review Progress Reports:</b>					
Shale Gas		X			
Town Centres			X		
Port Master Plan			X		
Employment Development				X	
NEET					X

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 NOVEMBER 2017 - 28 FEBRUARY 2018**

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

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 2

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**

## APPENDIX 2

### FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle - Update	Sarah Kemp sarah.kemp@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4770
Procurement of a New Information, Advice and Guidance Service for Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Young People	Claire Maguire claire.maguire@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2684
Southport Town Centre - Townscape Heritage Lottery Application	Daniel Byron daniel.byron@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3201
Bootle Heritage Complex	Paula Lowrey paula.lowrey@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2734
Parks and Greenspaces Working Group	Ruth Harrison ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2042
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review	Paul Wisse paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2959

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle - Update</b> To update Members on the latest position on the ownership of the Strand shopping Centre, Bootle			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	2 Nov 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	Head of Regulation and Compliance; Head of Corporate Resources; Head of Regeneration and Skills			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings; Emails			



# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 2

List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle - Update
Contact Officer(s) details	Sarah Kemp sarah.kemp@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4770

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>Procurement of a New Information, Advice and Guidance Service for Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Young People</b></p> <p>To obtain approval for the procurement of a new service to deliver information, advice and guidance for NEET young people in Sefton in line with VISION 2030 and the Council's key economic objectives</p>			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	<p>2 Nov 2017</p> <p>Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/10/2017 to 02/11/2017. Reason: Due to the nature of the procurement being sought containing a number of innovative approaches it will be necessary to have further input and advice from Procurement and Legal teams before we proceed so as to ensure compliance with all the necessary regulations</p>			
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	Head of Communities; Head of Corporate Resources; Head of Schools and Families			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings, emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Procurement of a new information, advice and guidance service for NEET young people			
Contact Officer(s) details	Claire Maguire claire.maguire@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2684			

## APPENDIX 2

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Southport Town Centre - Townscape Heritage Lottery Application</b> To seek approval from Cabinet to resubmit the Stage 1 application (of a 2 stage process) to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for the Townscape Heritage (TH) funding stream for Southport Town Centre including Lord Street and the Promenade Conservation Areas.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	2 Nov 2017 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/10/2017 to 02/11/2017. Reason: Further detailed information in connection with the Lottery Heritage Application is being investigated			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Dukes			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Phil Cresswell Stuart Barnes Paula Lowrey Daren Veidman			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings, emails and reports			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Southport Town Centre			
Contact Officer(s) details	Daniel Byron daniel.byron@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3201			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 2

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Bootle Heritage Complex</b> To review the options for the complex and permission to undertake the next steps, such as external funding applications.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Dec 2017 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/10/2017 to 07/12/2017. Reason: Funding streams are still being investigated for the development of the Complex			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Linacre			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Members and Stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and Correspondence			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Bootle Heritage Complex			
Contact Officer(s) details	Paula Lowrey paula.lowrey@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2734			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Parks and Greenspaces Working Group</b> To submit the findings of the Parks and Greenspaces Working Group.
Decision Maker	Cabinet
Decision Expected	7 Dec 2017 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/10/2017 to 07/12/2017. Reason: The Working Group is still deliberating on its Final Report

## APPENDIX 2

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	Elected Members and Stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and Correspondence			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Parks and Greenspaces Working Group			
Contact Officer(s) details	Ruth Harrison ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2042			

### **SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN**

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review</b> Sefton Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority has to review its Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment (PFRA) on a 6 year cycle as a requirement of the Flood Risk Regulations, 2009. The review area covers a number of wards within Sefton. Approval is sought to submit the review to the Environment Agency.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Dec 2017			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Blundellsands; Church; Derby; Ford; Linacre; Litherland; Manor; Molyneux; Netherton and Orrell; Park; St. Oswald; Sudell; Victoria			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 2

Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member – Locality Services
Method(s) of Consultation	Cabinet Member meeting
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011 Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment 2011 Annexes Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment review
Contact Officer(s) details	Paul Wisse paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2959

# Agenda Item 9

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee -(Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 November 2017
<b>Subject:</b>	Cabinet Member Reports – September 2017 – October 2017		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Regulation and Compliance	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

## 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.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options have been considered because 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?

Any financial implications associated with the Cabinet Member report which are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

**(A) Revenue Costs – see above**

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**(B) Capital Costs – see above**

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
<b>Legal Implications:</b>
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. The Cabinet Member update provides information on activity within Councillor Atkinson's, Fairclough's, Hardy's, and Veidman's portfolios during a previous two/three month period. Any reports relevant to their portfolio considered by the Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committees during this period would contain information as to how such reports contributed to the Council's Core Purpose.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above
Place – leadership and influencer: As above
Drivers of change and reform: As above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As above
Greater income for social investment: As above
Cleaner Greener: As above

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

### **(A) Internal Consultations**

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 report will be included in those reports as appropriate

### **(B) External Consultations**

Not applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision



Immediately following the Committee meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk">paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk</a>

## **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing;  
Cabinet Member – Locality Services – To follow;  
Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control; and  
Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills

## **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, is the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the Communities and Housing; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills portfolios. At the time of the preparation of this report the Cabinet Member – Locality Services' report is not yet finalised. This report will be sent to Members in due course.

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## CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT

**Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 7<sup>th</sup> November 2017)**

<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	October 2017

### **NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

#### **Neighbourhoods**

A community intervention meeting took place in Netherton on Tuesday 19th September. The main area for concern continues to be Marian Square. Partners reported there has been a significant drop in Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) on the Grange Primary School site and at The Emmanuel Baptist church. It is suggested that the arrest of a local nominal and the installation of security fencing (supported by Sefton Safer Communities Partnership funding) around the Grange Primary School has led to this reduction.

ASB within Killen Green Park has significantly dropped with only 1 reported incident over the last 4 weeks given the peak in reports over the summer months.

There was a Dispersal Order in place on the Pendle estate on Monday 21st and Tuesday 22nd August. This resulted in 12 dispersal orders being issued. 10 were issued to youths known to the Police. This has led to a reduction in reported ASB in the area. Sefton's Youth bus visited the estate on Thursday 21st September and a follow on programme of activity has been planned by Targeted Youth Support.

Consultation will begin in the near future regarding works that will be carried out to prune the trees and bushes that border resident's properties around Marian Gardens due to the numerous reports of youths congregating and causing anti-social behaviour.

An Arson Awareness day took place around the Sefton Estate on 25th August. Issues relating to fly-tipping and recent arson attacks on wheelie bins were addressed and advice was given to residents on how to protect their properties in partnership with Merseyside Police, Merseyside Fire and Rescue and Registered Providers.

The L30 Million project provided four weeks of Park Games in Killen Green Park during the summer holidays. Activities included Horse Riding, Inflatables and Go Karts. The activities were delivered in conjunction with Active Sefton's street games programme which began on Monday 7th August and ran till Friday 1st September. The Street Games programme was delivered in various locations across the borough based on hot-spot intelligence and Partners and Ward Member recommendations.

The NAC firework display will take place on Sunday 5th November starting at 7.30pm.

