

Overview  
& Scrutiny



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday 3rd July, 2018

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Committee Room, Town Hall, Bootle

**Member**

Councillor  
Councillor John Sayers (Chair)  
Councillor Michael O'Brien (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Booth  
Councillor Brough  
Councillor Carragher  
Councillor Dowd  
Councillor Killen  
Councillor David Pullin  
Councillor Roche  
Councillor Bill Welsh

**Substitute**

Councillor  
Councillor Brenda O'Brien  
Councillor Murphy  
  
Councillor Dawson  
Councillor Bliss  
Councillor Anne Thompson  
Councillor Dan T. Lewis  
Councillor Doyle  
Councillor Keith  
Councillor Carr  
Councillor McGinnity

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser  
Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Telephone: 0151 934 2068  
Fax:  
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.**

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

This page is intentionally left blank.

# A G E N D A

1. **Apologies for Absence**
2. **Declarations of Interest** (Pages 5 - 6)  
Members are requested to give notice of any disclosable pecuniary or personal interest  
  
An advice note on declaration of interests is attached
3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting** (Pages 7 - 18)  
Minutes of the meeting held 13 March 2018
4. **Parks and Greenspaces Final Report** (Pages 19 - 36)  
Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
5. **Sefton Economic Strategy Framework** (Pages 37 - 46)  
Report of the Executive Director
6. **NEET** (Pages 47 - 58)  
Report of the Executive Director
7. **Work Programme 2018/19, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan – July 18** (Pages 59 - 80)  
Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance
8. **Cabinet Member Reports – March 2018 to June 2018** (Pages 81 - 118)  
Report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance

This page is intentionally left blank

## **Declarations of Interest**

Members are requested at a meeting where a disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest arises, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests, to declare any interests that relate to an item on the agenda.

Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest, except where he/she is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of a dispensation.

Where a Member discloses a personal interest he/she must seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or staff member representing the Monitoring Officer to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest or whether the Member can remain in the meeting or remain in the meeting and vote on the relevant decision.

This page is intentionally left blank



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Sayers (in the Chair)  
Councillor Michael O'Brien (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Bliss, Dan T. Lewis, David Pullin, Roche,  
Weavers and Bill Welsh

#### 45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

#### 46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

#### 47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 23 January 2018 and the Special Meeting held on 31 January 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

#### 48. HOUSING LICENSING PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT

Further to Minute No. 30 (3) of 7 November 2017 the Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance that presented formally the final report of the Housing Licensing Performance Framework Working Group.

The Working Group was established with the following Terms of Reference and Objectives:-

- The Council is working toward the introduction of Private Rented Sector Housing Selective Licensing and Additional HMO Licensing schemes in parts of the borough
- The Selective Licensing Scheme Proposal was taken to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) in November 2016, for review. The proposal was overwhelmingly supported
- The Selective Licensing proposal was then taken to Cabinet for formal approval in December 2016, together with approval to undertake the statutory formal public consultation. Cabinet approved the proposal and consultation
- The Selective Licensing Proposal has since been the subject of a 12 week public consultation, April-June 2017. This included

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

notifying all Councillors of the Selective Licensing proposal and consultation, so they had the opportunity to contribute

- The results of the consultation, together with a Final Licensing Scheme proposal were taken to Cabinet in September 2017, and approved. The Council is now in the process of preparing the Selective Licensing scheme to go live from March 2018
- One key piece of work that needs to be done over the coming months is to set up a 'performance framework' for the Licensing schemes. This will allow the Council to test, in future, whether the Selective Licensing scheme is having an impact on improving the Licensing Neighbourhoods and private rented accommodation. The performance framework will be submitted to the Cabinet Member – Housing and Communities for approval once it is completed
- The Council approved a 'business case', which set out it's justification for introducing Licensing schemes. To justify the proposed schemes for Sefton it was argued that Licensing of private rented homes would lead to the better management of these homes, which in turn would help tackle the following issues, which were used as the criteria for our schemes;
  - significant anti-social behaviour.
  - poor property conditions,
  - a high level of deprivation or
  - high levels of crime
- A Licensing scheme can only remain in operation for a maximum period of 5 years. The Council will need to monitor whether the Licensing schemes are having an impact on the issues/criteria it sought to tackle and improve
- Toward the end of the 5 year life of its schemes, the Council will need to consider whether it needs to extend the life of its schemes, and if it does, it will need to justify this through a new business case. Almost certainly, the Council would need the evidence that its schemes are having a positive impact on the issues identified. Therefore setting a suitable performance framework will be an essential tool, both to monitor the effects of licensing and to help justify any extension of the life of its schemes, should it wish to do so
- The Objective is for the Working Group to help develop and review a proposed Selective Licensing Performance Framework before it is completed and submitted for approval to the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing.

Accordingly, the Working Group met on two occasions to undertake such review and its Final Report, together with associated recommendations, was attached to the report.

Councillor Bill Welsh, Lead Member of the Working Group, introduced the Final Report and commended the recommendations within it to the Committee; and thanked officers and his colleague on the Working Group, Councillor Mike O'Brien, for their hard work and input into the Final Report.



# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

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

- The possible displacement of landlords and tenants to other areas of Sefton not covered by the Housing Licensing scheme or to neighbouring areas
- Bad landlords blaming the condition of their properties on tenants
- Assurance was sought and given of the Additional HMO Licensing scheme covering parts of the Blundellsands ward
- A borough wide scheme was originally desired but revised Government guidance and rules meant the Housing Licensing Scheme had to be targeted at specific areas
- Assurance was sought and given that Ward Councillors could lodge complaints on behalf of tenants

RESOLVED:

That Cabinet be recommended to:-

- (1) Approve the monitoring factors as detailed in the table below as the set of suitable measurable data sets to be used to report on the intended outcomes of the licensing schemes:-

Monitoring factor	Description	Why measure?
<b>Number of licences applied for per scheme</b>	Total number of properties for which an application for a licence has been made, against the number of identified Privately rented properties that require a licence	To ensure landlords have applied for a licence where applicable.  To compare the actual number of private rented properties against the original, estimated number. This will also assist with the financial management of the schemes.
<b>Number of licenses granted per scheme</b>	How many properties currently have a licence against the number applied for and number of identified properties requiring a licence.	To ensure all licensable properties obtain a licence and meet license conditions.
<b>Number of</b>	Accreditation is a	To monitor the

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

<p><b>properties accredited;</b>  <b>a) Inside the licensing areas</b>  <b>b) Outside the licensing areas</b></p>	<p>voluntary scheme. It is a measure of high quality property standards and management.</p>	<p>levels of accredited properties and thus levels of “good” standard accommodation.</p> <p>Monitoring numbers inside and outside of licensing areas will allow comparisons</p>
<p><b>Number of properties non-compliant on first inspection</b></p>	<p>How many properties DO NOT comply with the licence conditions when inspected by officers.</p>	<p>To establish a baseline of standards of property condition and their management.</p> <p>A high number of ‘non-compliance’ would be evidence to justify the License schemes.</p>
<p><b>Number of properties non-compliant on first inspection but now compliant</b></p>	<p>How many properties DO NOT comply with the licence conditions at the introduction of the schemes (and 1<sup>st</sup> inspection) but have improved to be compliant, as a result of the schemes</p>	<p>To establish the level of improvements that have been made to the levels of property management and conditions. This will help demonstrate the level of impact the License schemes have made to improve private rented sector conditions and management.</p>
<p><b>Numbers and types of formal action</b></p>	<p>How many statutory notices and Civil Penalties have been served within the 3 licensing areas.</p>	<p>To monitor the level of requirement for formal action by officers, for either not obtaining a licence or a breach of licence conditions.</p> <p>Informal action</p>

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

		(warnings) will be issued in the first instance, but if landlords don't act on these, then formal legal action will be followed.
<b>Number of Service Requests received;</b> <b>a) within the licensing areas</b> <b>b) outside of the licensing areas</b>	Service Requests are complaints received about a property, usually regarding its management or condition. (These requests generally come from Privately Rented tenants.)	This measure will show if numbers of service requests increase or decrease as a result of licensing.  It will show any difference in numbers inside and outside of licensing areas.  It will also indicate if poor property conditions are increasing outside of the licensing areas <i>as a possible result of displacement of landlords.</i>
<b>Number of licensed properties that have had Category 1 hazards removed</b>	Category 1 hazards are the most serious health & safety hazards identified in a property using the Housing Health & Safety Rating System (Housing Act 2004). This will be captured by officers inspecting properties.	A measure of how many properties have had Category 1 Hazards removed is a clear indication of the improvements in property conditions.
<b>Numbers of request for advice from ASB (Anti-Social Behaviour) team</b>	This is likely to be requests from Licence holders/landlords to the ASB team for help in dealing with ASB issues at their property. The management of	This figure will record the levels of advice requests from landlords and measure if this changes throughout the duration of the schemes.

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

	ASB is a licence condition.	
<b>Numbers of cases where ASB team have intervened</b>	All referrals to the ASB team for advice will be captured, to assess levels.	Has the ASB support for licence holder/landlords lead to more intervention by the Council's ASB team? Have their levels of Service requests increased or decreased?
<b>Outcome of ASB team intervention</b>	Has the intervention been a success? What was the outcome?	Have levels of ASB in licensing areas reduced?

- (2) Request that the Head of Economic Growth and Housing submit an Annual Monitoring Report, to ensure that the Schemes meet their intended outcomes and objectives in measuring the progress of the Schemes through the collection of data on various factors, to both the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills); and
- (3) if possible Private Rented Sector Housing Selective Licensing and Additional HMO Licensing Schemes in parts of the borough be selected as a topic for a Members' Briefing Session prior to Council; and that if this is not possible, then the Head of Economic Growth and Housing be requested to arrange an awareness/training session for all Members of the Council.

## 49. LEASEHOLD HOUSE SALES IN SEFTON

Further to Minute No. 16 of 19 September 2017 the Committee considered the report of the Head of Economic growth and Housing that:-

- (1) updated on the Government's current position regarding consultation outcomes and future proposals to tackle unfair and unreasonable abuses of leasehold; in particular the sale of new leasehold houses and onerous ground rents; and
- (2) highlighted the information, help and guidance published on the Council's web site regarding leasehold sales.

The report indicated that the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing had submitted a response to the Government's consultation 'Tackling unfair practices in the leasehold market'; that the Government published its report on 21 December 2017; and summarised the responses in relation to leasehold sales and ground rents on leasehold properties. The full published response can be accessed here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/670204/Tackling\\_Unfair\\_Practices\\_-\\_gov\\_response.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/670204/Tackling_Unfair_Practices_-_gov_response.pdf)

The report concluded by detailing how the Council was raising awareness of leasehold sales in Sefton by promoting and publicising information via its preferred communication channels including the Council's Housing and Investment Services departmental web pages alongside news items published on the MYSefton news site.

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

- Concern was raised about the mass ownership of leaseholds by a small number of people
- The inadequacy of the law at present in respect of leasehold sales and the concern that the future legislation proposed by Government on this issue may not be enacted due to a shortage of Parliamentary time
- Government's consideration as to how existing leaseholders can be supported and the introduction by some developers of schemes to compensate individuals
- This issue had cross party support on the Council and residents should be urged to lobby their Members of Parliament to seek a change in the law regarding leasehold sales
- The UK was the only country in the western world using leasehold sales

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on leasehold house sales in Sefton be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Economic Growth and Housing be requested to submit a report to this Committee once Government has introduced legislation to ban the sale of leasehold houses as referred to in paragraph 3.3 of the report.

### **50. PARKS AND GREENSPACES WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT**

The Chair advised the Committee that this item had now been withdrawn from the agenda; and that the Final Report would now be considered at the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 3 July, 2018. This will enable the Final Report to be signed off by the Working Group at its meeting to be held on 4 April 2018.

### **51. FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION MANAGEMENT STRATEGY REVIEW - SCOPE DOCUMENT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned on the Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) Strategy review scoping document.

# Agenda Item 3

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

The report indicated that Sefton had a requirement under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 to produce a Local Flood Risk Strategy; that the Act required each Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) in England and Wales to set out how it would manage flooding and coastal erosion in its area; that Sefton was a Lead Local Flood Authority and this Strategy would satisfy this statutory need and also satisfied the requirements under the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 for a Flood Risk Management Plan; that the Sefton Strategy was first produced in 2015 and after 3 years it was required to be updated; and therefore the report set out the scope of this update, reviewing what had changed since 2015 and sought views and input on the proposals.