The Neighbourhoods Team have started to co-ordinate the variety of tasks that offenders could undertake across Sefton on a three-weekly cycle as part of the Community Payback programme. The Borough will be split up into three zones:

- North Sefton – Southport wards (7 wards)
- Mid Sefton – Crosby, Formby & Maghull wards (8 wards)
- South Sefton – Litherland, Netherton & Bootle wards (7 wards)

The tasks the payback team will carry out will be those that would not ordinarily be undertaken by Sefton Council staff. From the start date of the 18th September the offenders have been carrying out work in Hesketh Park on the instruction of Sefton Parks Team.

Future planned work includes:

- Painting of the railings at Victoria Park
- Litter picking in Marian Gardens
- Works in Formby's Memorial Garden for Remembrance Sunday.

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A multi-agency meeting took place on Friday 29th September after reports of ASB in and around the Old Roan Interchange. Partners who attended included Ward Councillors, Merseyside Police, Network Rail, Merseytravel, a Registered Provider and members of the Copy Lane residents association. A list of actions has been agreed and these will be monitored over the coming months.

Consultation for the Litherland Together Project has taken place with residents (mainly within the Ford Ward area). This consultation was held in conjunction with various partner organisations with the purpose of establishing what additional support, advice and information local residents believe they require. This consultation will assist in deciding what support will be provided over the “project week” which will take place at English Martyrs school w/c 20th November.

A school based exercise led by Venus took place with Year 5 and Year 6 pupils of English Martyrs. Pupils were asked a series of questions about life at home, life in the community and life at school. The young people questioned expressed concerns in the following areas:

- Bereavement
- Worry / Friendships
- Anti-Social Behaviour and Gangs particularly in and around parks and shopping areas
- Dealing with emotions – Anger Issues

The school have an excellent bereavement support programme in place to help the young people so no further action is planned in regard to this issue. However, the following support has been arranged for the school to help address some of the young people’s concerns:

- Get Away N Get Safe to be delivered February 2018
- Evolve – Tackling Legal Highs and Volatile Substances – to be delivered w/c 20th November
- Dogs Trust – Responsible Dog Ownership Assemblies – to be delivered 27th September
- Scrambler Bike Project with Merseyside Police – Ongoing
- Catch 22 have also been approached to deliver session around Child Exploitation.

Seven families have signed consent forms to take part in the multi-agency data sharing element of the project. They have allowed us to share their recorded information across agencies. Multi-agency meetings have begun to discuss the families in detail and to assign them a key worker. Agencies identified via action plans as being most important to the family will be based in the school throughout the project week w/c 20th November.

£20,000 funding was secured from a Registered Provider to provide diversionary youth activities throughout the summer period in South Sefton. Youth organisations including, Litherland Youth and Community Centre, The Brunswick, Christ Church Youth and Community Centre and the Carragher Foundation provided diversionary activities and trips for local young people and their families. A number of residential breaks also took place.

Activities took place in local parks and resulted in some youths crossing internal gang borders including:

- Football tournament – inter ward final
- Segway’s
- Multi Sports events
- Navigation experiences
- Basketball
- Animal sanctuary visits to the parks
- Cinema trips
- 3 residential events

Merseyside Police have indicated a 54% reduction of anti-social behaviour in South Sefton compared to the same period in 2016. Further activities are planned for the October half term and the

Halloween/Banger period. A Proceeds of Crime Act application for £65,000 will be submitted in November which, if successful, will secure the future of this project for 2018.

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### **Community Transition Fund**

To date £539,576 has been approved with £485,617 remaining. The guidance and application form has been amended following the last Cabinet Member briefing to include more information about project's contributing to the Council's Core Purpose. Options for running a loan system as part of the fund are being examined with our Legal and Finance departments.

### **Domestic Abuse**

Action Plans developed for the IDVA Team, MARAC and the SSCP following the recommendations from the LSCB's multi-agency audit on domestic abuse were discussed at the last LSCB Performance and Quality Assurance Group. Following the review of Multi Agency Risk Assessment Conference (MARAC), a number of process and procedures have been updated. These will be shared with partners on a MARAC refresher day being held on 10 November 2017.

The Level 2 multi-agency domestic abuse training has now been drafted and is expected to start being delivered from October 2017 by SWACA and the IDVA team. The Senior IDVA and MARAC Co-ordinator delivered Domestic Abuse and MARAC briefing to Sefton Magistrates on 23 September 2017 which was well received and a further session has already been requested.

Work is underway to develop a joint Merseyside wide commissioning specification for sexual violence support services. This is being led by NHS England North and the Police and Crime Commissioner's Office, working with Local Authority CSP Leads and CCGs. The aim of this is to provide a consistent offer for victims of sexual assault and rape (of any age or gender) across the Merseyside area. Currently Sefton provides funding from the PCC Community Safety Fund to RASA for an ISVA post. Sefton's Public Health team are also considering whether they could contribute to funding. Due to the level of potential funding in this contract a pre-procurement report requires approved by Cabinet Member. This will be available for consideration at the next Cabinet Member briefing.

Sefton has started attending Liverpool City Council's Sexual Violence in the Night Time Economy steering group which is chaired by their CSP lead. There is an opportunity to work together on a joint campaign (which could potentially be expanded across Merseyside) and to use their plan to help develop some key actions on sexual violence to be added to Sefton's Domestic and Sexual Abuse Strategy.

There is potential for Sefton to contribute to a Merseyside wide public campaign on Domestic Abuse as part of International Eliminate Violence Against Women and Girls Day on 25 November and the following 16 days of action until 16 December. This is being led by Liverpool City Council and Merseyside Police. Further information on what this would involve is being sought.

### **Equality and Diversity**

The Equality and Diversity policy has been presented at Strategic Leadership Board for Heads of Service to review and understand any impact on their service. Cabinet Member has reviewed the draft and the policy will shortly be sent out for consultation.

### **Welfare Reform**

The Children's access to food programme ran during the 6 weeks holidays and supported some of the most vulnerable families within our communities. 3,981 meals were provided from 9 centres across the Borough.

Following the Universal Credit event in August awareness sessions have taken place with a mixture of Voluntary, Community and Faith, and Council staff in attendance. The workshops highlight the changes individuals will expect to see during the roll out of Universal Credit and are aimed at giving frontline staff the information necessary to support residents through the changes.

Targeted Youth Prevention (TYP)

**Digital Advantage**

The Digital Advantage project took place in August with 12 candidates selected from Targeted Youth Prevention and Youth Offending Team (YOT) cohorts. Some of the young people were challenging as they had emotional and behavioural issues and some had not been in full time education for a considerable time.

Two out of the 12 young people received an Outstanding Achievement Award for their exceptional contributions. One young man who was selected from the Youth Offending group, was really proud of himself having worked through the project, this significantly improved his self-confidence and ambition to be in work. He engaged with Sefton at Work and on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> September he was successfully interviewed for a full time role within Sefton Councils cleansing department.

**Peel Road /Balfour Street project**

As part of a multi-agency initiative the youth bus has been located in the Peel Road and Balfour Street area of Bootle for two evenings a week to provide diversionary activities to children and young people to address anti-social behaviour in the area. Area workers have seen a visible decline in groups suspected of drug dealing and engaging in anti-social behaviour and increased engagement with young people and families who have enjoyed street activities.

**New Beginnings Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender (LGBT) – Southport**

The New Beginnings LGBT group for the north of the borough began in Southport Family Centre on Wednesday the 20<sup>th</sup> of September. This complements the LGBT project being delivered in the central area at Crosby Youth Centre. Sue Logie (lead worker) and young people from the project are also supporting Venus to enable them to deliver a LGBT project in the south of the borough this means that young people will be able to access LGBT provision borough wide.