The report detailed the strategic developments since 2015 to be considered in the new strategy in relation to:-

- Liverpool City Region
- Sefton 2030
- UK Climate Predictions update 2018
- Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs 25 year plan
- The Sefton Coast Plan
- Coastal Adaptation Strategy
- New policies adopted by the FCERM team

The report also detailed funding issues since 2015 to be considered in the new strategy in relation to:-

- Budgetary issues associated with the FCERM team being merged into a new service area called Green Sefton with the Parks and Green spaces and Coast and Countryside teams
- Merseyside Partnership Quick Win Funding
- Cell 11 Regional Monitoring Programme (Cerms) Funding and Shoreline Management Officer Local Levy funding
- United Utilities spend programme

The report then highlighted the changes in the understanding of risk associated with:-

- Shoreline Management Plan review
- Coastal erosion predictions
- Climate change predictions
- Surface Water Management Plan realisation of modelled data

and developments in the way the Council worked relating to:-

- Sustainable flood risk management
- Communication
- Data management and sharing
- Performance management

## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

The report concluded by detailing the constraints facing the Council due to budget reductions and which meant that priorities were changing and alternative ways of delivering the service were being looked at; and that the FCERM team would be undertaking a review of its strategy and the outcomes and actions set out in the 2015 to 2018 strategy and of the understanding of coastal erosion and flooding both coastal and inland would be undertaken with the most up to date information available. It was anticipated that the final document would be published in January 2019.

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

- The United Utilities spend programme and the development of their Programme for the 2021-2026 period and the types of local mitigation schemes that may be included
- The input from elected Members through briefings and reports to Cabinet Members and Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Coastal erosion predictions and the fairly significant coastal erosion in places, particularly just North of Hall Road, Blundellsands, where in one storm over 10m of coast was lost; and the potential impact this may have on the adjacent golf course. Reference was made to the Council only receiving funding to protect residential property rather than private land; and that individual stakeholders along the coast were made aware of their responsibilities and were also part of the Sefton Coast Partnership. Finally, it must be acknowledged that sand dunes had the ability to re-form
- A Member indicated that he had engaged a consultant to use modelling to assess the feasibility for the creation of a lagoon off the coast from Hightown to Southport
- Concern was expressed at the housing developments in Kew and their potential negative effect on flooding in the area
- Concern was expressed about the detrimental impact of paving over gardens and driveways; and it was acknowledged that a long-term strategy was needed to address this problem. Reference was also made to the Council's Supplementary Planning Document and the requirement to use permeable paving. However, it was again acknowledged that staffing resources within the Planning Service made it difficult to undertake adequate enforcement in this regard
- Sustainable drainage systems were referred to and how Council Service Areas worked with the Planning Service as part of planning application processes. It was indicated that how planning applications were dealt with regarding flood risk/drainage issues was being reviewed; and that the Merseyside Flood Risk Co-ordinator helped in respect of major planning applications submitted to the Council. The good working relationship was acknowledged and that the Council needed to work with many different organisations to obtain the best outcome for Sefton's residents regarding flood risk and coastal erosion
- The formation of a channel on Crosby Beach near to the Coastguard Station that was causing problems for beach users.

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

This was the result of the prevailing weather conditions and was a natural feature

- Proposals for the retention of the Alt Training Bank
- The Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs' production of a 25 year plan which had a number of outcomes and how they would be reviewed to ensure that such outcomes would be aligned with the Council's updated strategy and other partners' plans

RESOLVED:

That the report on the Flood and Coastal Erosion Management (FCERM) Strategy review scoping document be noted.

## **52. SEFTON ECONOMIC STRATEGY FRAMEWORK**

RESOLVED:

That as no officer was present at the meeting to introduce and answer questions on the report consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 3 July 2017.

## **53. NEET**

RESOLVED:

That as no officer was present at the meeting to introduce and answer questions on the report consideration of the matter be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee to be held on 3 July 2017.

## **54. UPDATE ON UNITED UTILITIES INCREASE IN SURFACE WATER CHARGES TO SCHOOLS**

Further to Minute No. 5 of 4 July 2017 the Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources that updated on United Utilities' (UU) increase in surface water charges to schools.

The report detailed that Members and officers met with representatives of UU on 16 November 2017 at which UU confirmed the compatibility of the concessionary scheme for schools' site area based charges with relevant charging guidance – including Defra's guidance on concessionary schemes for surface water drainage charges, and their view on the longevity of the scheme. This was subsequently confirmed in writing by UU by letter dated 15 December 2017 and a copy of the letter was attached to the report as Appendix 1. However, it was noted that DEFRA could still make further allowances and include certain community assets in their concessionary scheme and the report recommended that on this basis, DEFRA should be contacted once again to arrange a meeting at their London offices as offered previously.



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

Appendix 2 to the report provided details of Salix Finance Ltd. that was funded by the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), the Department for Education, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government and was established in 2004 as an independent, publicly funded company, dedicated to providing the public sector with loans for energy efficiency projects; that Sefton Council had operated a Salix invest to save loan fund pot for over 12 years, for its corporate sites to reduce energy consumption and lifetime savings to date from these investments were now in excess of £1M; and that OFWAT had shown an interest in the SALIX funding model and proposed this to be an option that this Committee should explore for development in conjunction with BEIS as well as OFWAT and the water companies where possible.

RESOLVED: That the Head of Regulation and Compliance be requested to:-

- (1) write to the Strategy and Regulation Officer at United Utilities to thank him for his letter stating United Utilities commitment to maintaining their own policy on reduced drainage charges;
- (2) again contact the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy and other relevant bodies to arrange a meeting to discuss their concessionary scheme and the setting up of SALIX style funding options for Surface Water drainage reduction schemes; and
- (3) contact OFWAT and United Utilities to establish their involvement in further discussions with DEFRA and other relevant bodies.

### **55. 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; and seeking the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2017/18, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved; and
- (2) a report be added to the Work Programme for 2018/19 updating on Sefton's Empty Homes Strategy.

### **56. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS – JANUARY 2018 TO MARCH 2018**

# Agenda Item 3

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) - TUESDAY 13TH MARCH, 2018

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.

RESOLVED:

That the update report from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills be noted.

# Agenda Item 4

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)  Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 3 July 2018  Thursday 26 July 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Parks and Greenspaces Final Report		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Regulation and Compliance	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No <b>Please delete as appropriate and remove this text.</b>
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To submit the findings of the Overview and Scrutiny Parks and Greenspaces Working Group to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) for approval and to commend to the Cabinet.

## Recommendation(s):

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commend the following report with recommendations for Cabinet approval.

(1)	That consideration and further research continues to take place on future service delivery mechanisms for the newly forming 'Green Sefton' service. These, together with other day to day innovations, to seek to reduce the reliance on the service on revenue budgets whilst still providing sites that communities value, feel safe in, and remain freely accessible;
(2)	That the Head of Communities in consultation with Corporate Communications be requested to investigate the possibility of a Sefton Parks and Greenspaces application for electronic devices to enable visually impaired individuals to safely and confidently navigate around Sefton's Parks and Greenspaces, encouraging individuals to visit parks and greenspaces;
(3)	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue exploring and developing food growing projects, such as communal allotments in parks;

# Agenda Item 4

(4)	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue exploring and developing the volunteer hubs, such as that at Botanic gardens old nursery site;
(5)	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue to arrange 'Volunteer Celebrations' and offer thanks formally to all volunteers who contribute so much to our Parks and Greenspaces; and
(6)	That the Head of Communities be requested to report annually or when appropriate, whichever is the sooner, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee updating the Committee on progress

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Working Group has made a number of recommendations that require approval by the Cabinet.

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

No alternative options were considered. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) established a Working Group to review Parks and Greenspaces in Sefton and the Working Group has performed this task.

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

There are no additional costs other than investigating the possibility of an electronic application for the visually impaired in order that they may navigate safely around Sefton's Parks. It is anticipated these initial costs will be negligible and can be met from existing revenue budget. Once the work has been conducted, the findings, including potential costs of viable options, will be subject of an additional report

### (A) Revenue Costs

– met from existing resources

### (B) Capital Costs

– Not applicable

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
--

<b>Legal Implications:</b>
<b>Equality Implications:</b>
The inclusion of an electronic application would help the visually impaired in navigating safely around Sefton’s Parks.

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable:  The inclusion of an electronic application would help the visually impaired in navigating safely around Sefton’s Parks.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

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

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5171/18) has been consulted and notes any initial costs can be met from existing resources. The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 4395/18.....) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

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

# Agenda Item 4

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

## **Appendices:**

The Final Report of the Parks and Greenspaces is attached to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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

1.1 The Final Report is attached for consideration.

1.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) is requested to commend the report and its recommendations to the Cabinet for approval.

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE  
(REGENERATION AND SKILLS)**

**PARKS AND GREENSPACES WORKING GROUP  
FINAL REPORT  
APRIL 2018**

Overview  
& Scrutiny



# Overview & Scrutiny



**'Valuing  
Improvement'**

[www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)



## LEAD MEMBER'S INTRODUCTION

I am very pleased to introduce this Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) Parks and Greenspaces Working Group report.

I wish to thank all those people who gave up their valuable time to take part in the Working Group's review as their input and expertise greatly helped the Working Group in the formulation of its recommendations. Finally, I am extremely grateful to my fellow cross-party Working Group Members for their commitment and their ideas and contributions.



Councillor Harry Bliss,  
Lead Member, Parks and Greenspaces  
Working Group

# Agenda Item 4

## 1.0 BACKGROUND

- 1.1 At its meeting held on 20 September 2016 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) approved the establishment of a Working Group to review Parks and Greenspaces.
- 1.2 Councillors Bliss, Roche, Webster and Bill Welsh were appointed to serve on the Working Group.
- 1.3 Councillor Bliss was appointed Lead Member. Details of Working Group meetings are set out below:-

Date	Activity
28.11.16	Scoping Document approved Better Places, Greener Spaces – the Future Management of Parks and Greenspaces document considered
12.12.16	Gathering Information
30.01.17	Site visits undertaken to parks and greenspaces across the borough
31.07.17	Meeting to discuss and consider the outcome of the public consultation process and the proposed revision to the Draft Strategy

## 2.0 TERMS OF REFERENCE AND OBJECTIVES

- 2.1 The Terms of Reference and Objectives of the Working Group were approved as part of the scoping exercise at the first meeting and are set out below.
- 2.2 Terms of Reference and Objectives
  - 2.2.1 Review the General Reduction in Standards' saving proposal for 2015-17, and the evolved draft 'Better Places, Greener Spaces - Future Management Parks and Greenspaces' document
  - 2.2.2 To support and/ or challenge this and make recommendations as appropriate to improve the proposed strategic approach and its resulting resource allocation and future changes to service delivery
  - 2.2.3 To undertake annual reviews of the impact of the approach once enacted in order to track the impact of changes to service and react/ make recommendations accordingly

## 3.0 METHODS OF ENQUIRY

- 3.1 Individual Discussions
- 3.2 Group discussions and presentations to the Working Group
- 3.3 Observation of consultation sessions, and techniques to be undertaken with the wider community



3.4	Review the outcome of the consultation exercise on completion
3.5	<p>Option to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of wider background documents that reflect the current position of parks management and make recommendations for future delivery of parks in the UK: eg the ongoing central government inquiry into public parks, documents from the Landscape Institute, Natural England, the Heritage Lottery Fund, NESTA, APSE etc</li> <li>• Undertake site visits within the borough</li> <li>• Undertake site visits nearby authorities</li> </ul>
4.0	<p><b>BACKGROUND</b></p> <p>The Parks and Greenspace Service is the largest land management service in the borough. With over 160 sites, covering circa 788 ha, some of which are high profile tourist destinations, others are local or neighbourhood sites still valued by their local communities. They all have a complex range of facilities and features including living plant material, small animals, buildings, lakes, play areas, footpaths, walls, sports features etc.</p> <p>The Parks and Greenspace Service provides a one stop shop to estimated 12M visitors per year, providing full land management and development, including community and volunteer opportunities.</p>
5.0	<p><b>PARKS AND GREENSPACE SERVICE – AN OVERVIEW</b></p>
5.1	<p><b>Parks and Green Spaces</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Over 160 individual sites – including regional or local visitor destinations such as Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park and Kings Gardens, Crosby Coastal Park Play Area, Derby Park.</li> <li>• Total area of 788 ha of land managed.</li> <li>• Historic and/ or listed structures such as conservatory, observatory, fernery, bandstands, and other monuments.</li> <li>• Buildings including parks lodges, community buildings, sports changing rooms, nursey greenhouses and much more.</li> <li>• Lakes, water features and fountains, including bridges and other structures.</li> <li>• Estimated 12M visits/year.</li> </ul>

# Agenda Item 4

<b>5.2</b>	<b>Play and Exercise Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mostly within parks but some stand-alone;</li><li>• 55 play grounds</li><li>• 34 outdoor gyms</li><li>• 3 skate parks</li><li>• 13 multi-use games area</li></ul>
<b>5.3</b>	<b>Outdoor Sports and Recreational Facilities</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 Golf Courses</li><li>• 18 Bowling Greens</li><li>• 46 Sports pitches for example: football, rugby, baseball)</li><li>• 25 Tennis courts</li></ul>
<b>5.4</b>	<b>Allotments</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Approximately 1,100 plots over 14 sites</li></ul>
<b>5.5</b>	<b>Trees</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Circa 30,000 Street trees managed on behalf of Highways</li><li>• Circa 60,000 trees in parks</li><li>• 24 hour call-out emergencies</li></ul>
<b>5.6</b>	<b>Service delivery mechanisms and Contracts</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Grounds Maintenance function (insourced April 2017) which carries out all day to day tasks for managing parks, e.g. litter, grass, shrubs, sports pitches, bowling greens, floral bedding etc.</li><li>• Tree Management contract for all trees in parks and on the highway e.g. pruning, felling and pro-active maintenance.</li><li>• Term contract and ad hoc small contracts for hard infrastructure repairs and improvements (eg surfacing, play equipment, railings and boundaries)</li><li>• Capital works contracts for improvement schemes – budgets ranging from a few thousand upwards often to several hundred thousand pounds.</li></ul>