**Culture Shifts – Positive Changes, Young People’s Photography Project**

The Culture Shifts Positive Changes young people’s photography exhibition evening took place on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> of September at the Atkinson. Numerous young people attended plus parents, carer’s, friends and workers from other agencies including the Assistant Chief Constable from Merseyside Police. The young people who participated in the project gave the audience an insight into their work and gave a musical performance which included their own original songs. The evening was a successful family and community event. The exhibition is on until the 4<sup>th</sup> November at the Atkinson then selected images will be exhibited at the Open Eye Gallery in Liverpool.

The exhibition will then travel to Bootle Town Hall and be shown for a period of 4 weeks in the Assembly Room, then will go on a tour of Sefton’s libraries for the wider community to enjoy.

Youth Offending Team (YOT)

**Safeguarding Concerns at Youth Offending Institutes and Secure Training Centres**

On 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017, Sefton YOT received a letter from HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) regarding inspections at Youth Offender Institutes (YOI’s) and Secure Training centres (STC’s) within the Secure Estate. The letter notes the results of inspections completed in 2016 as being of concern, including at Wetherby YOI which was rated as “not sufficiently good”. The 2017 inspection at Wetherby has yet to be published.

Action plans are in place at every YOI and STC in response to the recommendations made by HM Prison and Probation Service with particular regard to young people safety.

Sefton YOT will continue to monitor the safety and welfare of Sefton children in custody and meet National Standards in completing statutory visits at the minimum frequency of two months or sooner if this is required. Sefton’s YOT Manager is **Page 190** there is an open line of communication with YJB colleagues to immediately raise concerns should they arise.

## **Merseyside Court Merger**

At present, Liverpool, Knowsley and St Helens young people attending court are listed at Liverpool Queen Elizabeth 11 buildings in the Youth Court. The intention is that all five borough courts will centralise with one Youth Court within Liverpool. Sefton Youth Court is scheduled to close on 15<sup>th</sup> January 2018 therefore from that date, Sefton young people will be listed at Liverpool Youth Court.

Liverpool City Council already manages the youth court with a team of staff and to manage the additional listings to deliver a Merseyside wide court service, the boroughs will support the team with officer's support.

## **LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES**

### **Refurbishments at Bootle and Meadows Libraries**

The final phase of refurbishments at Bootle and Meadows library took place in July when both libraries had new flooring installed. The installations took place over a weekend to minimise public disruption. Bootle Library had new carpet laid and the subsidence in the floor repaired while Meadows Library had a new vinyl floor laid on the ground floor.

### **Beyond the War Memorials Project**

The Library service has secured £10,000 of HLF funding to deliver a community project called Beyond the War Memorials. Designed to tie in with the 100 years commemorations of the end of World War I in 2018, the project will engage with schools, community groups and volunteers across Sefton. They will research the lives of the people listed on the 11 Civic War Memorials. This information will be plotted on a digital map of Sefton and the current owners of the property will receive a letter informing them of the previous occupier. A website will be created bringing all the information on Sefton's casualties to be used by schools, researchers and family members in the future.

### **Summer Reading Challenge – new record**

This year's annual Summer Reading Challenge took place over the summer holidays. The library service had a tall order to compete with last year's figures which saw Sefton have the highest completion rate in the North West.

This year the number of children signed up to the challenge was on a par with last year but the completion rate improved from 68% to 74%. This sets a new record of achievement for the children of Sefton and something to aspire to next year.

### **Community Digi- day**

Bootle Library hosted an interactive ICT day delivered by Barclay's Digital Eagles. The Digital Eagles brought with them virtual reality headsets, mini-bots, programmable lego and a 3D printer. Members of the public and children had a play with the interactive devices designed to teach people basic computer coding. The highlight of the day was the 3D printer and the community were fascinated with how it printed a 3D object throughout the day.

## **THE ATKINSON**

For Armistice Day 2017, The Atkinson commemorates the impact of war past and present, with a programme of talks, events and activities, organised in partnership with Veterans in Sefton and Sefton Libraries. This is part of an ongoing, borough-wide programme of events leading up to the centenary of Armistice Day in 2018. There are currently a number of different projects and initiatives that show how the First World War impacted on the borough – in a unique way.

On Saturday 11 November, 11-4pm The Atkinson is presenting an important series of talks and films that showcase **Maghull and the Great War Remembered: Shell Shock –the impact and aftermath** an ongoing project exploring the ground-breaking treatment of shell shock at Moss Side hospital during the First World War. There will be opportunities to explore Sefton's First World War heritage through an exhibition of banners and visitors can do their own **Page 191**s as well as talk to our Volunteer researchers. There will be a performance by the Maghull Parish Handbell ringers.



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Veterans in Sefton will share their stories and discuss the importance of the work they do in providing local support and help for Sefton soldiers today who suffer from PTSD.

Bill Esterson MP, Sefton Central, has been championing the heritage of Moss Side for a number of years, and he will be attending the event at 1pm. We are also delighted that the Mayor of Sefton and the Mayor of Maghull will also attending, and extend the invitation to all Councillors.

## **Event Objectives:**

### **Mental Health Awareness**

1. Raise awareness of Veterans in Sefton and the instant support it can offer to ex-service men and women and their families
2. Inform and signpost people and their families of the pathway for recovery
3. Help break stigma around subject of PTSD
4. Highlight importance of Early Intervention with PTSD

Target audience – veterans and their families and wider community

### **Local Heritage and Pride of Place**

1. Promote The Atkinson's **Maghull and the Great War Remembered: Shell Shock –the impact and aftermath** project and the importance of local community history
2. Raise awareness of The Atkinson and the stories it tells
3. Promote volunteering at The Atkinson

Target audience – people interested in family and local history

### **Funding and Fundraising**

British Legion Poppy Day collection

Donations box and collections throughout the day to raise money for Veterans in Sefton and The Atkinson Development Trust

The event is funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund **First World War: then and now**.

## **HOUSING**

### **Liverpool City Region**

I represent the Council on the Sub-Regional Housing & Spatial Planning Board (feeds into the LCR Combined Authority Strategic Agenda) and plans had been progressing with identifying sub-regional Housing Needs and Strategy.

However, as this was becoming a complex piece of work that could take a long time to deliver, the Board agreed to focus on production of a 'Housing Delivery Plan', aimed at increasing the pace of delivery of new homes across the sub-region. The delivery plan 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.

Recently the Homes and Communities Agency announced the availability of a Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to help unlock large housing development schemes. Part of the fund is only available for Combined Authorities to bid for. The LCR CA have a completed a bid and application for the city region, which was submitted at the end of September 2017.

I have overseen this process and engagement on behalf of Sefton.

### **Registered Provider Sector**

We are looking to re-establish new relationships with the Registered Provider (RP) sector in the context of their operating models and principles. It is apparent to many that some are increasingly behaving as private companies; we need to redefine our partnerships in this context, particularly given other regulatory changes.

There are also opportunities to work positively with housing associations on issues such as welfare reform, improving health outcomes, sharing data and support to deliver council priorities, which I would like to explore in 2017/18.

Work by a collaboration of 5 housing associations has led to a successful Estates Regeneration focussing on parts of Bootle. The value of the bid was £150k, and was seeking a share of the £30 million of 'enabling funding'. Enabling funding is provided to help landlords at the early stage of estate regeneration proposals, and to help them develop such proposals.

The RP consortia have confirmed they will use this funding to pay for consultancy work to look at designing a collaborative investment plan for all RPs property in the area. The funding provides an opportunity to allow us to collectively look at the issues in the area, and come up with some plans to address these issues over the next 12 months or so.

**Homes and Community Agency**

The Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) have announced a number of programmes and funding, which are designed to help deliver new house building. Some specifics:

- £1.7bn accelerated construction fund – aimed at bringing forward surplus public sector land. HCA will require developers to build at a faster pace on selected sites. Sefton submitted an expression of interest in February, and we have been invited to submit proposals, with Bellway Homes, for the former Peoples & TT Cables site in Bootle. We will be liaising with HCA and develop proposals over the coming months;
- Housing Infrastructure Fund, which was launched on the 4th of July and is a capital grant programme of up to £2.3billion nationally: Any funding will be awarded to Local Authorities on a "highly competitive basis" providing grant funding for new infrastructure to unlock new homes in areas of greatest housing demand. Two programmes exist to support infrastructure. This includes the 'Marginal Viability Fund' available to all Councils, and the 'Forward Funding Programme' available to upper tier authorities including Combined Authorities (see above LCR comments). The funding is available over four years from 2017/18 to 2020/21, and needs to be committed by March 2021. I have approved a Sefton bid for infrastructure funding to help deliver new housing on the 503-509 Hawthorne Road site, which recently secured outline planning approval.

**Housing Development Company**

I am the Cabinet Member sponsoring the investigation to set up a council wholly owned housing company that could build and sell (and/or rent properties). For just over a year a project team has investigated the viability of establishing a company to develop new housing across the borough primarily for Sefton residents to purchase.

Cabinet received a report with Final Business Case at its October 2017 meeting, and after considering the report in detail approved the creation of a Sefton Council wholly owned housing development company.

Over the next few months, the company will be formally established and will then begin to bring forward detailed designs and proposals for priority sites across the borough. There are a lot of detailed activities to be addressed during the transition to delivery period, leading to the legal establishment of the company.

The activities fall under broad headings, covering:

- (i) Corporate & Governance arrangements, such as the development of the formal governance arrangements, setting out in more detail decisions the Council will take as shareholder and decisions the company will take;
- (ii) People and support services arrangements for the company will include recruiting suitable lead staff, and providing Service Level Agreements to pay for council support services;
- (iii) Development preparation including determining the right constructor procurement arrangements;
- (iv) Financial arrangements for funding and financial management of the company

**Private Rented Sector Licencing**

We are progressing well with the private landlord licencing scheme. We urgently need licencing schemes in Bootle, Seaforth/Waterloo and Southport. A first business case was approved by Cabinet on 1st December 2016, setting out our proposals.

**Agenda Item 9**  
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.

A formal 12 week consultation, required by Law, was undertaken over 12 weeks between 1<sup>st</sup> of April and the 24<sup>th</sup> June 2017. This consultation was widely promoted, and we received almost 2,000 responses. Overall the responses were supportive of the Council's proposals.

Cabinet formally approved the establishment of these schemes on the 7th of September. The draft programme should see the three schemes implemented in Sefton by March 2018. I will update colleagues regularly as we make progress with these proposals.

### **High Rise Fire Safety**

Since the awful events suffered in the fire at Grenfell Towers in London, all high-rise residential properties have been subject to fire safety concerns. The Government required all (stock owning) Local Authorities and housing associations to submit samples of cladding materials for fire safety testing. One Vision Housing (OVH) own two high-rise blocks, which were found to have external cladding made of aluminium composite materials (ACMs), which had failed Government fire safety tests. OVH responded immediately to remove this cladding.

Since then the Council (together with Merseyside Fire & Safety Service) have worked with OVH to ensure the safety of residents who live in the buildings. OVH came forward with their preferred solution for the treatment of the blocks and replacement of the cladding in September 2017, and submitted a planning application which was approved early in October. OVH will be implementing works as soon as possible.

Council officers together with Merseyside Fire & Safety Service have undertaken fire safety audits of all (21) high rise buildings in Sefton over July and August, to ensure they are safe. Officers from Housing Standards and Building Control have spent approximately 270 hours of work on inspecting the properties, and completing reports for the owners in conjunction with MF&RA.

Follow up visits will be undertaken to ensure building owners have addressed any remedial works identified and I have agreed further communications that will be managed with Sefton MP's at the request from the Department for Communities and Local Government.

### **Housing and Planning Act - Private rented sector enforcement**

The Act was introduced in the summer of 2016 and 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 recently issued a consultation on what offences could result in a banning order. Following this consultation the Government has indicated that it will seek to introduce regulations to come into force in October 2017. I intend to review the Council's own housing enforcement policies when there is greater clarity over these new measures.

In the meantime officers in the Housing Standards team take enforcement actions and occasional prosecutions.

### **Housing Development**

Developer Bellway Homes have made progress with remediation and site preparation works on the Klondyke Phase 2&3 site, which is the final phase of new development from the former HMRI programme. Bellway Homes began construction of new housing in August 2017. Communications have been ongoing with local residents and will continue

I was recently asked to provide a response to a question raised at full Council concerning the number of new homes built in the borough. The figures below show the gains and losses of dwelling units in the 2016/17 year. These include changes from developments including conversions, changes of use, new build and demolitions:

Ward	Change from conversions	Gains from New Build	Losses from Demolitions	Overall net change
Ainsdale	0	34	-2	32
Birkdale	0	15	0	15
Blundellsands	12	7	-1	18
Cambridge	30	1	0	31
Church	22	0	0	22
Derby	11	0	0	11
Dukes	16	5	0	21
Ford	0	34	-2	32
Harington	-2	8	-1	5
Kew	3	19	0	22
Linacre	196	38	0	234
Litherland	0	2	0	2
Manor	2	4	0	6
Meols	-1	16	0	15
Molyneux	0	0	0	0
Netherton & Orrell	1	66	0	67
Norwood	2	1	0	3
Park	2	1	0	3
Ravenmeols	1	26	-2	25
St Oswald	0	0	0	0
Sudell	1	2	0	3
Victoria	5	47	-13	39
TOTAL	301	326	-21	606

As can be seen within these figures, there is a large gain in Linacre ward in the conversions column, this is exceptionally high due to the Daniel House conversion - from an office building to 180 apartments.

The table below shows all the New Build sites where more than 15 units have been completed within the year:

Ward	Site Ref	Developer – Site details	Units in year
Ainsdale	S0221	McCarthy & Stone – Fmr Ainsdale Car Sales Mill Road Ainsdale	32
Ford	B0153	Adactus – Sefton Road Netherton	19
Kew	S11	David Wilson Homes – Town Lane Kew	19
Linacre	B0144	Gleeson Homes – For St Joan of Arc Church Peel Rd Bootle	19
Netherton & Orrell	B0135	Bellway - Crown Speciality Packaging Netherton	54
Ravenmeols	F0140	Bellway - Powerhouse Site Formby	20
Victoria	C0144	McCarthy & Stone – Moor Lane Crosby	46

### Homeless Services and Housing Options Service

The Council has a legal duty to adopt a Homelessness Strategy. We adopted the current strategy back in September 2013, together with a Delivery Plan. Together with our service delivery partners, we have reviewed the delivery plan, and I have approved Page 195 version with a number of new actions. During

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the course of 2018 we will have to undertake a formal review of homelessness in Sefton, with a view to adopting a new strategy by September 2018.