<p><b>5.7</b></p>	<p><b>User Management and Community Development in Parks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support for Friends of Park Groups and other associated community groups (currently 36 supported)</li> <li>• Promotion and development of volunteer work in parks; (there has been an increase in volunteer hours in Sefton’s parks by 1100% since 2008/9, to 22,000 hours in 2014/15 – valued at circa £315,000)</li> <li>• Development of partnership and “organisational” volunteering.</li> <li>• Promotion of park activities to encourage increased and better use of parks; 900 in 14/15, attended by circa 120,000 people, (mostly run by others but facilitated by ourselves)</li> <li>• Liaison with other agencies to promote community safety and reduce anti-social behaviour</li> <li>• Pro-actively work with schools and young people and provision of diversionary activities</li> <li>• Enforcement of by-laws e.g. dog-fouling, dog control, litter</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.8</b></p>	<p><b>Other Activities</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seek funding, design and deliver capital projects to develop our sites (over £11M over the last ten years)</li> <li>• Seek sponsorship and other external funding to contribute to the service</li> <li>• Advise the Planning Department on Landscape issues relating to planning applications, and the development of corporate of corporate land based strategies (the Local Plan, Greenspace Strategy, Open Space Study, Pitch Study and Non Pitch Study)</li> <li>• Manage concessionaires on our sites</li> <li>• Manage health and safety and deal with insurance claims relating to our land</li> </ul>
<p><b>5.9</b></p>	<p><b>Benchmarking and Quality Awards</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Apple award – international award for environmental best practise</li> <li>• ASAP Service Team of the year finalist 2009 and 2011 (Association of Public Sector Excellence)</li> <li>• Gold Standard national play award (Royal Society of Prevention of Accidents)</li> </ul>

# Agenda Item 4

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Winners of 7 Green Flag awards (national standard for parks management)</li><li>• Consecutive success in “In Bloom” competition since 1993 both at regional and national level. Southport in Bloom won the Large Coastal Resort category for national finals of Britain in Bloom for 2016, and all five town entries found success in the North West in Bloom awards</li><li>• Facilitated 3 community groups to enter Community Green Flag awards</li><li>• Facilitated 35 community groups to enter Neighbourhood In Bloom awards</li></ul>



<b>6.0</b>	<b>CONCLUSIONS</b>
6.1	The Council provides a rich network of parks and greenspaces which are diverse in their designs and meet differing needs within our communities.
6.2	<p>Parks and Greenspaces provide many benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A valuable space for families to bond away from the distractions of technology;</li> <li>• A shared local space, where a range of groups and clubs will establish and congregate to create strong local bonds;</li> <li>• Ideal for fitness and training and encourage local residents to adopt a more healthy, outdoor lifestyle;</li> <li>• Increased tourism as a destination for a day out for outdoor fun, often free or at little cost;</li> <li>• Local Identity as a natural meeting point and event stage;</li> <li>• Increased footfall meaning local business could benefit from increased residual custom;</li> <li>• Widely regarded as key to improving the mental health of local residents;</li> <li>• Provide a constructive environment for older children and young adults; and</li> <li>• Provide an important role in the development of social and fine motor skills in young children, as well as encouraging an active lifestyle.</li> </ul>
6.2	Community volunteering has made a massive contribution to the Parks and Greenspace.
6.3	<p>In recent years there has been a great focus on development of volunteering opportunities in parks. This can range from volunteer gardening such as planting, weeding, pruning etc, to assisting with infrastructure such as repairing and painting benches, railings etc, to offering guided walks, to simply being an ‘eyes and ears’ volunteer to report issues about the parks.</p> <p>The Working Group highlighted the importance and excellent work undertaken by volunteers and hoped to see this developed further in the future.</p>
6.4	Members of the Working Group agreed that the way Parks and Greenspaces are managed needs to change and flex with the demands of the Council, in the context of reducing revenue budgets, but still contributing towards the 2030 vision.
6.5	It was also noted, based on research on trends in parks management from across the country, that other options for the future of the service can be explored also. These can include alternative service delivery mechanisms, such a ‘Parks Trust’ being explored by Knowsley Council, the trialling of Parks



# Agenda Item 4

	Improvement Districts, crowdfunding, commercialising some of the services we are able to offer to other land owners, selling arisings from land management such as timber, hay and potentially developing a tree and shrub nursery etc
6.7	It should also be noted that since this working party began its work, Full Council agreed to the integration of the Parks and Greenspace Service, the Coast and Countryside Service, and the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Team (March 2017). With the insourcing of the Grounds Maintenance function in 2017 too, the potential for the newly evolving 'Green Sefton' Service is an excellent opportunity for the council to deliver these land management functions in very different ways.
6.8	A fundamental conclusion is that parks play a valuable part in people's lives, that they create a sense of place for communities and that meeting health and safety obligations must always be paramount. Further it was concluded that access to general parks facilities should remain freely accessible to all (but that some specific facilities, for select segments of users (and not for the wider public) could still be charged for).





<b>7.0</b>	<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
7.1	That consideration and further research continues to take place on future service delivery mechanisms for the newly forming 'Green Sefton' service. These, together with other day to day innovations, to seek to reduce the reliance on the service on revenue budgets whilst still providing sites that communities value, feel safe in, and remain freely accessible;
7.2	That the Head of Communities in consultation with Corporate Communications be requested to investigate the possibility of a Sefton Parks and Greenspaces application for electronic devices to enable visually impaired individuals to safely and confidently navigate around Sefton's Parks and Greenspaces, encouraging individuals to visit parks and greenspaces;
7.3	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue exploring and developing food growing projects, such as communal allotments in parks;
7.4	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue exploring and developing the volunteer hubs, such as that at Botanic gardens old nursery site;
7.5	That the Head of Communities be requested to continue to arrange 'Volunteer Celebrations' and offer thanks formally to all volunteers who contribute so much to our Parks and Greenspaces; and
7.6	That the Head of Communities be requested to report annually or when appropriate, whichever is the sooner, to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee updating the Committee on progress in relation to recommendations 7.1 to 7.5, above.