The Homeless Reduction Act (HRA) received royal ascent in April. The Act is due to come into force from April 2018. The principle behind the Act is to confer a legal duty on local authorities to provide homeless prevention services to all people who are potentially homeless. This mirrors the current legislation already enacted in Wales.

The current legislation (Housing Act 1996 as amended) broadly states that we must provide “housing advice to all” and “homeless assessment and resolution to those in priority need”. There was previously no legislation covering what is referred to as “prevention activity,” rather it is promoted as value for money good practice. Most local authorities only offer specific homeless prevention services to those who are deemed to be in priority need.

The Act will enforce a statutory duty to provide homeless prevention services to all people who are threatened with homelessness irrespective of whether they are in priority or not. The Act will offer more protection for people who are homeless or threatened with homelessness, at an earlier stage, to a greater number of people than we are currently obliged to assist.

We will need to monitor and assess the impact of the new measures on the demand for Council services, particularly as we move toward the introduction of Locality teams in 2018 as part of the Councils Public Sector Reform Programme.

### **Leasehold house sales**

At its September meeting, this O&S Committee considered a report on leasehold house sales, as requested at a Meeting of the Council held on 26 January 2017. The report showed the extent of leasehold house sales nationally and in Sefton over recent years. Committee will have noted the high proportion of leasehold house sales in Sefton in recent years (eg 92.7% in 2016-17).

However the purchasers of these homes, including a large number of first-time buyers (including those within Sefton) are increasingly complaining that; at the point of sale they are not being made fully aware of the associated and ongoing costs of buying a leasehold property. Members of the Committee share concerns about the alleged abuses of leaseholders by housing developers or the companies who take on the freehold titles.

The Government have responded to these concerns and undertook a consultation exercise in advance of potential new legislation. I can confirm that I submitted a response to this consultation on behalf of Sefton Council, to share the evidence on leasehold house sales in Sefton, to express the concerns about the alarmingly rapid rise in new build houses sold as leasehold and support reform which results in new house sales which can no longer be sold as leasehold.

I will also be working with officers to investigate whether information can be placed on the Council’s website offering guidance on leasehold sales, including a “jargon buster”, to help raise the awareness of the issues of leasehold house sales.

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b> Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Daren Veidman	Cabinet Member Planning	07 November 2017

## 1. Local Planning

### The Sefton Local Plan

- 1.1 Planning applications continue to be submitted on allocated sites.

### Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)

- 1.2 The CIL draft charging schedule was reported to Cabinet in September and was deferred for further consideration.

### Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs)

- 1.3 Five SPDs and 2 Information notes were adopted by Cabinet in September.
- 1.4 We are currently reviewing and updating the remaining Supplementary Planning Guidance Notes (SPGs) and SPDs to reflect the fact that the Local Plan has been adopted, and to take account of updated evidence and guidance. The Statement of Community Involvement is also being updated. A series of Information notes on Flood risk and drainage are also being produced, and an SPD for the Crosby Coastal Park will also be prepared.
- 1.5 We intend to consult on the majority of these either later this year or early in 2018.

### Other planning policy work

- 1.6 Consultation on the draft Liverpool City Region-wide Strategic and Employment Land Market Assessment (SHELMA) is currently taking place. This is a stakeholder consultation because of the technical nature of the report. Work on this is now being led by the Combined Authority. Discussions have begun about follow up work that may be required to take this forward, including the need for a strategic B8 Study which will identify the need and optimal locations for new logistics development associated with the growth of the Port of Liverpool.

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1.7 We have been advised that the 4 Neighbourhood Plans being prepared by five Town and Parish Councils will be submitted for examination in the near future. This will impose new challenges on the team as we organise examinations for each.

1.8 Members of the Local Plans team continue to provide policy advice on all relevant planning applications and pre-application inquiries, with members of the Local Plan team processing their own caseload of applications. As a result of the Local Plan being adopted, we have provided a lot of policy advice to developers on sites allocated in the Local Plan as well as providing this advice once the planning applications have been submitted. This has included the preparation of two Master Plans for sites in multiple ownership to ensure they are developed in a coherent and complementary manner.

## 2. Heritage and Conservation

### Heritage at Risk Sites

2.1 We are continuing to work towards the removal of the 6 Heritage at Risk Areas from the National Register. This includes a number of different work areas including raising their profile, regeneration funding bids, working with the local community, Conservation Area Appraisals, taking enforcement and other legal action in relation to a number of derelict sites and listed buildings in these Areas including the major Lord Street Verandah project.

2.2 In connection with this, a six week consultation on the Lord Street and Promenade Conservation Area Appraisals began in early August, and following the close of public consultation, they will be formally adopted as background planning documents in October 2017.

### Development Management

2.3 In terms of the general day to day responsibilities, allied to the increased development pressure which the wider Service is facing, the Conservation officers have formulated 91 detailed consultation responses from July to September on planning applications and pre-applications relating to a number of Listed Buildings and developments within a number of our Conservation Areas. We have also continued involvement in various appeals and on site monitoring and pro-active enforcement action.

### Regeneration

2.4 The team are leading on the submission of the Townscape Heritage project for Southport Town Centre which will see a resubmission by 8<sup>th</sup> December 2017 for a £1.7 Million funding request from the Heritage Lottery Fund and are also advising on the Bootle Heritage Complex as and when requested.



## 3. Development Management

3.1 The pressure on this part of the Service has continued to increase over the last quarter following the adoption of the Local Plan and the submission of both pre-application inquiries and applications relating to sites identified for development in the Local Plan.

3.2 Between July and September 2017 we have approved 78 units of residential accommodation.

The following 8 major developments were considered and approved by the service/Planning Committee.

Ref	Address	Proposal
DC/2017/00715	Land At Warren Court Birkdale Southport PR8 2DF	Variation of condition 13 pursuant to planning permission DC/2016/01779 approved 15/12/2016 - to allow removal of roof lights to rear elevation and replace with erection of dormer windows for unit types B & C and the removal of the render to units A, B and C.
DC/2017/00301	Boothroyd Unit Scarbrick New Road Southport PR8 6PH	Erection of a part two storey, part single storey mental health care facility, followed by demolition of existing buildings on site and subsequent layout of associated landscaping, access and parking.
DC/2017/00736	5 Marsh Brows Formby Liverpool L37 3PD	Erection of a four storey block of 12 apartments after demolition of existing premises
DC/2017/00954	7 Chesterfield Road Crosby L23 9XL	Erection of ten dwellings with associated car parking, landscaping and access. Alternative to DC/2016/02422 approved 07/03/2017.
DC/2016/02454	Former Peerless Site Dunnings Bridge Road Netherton	Erection of 6 industrial units, (Use Class B1(c), B2 and B8), petrol filling station with associated retail unit (Use Class A1), and a drive-thru' coffee shop (Use Class A3) together with external works to servicing, parking, landscaping & associated infrastructure
DC/2017/01302	13 Crosby Road South Waterloo L22 1RG	Variation of Condition 2 attached to planning permission DC/2016/01415 granted 15 Dec 2016 - two rear dormer extensions
DC/2017/01015	215-217 Knowsley Road Bootle L20 4NR	Variation of conditions 3 and 11 pursuant to planning permission DC/2016/02222 approved 27/04/2017 - to allow temporary two year use of Unit 1 as a boxing gym during the hours of 08:00 - 20:00 Monday to Friday and 09:00 - 15:00 Saturday and Sunday
DC/2017/00618	75 - 77 Strand Road Bootle L20 4BB	Erection of a two-storey block of 10 industrial/office units with Use Classes B2 and B8 permitted at ground floor and B1 at first floor.

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- 3.3 We have received a total of 565 applications in this time scale, including 82 pre-application enquiries.
- 3.4 The capacity of the Service is stretched by the increased pressure relating to the processing of these applications. It is a team effort across the Service to process, assess and determine applications expediently and in line with Government targets.
- 3.5 The 20% proposed increase of planning fees and additional fee income through entering Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) has allowed us to recruit further staff. This will be critical to maintaining a high level of performance as we respond to significantly more complex and contentious proposals following the adoption of the Local Plan.
- 3.6 PPAs enable us to agree a defined level of service with the applicant which adds to the workload of the team. While further staff have been appointed, it will take some time for the effect of this to be felt as they have just come into post late August/ early September.

## Enforcement update

- 3.7 A long standing and experienced member of the enforcement team has gone part time from 1st April and a new enforcement officer has just come into post. This highlights the need for succession planning in order to retain expertise in this important part of our Service which has been built up over many years.
- 3.8 Review of the quarter from 1<sup>st</sup> July - 30<sup>th</sup> September 2017.
- New cases – 151
  - Cases resolved – 94
  - Formal action: 2 x enforcement notices & 1 x Community Protection Notice (ASB Crime & Policing Act 2014).
  - 14 retrospective applications totalling £14,190 fees.

In relation to the unauthorised extensions at Oakhill Close, Maghull, the applicant, Mr X, was fined £1,000 for the breach of condition, and £1,500 enforcement , costs £1,982, and victim surcharge £170, totalling £4,652.00.

Mrs X received a fine of £380 for the breach of condition and £400 for the enforcement and costs £1,982.00 £78 victim surcharge, totalling £2,840.

A report will be presented to Planning Committee with regard to recommendations on taking further action to ensure compliance with both notices.

- 3.9 The number and persistence of complaints on even relatively minor schemes is a major drain on limited resources and inhibits the ability of the Service to focus on more complex proposals. Notwithstanding this, no complaint has been upheld by the ombudsman during the past year.

## 4. Building Control

### Performance targets

4.1 The Building Control Team continues to meet its statutory targets as well the performance targets it sets locally. Results for the 2<sup>nd</sup> quarter of 2017/18 show that the Team's market share was 77% - which remains equal to or better than that of neighbouring Authorities and is significantly above the average for English Councils, which stands at 67%.

### Income and financial performance

4.2 Building Regulation income for the first two quarters of 2017/18 shows an increase, when compared with the same stage in the previous financial year. As a result, it is projected that the Building Control Team will continue to be self-funding (in providing a Building Regulation service) and that it will be able to part subsidise the other various related statutory work elements it carries out - such as ensuring safety at sports grounds and dealing with reports of dangerous structures.

### The Open Golf Championship at Royal Birkdale

4.3 From the start of the calendar year and right through until the start of the event itself, the Building Control Team worked closely with Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service in order to ensure that all hospitality accommodation and all temporary grandstands were inspected and were safe for use by members of the public at this year's Open Golf Championship at Royal Birkdale.

### Mobile / agile working

4.4 After a long lead-in period, the Building Control Team are now using mobile electronic tablets - to assist them in carrying out Building Regulation site inspections. The use of the tablets will enable increased digitization of records and allow the Team greater flexibility in terms of embracing the Councils agile working programme.

## 5. Technical Support

### Performance

5.1 Performance against targets within the last quarter:

- The validation of planning applications within 5 days has reduced to 36% (48% below target). The average turnaround time is 8 working days. The figure is low due to the resignation of 2 key validation team members. Their posts have been filled but training is ongoing. When training is complete we anticipate figures are likely to meet target. It should be noted that there were several very large planning applications submitted within this period that took additional resources to register and validate.
- The team registered and acknowledged 96% enforcement complaints within 3 days (16% over target)
- Booking in of Building Control applications stands at 94.5% within 3 working days (1.5% below target).

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- 67% of pre-application enquiries were validated within 3 working days (26% below target). The average turnaround time for registration is currently 2 working days. The figures have slipped below target due to the changes in the validation team and internal appointments.
- The team achieved 98% of land charge searches within 10 working days (8% above target).

## Service Development

- 5.2 Officers have successfully implemented the live operation of the building control mobile working project.
- 5.3 Officers have been preparing for agile working. This includes audit of hard copy files and document and destruction or scanning as appropriate. This work is ongoing.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Marion Atkinson	<b>Overview &amp; Scrutiny</b> Cabinet Member Regeneration & Skills	November 2017

## REGENERATION

### Regeneration

The Regeneration Team is playing an active role in delivering and programme managing the authority's Growth Programme. Developing initiatives is a long term activity, highlights include:

#### Town Centres

Action Plans have been prepared for Bootle, Crosby and Southport following the publication of the associated Development or Investment Frameworks. The Action Plans are representative of the work streams/themes that will be progressed over the coming months and years. They are not Council centric and relate to all potential stakeholders and deliverers. The Authority's role will be to stimulate, facilitate and enable the regeneration of each of the Town Centre with developers and other agencies and stakeholders providing the direct investment.

Across each of the town centres discussions are ongoing with potential investors and developers to bring viable development sites to fruition. Data is being collated and project ideas are being scoped out and options reviewed for each of the thematic areas, such as:

**Bootle:** We are continuing to engage with stakeholders and developers regarding opportunities for repurposing the Town Hall complex.

We are exploring funding opportunities for a heritage centre in the former Museum and Library and have appointed heritage specialists Lloyd Evans Prichard to undertake building condition surveys work and produce a concept design. A consultation exercise is underway to gauge public appetite and interest. Bootle Stories a 'pop up' heritage exhibition will be held in the Strand shopping centre w/c 23<sup>rd</sup> October.

**Crosby:** Council consultant's WSP are preparing a report on options for improving access and connectivity in and around the Village Centre. This work will support future opportunities for new development. The regeneration team are also regularly meeting with St Modwens who are making significant investment in their property along both sides of Moor Lane.

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The current phase of the S106 work will be completed by the end of October. Traders and Ward Councillors are discussing additional works for the remaining funding.

**Southport:** Major refurbishment of the Pier is underway, with the phased programme of works continuing until November 2018. Consultants Systra have been appointed to review eastern access to the town, the finding will inform future highway improvements. Consultation exercises and associated evaluations have been completed for both the Lord Street and Promenade conservation area appraisals.

We are also continuing to engage with stakeholders and developers regarding opportunities for investment within the town.

The team are exploring opportunities for funding to support regeneration initiatives.

Investment into the Atkinson, Kings Gardens, the Theatre and Convention Centre and the ongoing investment into the marketing of Southport continues.