# Agenda Item 4

Thanks must also go to the Members of the Working Group who have worked hard and dedicated a great deal of time to this review, namely:-



Councillor Harry Bliss, Lead Member,  
Parks and Greenspaces Working Group



Councillor Michael Roche



Councillor Veronica Webster



Councillor Bill Welsh

**For further information please contact:-**



**Ruth Harrison**

**Democratic Services Manager**

**Telephone: 0151 934 2042**

**E-Mail: [ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk)**

**Sefton Council** 

**Overview  
& Scrutiny**



This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Tuesday 3 July 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Sefton Economic Strategy Framework		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Regeneration & Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To update on the Sefton Economic Strategy consultation exercise which concluded on 4 May 2018.

## Recommendation(s):

(1) That the report is noted.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To keep members updated on progress with the Sefton Economic Strategy Framework; the consultation process and the next steps

None

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

None

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

£70,000 revenue was approved to fund the development of both the Economic Assessment and Strategy Framework for Sefton. Following invitation to tender process the work was awarded to Regeneris Consulting.

### (B) Capital Costs

N/a

# Agenda Item 5

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>  Consultation co-ordination activities will be undertaken by existing staff within existing budgets
<b>Legal Implications:</b>  None
<b>Equality Implications:</b>  None

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<b>Protect the most vulnerable:</b> Inclusive growth is the core objective of the strategy framework to set a direction for action so that the impacts of economic growth reach many more of Sefton's residents including the most vulnerable
<b>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</b> Inclusive Growth is the core objective of the strategy framework including a focus on 'People' to better connect economic opportunity to the lived experience of residents; Investing in education, skills and employability is also one of 7 key objectives
<b>Commission, broker and provide core services:</b> Reconfiguring public services and community led delivery and generating new sources of finance to support growth are two of the 7 key objectives for the strategy
<b>Place – leadership and influencer:</b> Repositioning and reprofiling Sefton is one of the 7 key objectives for the strategy
<b>Drivers of change and reform:</b>  Reconfiguring public services and community led delivery and generating new sources of finance to support growth are two of the 7 key objectives for the strategy
<b>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</b>  Delivering new development and infrastructure, Creating and growing local, private and social enterprise and securing new inward investment are three of the 7 key objectives for the strategy
<b>Greater income for social investment:</b>  Creating and growing local, private and social enterprise is one of the 7 key objectives for the strategy
Cleaner Greener

Under Delivering new development and infrastructure reference is made to the mitigation of any adverse environmental impacts as a result of economic regeneration growth; the strategy also focuses on attracting new cleaner greener investment for Digital, particularly the roll-out of ultrafast broadband.

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

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

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD.5060/18) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4344/18) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

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

Businesses

Developers

Investors

Professional Intermediaries & Networks e.g. Chambers of Commerce; Federation of Small Businesses; Professional Sefton

Other Liverpool City Region Local Authorities/Chief Executives

Combined Authority

Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership & Sector Boards

Liverpool City Region Employment & Skills Board

Prime Contractors & Supply Chains

Members of Sefton Leadership Collaborative, including Further Education, CCGs,

Sefton Council for Voluntary Services

The ten Parishes

Organisations with insight into residents of Working Age especially Jobseekers, People on Low Incomes, and Equality Groups

Transport Providers/Commissioners

Any other relevant groups/organisations

#### **Internal consultees:**

Elected Members

All members of SLB & Programme Board

Yammer (Sefton Council)

Sefton Business Friendly Group

#### **Implementation Date for the Decision**

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

# Agenda Item 5

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Mike Mullin/Claire Maguire
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 3442/0151 934 2695
Email Address:	mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Claire.maguire@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **1.0 Background**

1.1 Cabinet Member – Regeneration authorised the preparation of an Economic Assessment and Economic Strategy for Sefton at her meeting of 1st September 2016 and consultants Regeneris were appointed by open competitive tender on 10th October 2016.

1.2 In 2016 the council carried out a borough wide consultation and asked people what they thought was important for Sefton now and in for the future. Over 5,000 people took part and the information helped to develop the Vision for Sefton 2030. People told us what was important and this included:

- Looking after our town centres
- Having houses that people can afford to buy or rent
- There needs to be more jobs for people

1.3 The Sefton Economic Assessment, a factual statement of the borough's strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, was approved by Cabinet Member – Regeneration at her meeting of 9th March 2017. The Cabinet Member also approved at the same meeting the preparation of a draft Strategic Framework for Action, or the building blocks of the Strategy.

### **2.0 Consultation exercise**

2.1 Business and Public consultation started on 8 March and ended 4 May 2018; an extra week was added to allow for known late responses and letters of representation. The purpose of the consultation was to inform stakeholders of the Council's Economic Assessment, and to consult (seek views) on the draft Framework for Action, the building blocks of the Sefton Economic Strategy. The focus for the consultation was the actions arising from the findings of the Assessment:

- Creating more higher quality and better paid local jobs
- More people in work and in more productive jobs
- Strengthening the skills base to deliver economic growth and benefit communities
- Deliver new housing and employment land to enable growth
- Improve the digital infrastructure and extend its benefits



- Improve transport infrastructure for growth and sustainability
- Tackle health and well-being challenges experienced by some of Sefton's communities
- Make more of Sefton as a place to live, visit and invest in.

2.2 A stakeholder analysis was completed, which guided priorities for the consultation. The consultation methods were matched to the stakeholder analysis, and to the level of consultation. Focus groups in the north and south of the Borough were proposed to capture the views and input of job seekers and adults with learning disabilities on the key themes. The consultation plans were presented to the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel on the 17th November, 2017.

2.3 The following methodology was used:

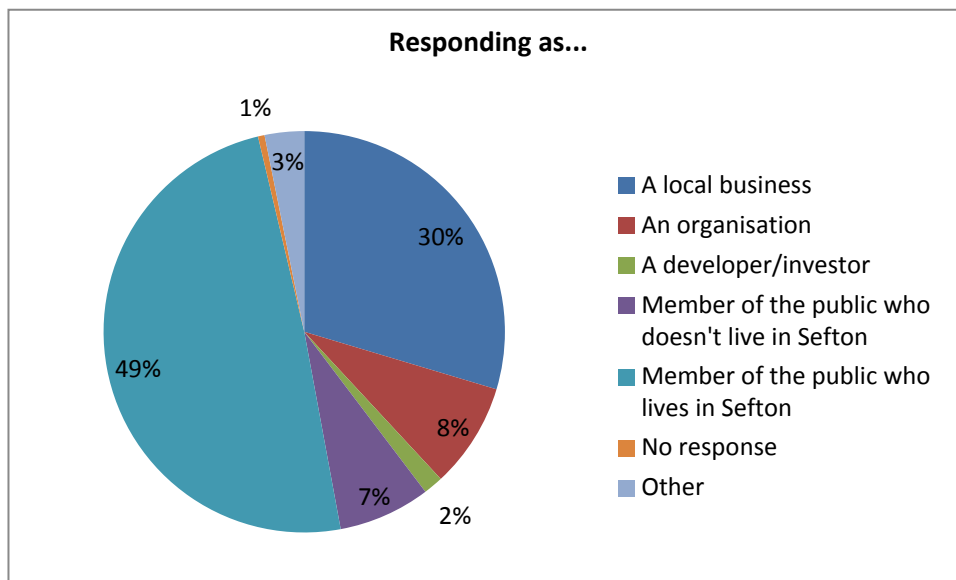
- The draft Sefton Economic Strategy document
- A standard version questionnaire (on eConsult, hard copy and distributed to libraries)
- An Easy Read version of the questionnaire
- Information to the InvestSefton Business Mailing List (c.3,700), directing them to the on-line questionnaire
- A Business Focus Group
- Focus groups in the north and south with Sefton@Work clients
- A Focus group with StrandbyMe attendees
- A Focus group with People First (Adults with learning disabilities)
- Information on the Sefton Council website and intranet
- Information on social media