## Funding Opportunities

**One Public Estate** – The Council continue to work with all involved with OPE. OPE (Round 6): One Public Estate is initiative delivered in partnership by the Cabinet Office's Government Property Unit (GPU) and the Local Government Association (LGA). It is about local government working with central government and public sector partners locally on land and property initiatives to deliver the following core objectives:

- create economic growth (new jobs and homes)
- more integrated and customer-focused services
- generate efficiencies through capital receipts and reduced running costs

**European Regional Development Fund (ERDF):** A funding bid with a total value of £7.9m has been prepared through Viridis (a collective of housing providers and local authorities) with Sefton Council acting as Accountable Body and submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government.

## Broadband – 'gain share'

The Regeneration Team has supported the delivery of the Merseyside Connected project in Sefton. The project was delivered through a gap funding model where state aid was used to provide top up funding without which the broadband services would not have been financially viable. As a result of this take up of those broadband services has exceeded agreed thresholds. Consequently, BT has agreed to repay an element of the funding known as 'gain share'. Gain share funding will be used to continue the Merseyside Connected Programme for one year to provide additional broadband services throughout the LCR. This project will run from July 2017 to June 2018, BT have commenced the upgrade programme with the first wave of upgrades due later this year.

## Southport Business Park

The Site Investigation Report on the southern section of the Business Park has been reviewed favourably/positively by the Councils' Contaminated Land Officer. The Environment Agency (EA) has been consulted regarding the Site Investigation Report on the northern section and Council Officers are about to meet the EA to discuss their response. Following the meeting we will be in a position to move forward on finalising the Report.

Officers continue to have detailed discussions with businesses and developers interested in bringing forward detailed proposals for the site.

Work continues to enable the Council to commission a development marketing strategy that will assist in bringing forward the remaining parcels of land on the Business Park.

## **TOURISM**

### Business Tourism

- Following on from a strong first quarter that saw seven conferences moving over to confirmed, worth around £4.8m to the local economy the second quarter has been slightly quieter.
- The second quarter has seen a further confirmed conference along with a further 5 offered provisional dates that if move over to confirmed will be worth around £2 million to the local economy.

### **Southport Air Show 15th, 16th & 17th September 2017**

- The Southport Air Show took place on the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17 September 2017.
- The Friday night flying was deemed a great success and has received favourable media coverage
- Despite the bad weather leading up to the event the final attendance was similar to 2016, despite having no Red Arrows
- The 2018 Air Show will take place on the 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> of July due to tide times.

### **British Musical Firework Championships 29th & 30th September, 1st October 2017**

- This year was Champion of Champions Event with 7 previous winners from 1999 – 2016 returning to compete for the title.



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- The event was a great success with record numbers on the Friday followed by a sell out on the Saturday. Despite the challenging weather conditions on the Sunday visitor numbers remained strong.

## **Southport Market**

- Southport Indoor Market currently sitting at 74%, this corresponds with the retail fall in Southport. Work is continuing to advertise the empty units.
- In the last month a number of current traders have agreed new leases as well as a new trader agreeing to come into the Market.

## **EMPLOYMENT AND LEARNING UPDATE**

### **ESF Ways to Work**

The latest quarterly claim for European Social Fund (ESF) grant for Ways to Work has been submitted to the Combined Authority. This is the first claim made relying upon the new MI system called Evolutive. This marks the end of the service's use of the previous system called CorePlus. More information will be available around the characteristics of the participants in future reports as Evolutive is developed internally to meet reporting needs of interest to the authority. The programme continues to progress well.

### **Youth Employment Gateway**

YEG - aimed at 18-24 year olds - is now in its second phase and has largely been used as match finance to access the ESf grant to operate Ways to Work.

YEG is progressing well and Sefton has met its engagement profiles with over 400 young people registered on the programme. An innovative element of this initiative relates to Personalised budgets for young people. We are now looking to maximise the job outcomes for these clients.

### **Youth Employment Initiative (YEI)**

Since the closedown of new starts onto YEG 2, we have been offering young people referred to us assistance using the YEI element of the ESf Ways to Work funding. This is currently supporting an additional **179** clients aged 16- 29 who may be claiming any benefit or are non-claimants. Personalised budgets have also made these available for YEI clients. The concept is about empowering young people to take control of their own personal development and journey towards employability by enabling them to draw down a budget to pay for a range of items they and their client adviser agree will help them move closer to work.

Further analysis will be undertaken on the use of the personalised budgets by these young people, and this option for accessing budgets for additional young people will continue for 2017/18.

### **Sefton@work NEET partnership working**

A summer project identifying young people who are at risk of not taking up a learning place in September has been commenced by Sefton@work. In consultation with Career Connect, our NEET IAG contractor, funds have been earmarked from YEI personalized budgets to benefit eligible young people who register with Sefton@work to access financial support before the next academic term commences. It is expected this will boost the engagement of young people taking up IAG services, remove barriers and increase the chance of them taking up a place in September. Further arrangements are also in place to do a similar exercise in November and January as these are times when NEET rates spike.

## **L30's Million**

Following the successful conclusion of the first round of the L30's Million employment support project, the steering group has requested a further proposal for funding Sefton@work for the 17/18 year. This has been prepared for their consideration and includes an option for customised ILM (Intermediate Labour Market) jobs for their residents/businesses. A decision is expected imminently, although we continue to deploy Sefton@work resources in the area at present.

## LCR Combined Authority Household into Work Test

The announcement of the Government's confirmation of acceptance of the LCR proposal for the Household into Work Test was made on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017.

The Combined Authority is finalising its delivery strategy, Seton are a consultee in that process, notification of the preferred option to deliver is imminent. The Test will target approximately 104 family groups across Sefton, with access to family problem-solving budgets of up to £1000 per family. Likely to commence in 2018.

## **DWP Work and Health Programme**

The Procurement process for the DWP Work & Health Programme continues and the period of commercial dialogue with potential providers has been commenced. DWP has informed providers that the general election will not cause delays to the tender award timetable. Sefton@work is looking to maximise supply chain involvement with the final three shortlisted prime contractors.

Best and Final Offers for the Work and Health Programme were submitted to DWP in the first week of August, with a view to contract awards being in September/October. It is anticipated that delivery of the Programme will commence in April 2018.

## **Sefton@work working with employers**

Signature Living is an employer currently working well with Sefton@Work on local recruitment and placements for clients. This has been led by the Employment Liaison team when there was contact made regarding the redevelopment of the former Daniel House site. Initial discussions were around sub-contractors and this yielded a small number of vacancies that were recruited through Sefton@work.

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After this introductory phase, Sefton@work has since maintained regular contact and this has resulted in 14 jobs advertised and filled to date. The plans to open up the roof top restaurant in November are now under discussion and we aim to manage all the recruitment for the new restaurant and potentially set up some pre-employment training with local partners. All of the people placed to date with this company have been Sefton residents.

Sefton@work has a long standing arrangement with the Identity & Passport Service in Birkdale to provide placements for long term unemployed people and clients with multiple barriers from Sefton@work. Over the years, this has proven to be an invaluable arrangement for clients to gain real work experience. In the last month, IPS has interviewed and offered a start to another phase of clients for their next round of placements.

## **Collaboration between Sefton@work and Sefton Adult Community Learning**

SACL Governors have now agreed the Curriculum plan for the coming year. This features a number of new additions to the course list and some new types of delivery as we look to further shape the programme to become more work-focused and this is a key driver of the offer for 17/18. The service has secured agreements to undertake some retail based training, in the Strand shopping centre and is also acquiring an allotment which will allow the service to offer introductory skills in horticulture. These courses will of course run alongside the continued focus on English, Maths and IT.

A decision has been taken to seek subcontracting partners for the coming year and this action has been commenced with the Sefton Procurement team.

## **Social Value – Targeted Recruitment & Training**

Work continues with colleagues across the Council to identify opportunity to secure benefit for local residents through the inclusion of social value provisions into contracting and commissioning. In particular:

Domiciliary Care - Discussions are underway with adult social care colleagues to include provisions for local recruitment, employer engagement plans, career inspiration events and local supply chain gain into the next round of Domiciliary Care contracts. These Contracts are substantial for Sefton and for the next round they are due to be jointly commissioned with Knowsley MBC with an option for Liverpool CC to enter the arrangement at a later point.

## **INVESTSEFTON**

### **Sefton Growth Hub/ ERDF Business Growth Programme**

InvestSefton is one of the Liverpool City Region growth hubs working alongside the Local Enterprise Partnership, other local authorities, Chambers of Commerce and The Womens Organisation. This is part of current UK Government funded activities delivered locally by Local Enterprise partnerships. In Sefton this activity has been merged with the ERDF Business Growth Programme to help provide a more cohesive service to businesses.

**As at 30 September 2017 InvestSefton has engaged with 1,421 businesses, carried out 1,034 diagnostics and brokered 1,215 businesses into other areas of support.**

For the period July-September 2017 the team has provided direct 1:1 support for 17 businesses of which 15 have undergone a full diagnostic and action plan. Outputs are below the quarterly forecast as the team currently has two long term sickness absences but a remedial action plan is in place to bring back on track in future quarters.

The team also held two digital workshops between July and September 2017 – with businesses in attendance. Some of these will go on to receive 1:1 direct support through the Business Growth programme.

ERDF Programme outputs (subject to ratification) up to 30 September 2017 are:

<b>Output</b>	<b>Total</b>
Business receiving support	92.0
Jobs created	50.05
No of new enterprises supported	20.0

To meet identified demand for digital and IT support the team has also arranged three half day workshops entitled 'The Future for Business is Digital' which took place in July and September. The Programme was designed to introduce businesses to a number of free online tools, to improve productivity, reduce costs, and help them sell online. The workshops built on the May Sefton Economic Forum, which encouraged businesses to maximise their online presence.

The Programme consisted of:

- Introduction to online marketing
- Six free online applications to save time, and cost, including:
- Free geomapping tools for journey planning, save cost and reduce carbon
- infograms (professionally designed charts for you to add content about your business and use on web site, literature etc)
- A free website and SEO analyser – action plan for being seen, and getting more traffic
  - Taster session - social media for business
  - Free business support available via the Sefton Growth Hub and InvestSefton

**A total of 38 delegates from 31 businesses from across the borough attended with all types of sectors represented**

**The feedback has been very positive with 100% of the respondents rating the course good/very good.**

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InvestSefton's Service Manager continues to lead the Business Growth Programme board and is currently engaged in the current evaluation of LCR business support programmes being undertaken by the LEP. This will help identify any gaps in services to help with future ERDF calls and succession planning for post March 2019. In terms of Growth Hub succession the LEP is waiting on the Autumn Statement in November by the Chancellor.

## **Sefton Economic Forum**

The next Sefton Economic Forum takes place in the Ramada Hotel on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2017. The theme is business and tourism diversification opportunities and will be a breakfast style format sponsored by Liverpool John Lennon Airport (LJLA). The title is 'Opportunities landing in Southport' and will include presentations on LJLA's new eastern European routes, the Ramada Hotel's aspirations for Southport, the city region's strategy to increase visitor numbers and help available from the Growth Hub (managed by InvestSefton) for local businesses.

## **Inward Investment update**

InvestSefton is supporting ongoing work to bring about commencement of development of the Mersey Reach scheme. This is focussed on discharging Planning Conditions, including agreement of an Employment Charter and fully securing the SIF funding allocated by the CA to the project.

InvestSefton is also supporting Atlantic Park through the Strategic Investment Fund process, currently working on a revised and more detailed full business case. The developer is currently working towards submitting a planning application in November for a 100,000 sq ft B2/B8 building plus a decked car park. A consultation event was held on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> October 2017 at Netherton Community Centre.

Atlantic Park is now nearing full occupancy in the existing buildings and InvestSefton is liaising with the developer to encourage further development on the frontage of the site, including the development of a further speculative office building.

InvestSefton is providing ongoing support to the Head of Regeneration and Housing with Bootle Town Centre, Crosby Town Centre, Southport Business Park and other regeneration opportunities. This included attendance at REVO (specialised retail conference) in September in conjunction with Ellandi, useful leads were generated.

InvestSefton continues to support activity and leads generated as a result of The Open Golf. There has also been some knock on effect with wider city region investment and while it would be unrealistic to directly attribute attendance at The Open for this, it provided an invaluable opportunity to build new and further existing relationships which enable dialogue and work to take place that supported the investment decisions.

As an example from Sefton's perspective it renewed and strengthened the council's relationship with Sefton's largest private sector employer, Santander, and has resulted in a number of ongoing conversations with the site leadership across areas

including business growth, skills development, supply opportunities, partnership work with Sefton and local communities and development of an active CSR programme locally for the benefit of Sefton residents.

The Business Development Manager has recently held meetings with a number of key local employers including Shop Direct, Santander and Allied Bakeries (shared services) to support investment and growth, focussing on developing local skills. Opportunities exist at all businesses for investor development work, with Santander being the focus of attention currently due to a range of significant opportunities for development.

## **Business Friendly Sefton workshop**

A workshop, facilitated by InvestSefton, was held on 7<sup>th</sup> September in Bootle Town Hall and attended by 49 council staff from Business Rates, Building Control, Trading Standards, Tourism, Communications, Communities, Regulation and Compliance, Planning, Health and Wellbeing, Regeneration and Procurement. The aim of the event was to:

- Reflect on the work of the Business Friendly Sefton task and finish group
- Agree how we can work **collaboratively** across the council to help make our business customer a more **joined up offer** and develop a picture of how this would look
- Agree a set of '**Business Friendly**' standards to support the council's corporate objectives and growth/reform agendas
- Review the work of the LCR **Better Business for All** group and how this relates to Sefton
- Agree actions and recommendations to support the council's **Inclusive Growth** agenda and help **improve communication** between the council's business facing services

A steering group has met on three occasions over the past year and the workshop reflected on some of the already impressive activities and outcomes already ongoing in the Council.

4.3 The workshop also reflected on what business friendliness actually means for the council:

- A council that is **easy to do business with** e.g. applying for necessary permissions; tendering for contracts; Seeking financial & non-financial assistance; receiving advice & guidance on growth/expansion/employment; reporting problems to or to remedy wrongs
- A council that treats and values it's 8,000 plus businesses as **Corporate Customers**
- Intelligent use of customer insight to tell us **what businesses want** from the council

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- To equip us with a **single view of the business** across all council functions and services
- A **One Council No wrong door approach** when a business needs help and managed referrals when first choice of support is not available
- **Relationship management** with both large and small businesses
- Using a Business Friendly reputation to help drive our **growth and investment** agenda while promoting **Corporate Social Responsibility** for **Sefton's well-being** and supporting **welfare reform**

InvestSefton will re-establish the Business Friendly Sefton sub-group to take forward this work and report back on further progress on this exciting and innovative area of work.