### 3.0 Results

3.1 Between 8 March and 4 May 2018, 189 questionnaires were completed (164 on line; 24 of these were ER and 1 standard hard copy). It should be noted that whilst 189 people started to complete the questionnaires, some were only partly completed. To comply with Data Protection, all questionnaires, whether on-line or hard copy and whether a standard version or Easy Read, had a Privacy notice outlining the reasons the data was being asked for and what would be done with it afterwards..

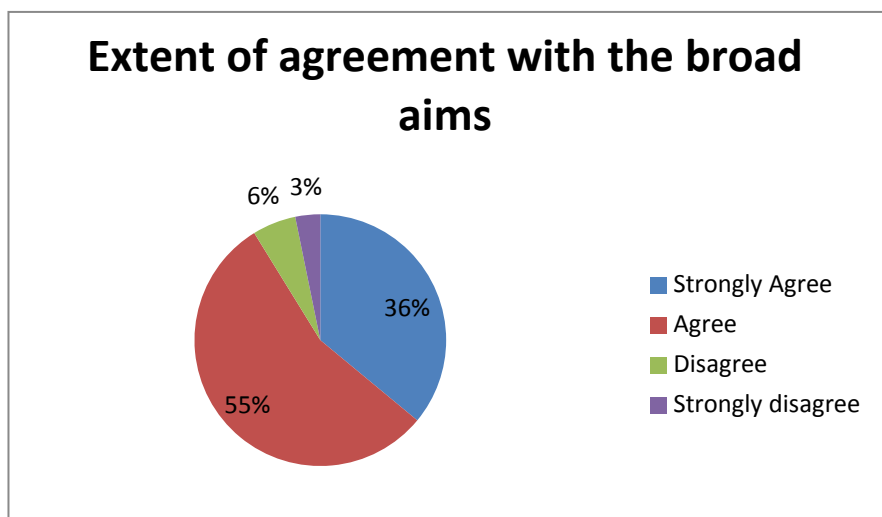
# Agenda Item 5

## Breakdown of responses by type



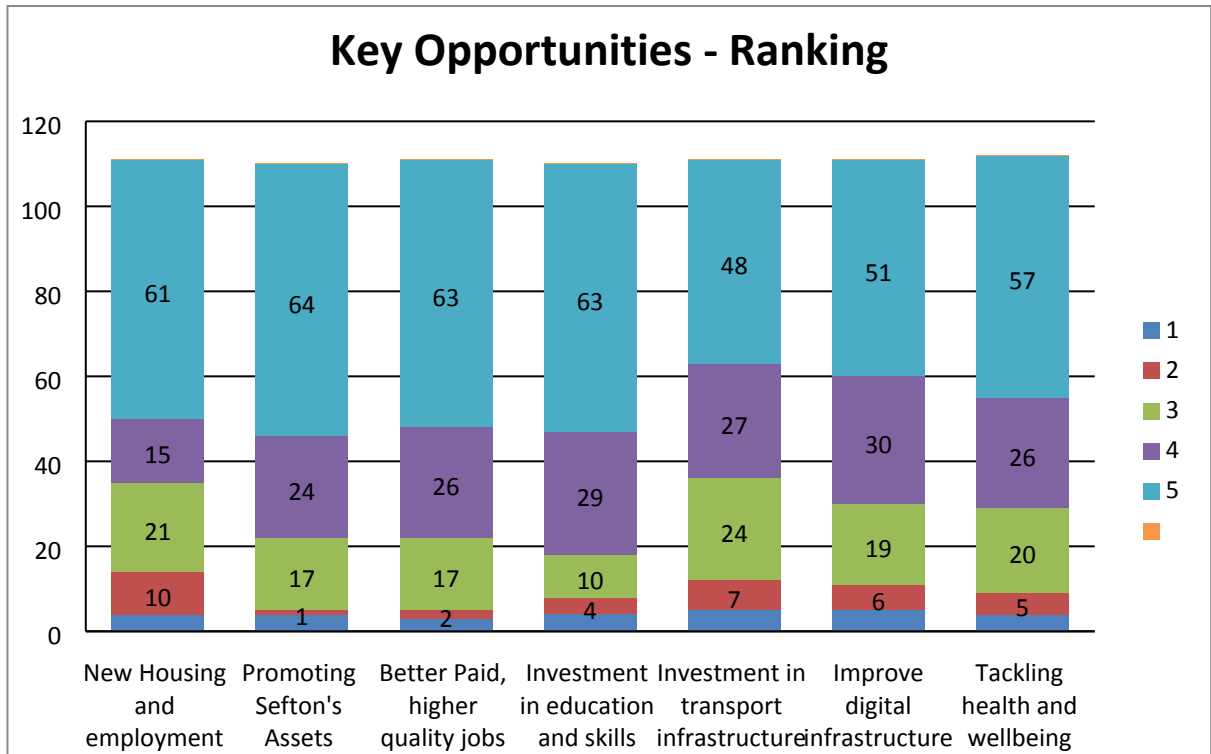
3.2 The above graph shows that the two main groups of people who responded were members of the public who live in **Sefton (49%)** and **local businesses (30%)**. It should be noted that this is actually an increase of **65% on the 2014 Sefton Economic Strategy consultation**. Strategy consultations are not renowned for attracting large responses particularly at a time when there are other competing consultation exercises across the city-region. However InvestSefton, Sefton@work and the Consultation and Engagement lead undertook a range of follow up activities and focused events to help capture more qualitative data.

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the three main priority areas (People, Places and Productivity)?



3.3 The above graph shows that of the 125 people who completed this question, **91% either agreed or strongly agreed with the three broad aims of the draft Sefton Economic Strategy.**

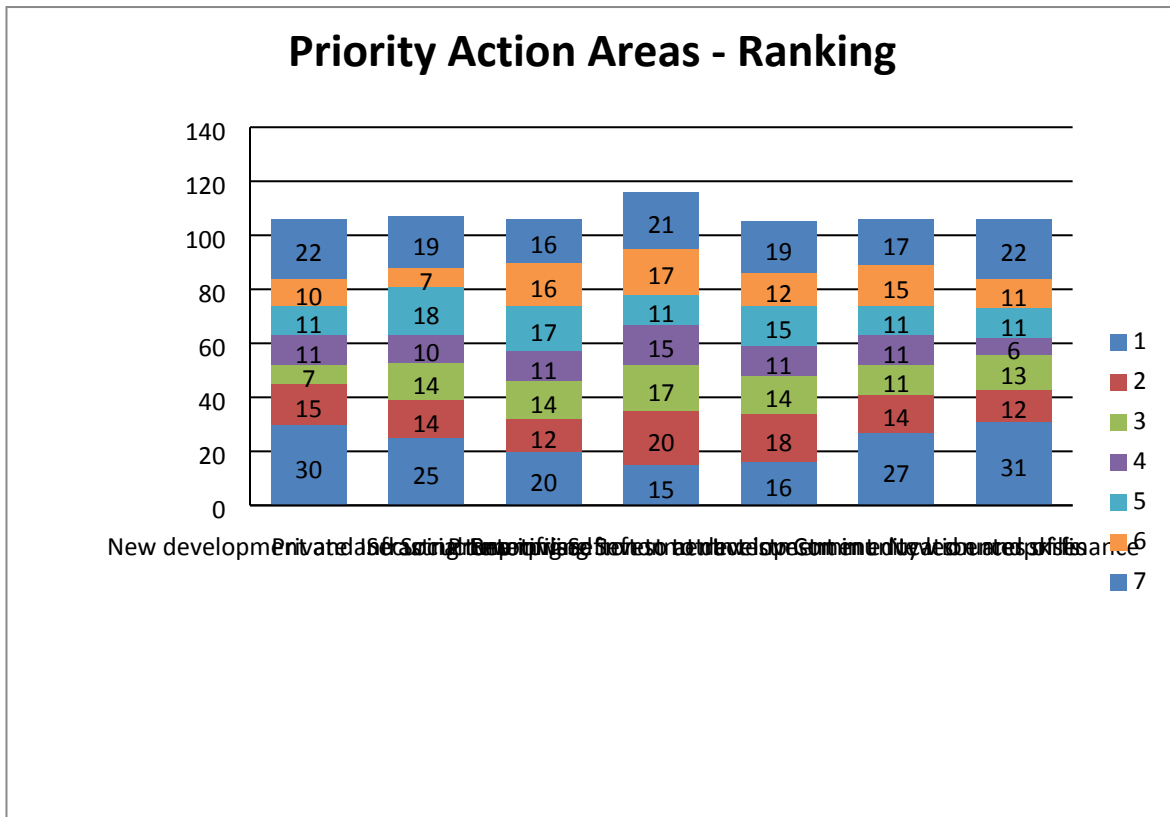
How important are the Key Opportunity areas? (1 not important – 5 is very important).



3.4 Respondents had the opportunity to rank 7 areas that had been identified as key Opportunity areas, with 1 being not important to 5 being very important. Of the people who responded to this question, it seems that all seven areas are deemed very important (rating score of 5), however if you add up the 4 and 5 ranking scores, then **Investment in Education and Skills** is the top priority with a ranking score of 93, followed closely by **better paid, better quality jobs** (89 responses) and **Promoting Sefton's Assets** (88 responses).

How important are the Action Areas? (1 being the most important – 7 being the least important)

# Agenda Item 5



3.5 Respondents had the opportunity to rank in order of priority seven Priority Action Areas and were asked to rank from **1 being the most important to 7 being the least important**. On review of the responses, the people who completed this question either ranked the priority action areas as instructed or chose to complete using multiple responses, for example giving a priority action area two of the same number. It has been agreed to use all the information provided as in completing the question, either method indicates where the priority areas the respondents wish to focus on.

3.6 From the responses in the graph above, the priority action areas that are the most important to the respondents (rating number 1) are **new sources of finance** and **new development and employment**. Adding up the ranking scores for 1 and 2, then new sources of finance is still the top Priority Action Area, followed closely by **Investing in education and skills**.

## 4.0 Next steps

4.1 Officers are currently in the process of analysing the final data including an equalities assessment, postcode breakdown of respondents and summarising comments and letters of representation received. Those respondents who have requested to be kept advised of the final version and action plan will also be placed onto a database in line with GDPR. The report will also include summaries of each focus group, conclusion and outline recommendations and next steps.

4.2 The Strategy is intended to provide a clear framework for action to assist the Council with its ambitions for:

- Business Growth & Investment

- Business Generation & Enterprise Culture
- Sector Development
- Nurturing new Growth Clusters
- Place Marketing and Inward Investment
- Town Centre Investment Strategies and Frameworks
- Post-Inspection Revision of the Local Plan (2017), including Land Availability for Housing and Employment
- Infrastructure Planning
- Strategic Transport Planning and Scheme Identification
- Workforce Development
- Employability and Inclusive Growth
- Public Sector Reform and the Council's Transformation Programme
- Social Value in Commissioning and Procurement

4.3 Regeneris Consultants has completed the first two phases of the contract (Assessment and draft strategy). Officers are currently determining the level of Regeneris' involvement in completing the strategy. The key next steps are:

- Present final consultation and key findings report to O&S Scrutiny (Regeneration & Skills ) -3 July and Cabinet 26 July
- Present final consultation report to Public Engagement & Consultation Panel- 14 September 2018
- Produce final Sefton Economic Strategy including a set of more detailed Strategic Action Plans that detail the actions required to give effect to the Strategy, key milestones, delivery choices and/or partners, and forecast phased costs and outputs (as appropriate).

This page is intentionally left blank

# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 July 2018
	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)		10 July 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	NEET		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director	<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 satisfy the request from Overview & Scrutiny Committee for progress reports against each recommendation of the NEET Working Group Final Report in 2013

## Recommendation(s):

That Members:

1. Note the progress achieved against the agreed objectives in the current reporting period.
2. Agree that future reporting on this issue forms part of the reporting framework to be devised once the Council adopts the forthcoming Sefton Economic Strategy, as this will supercede and update the recommendations of the NEET Working Group dating back to 2013

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

As this is an update report on activities, no alternative options have been considered.

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

There are no cost implications to this report. It provides Members with an update on existing activities.

## Implications of the Proposals:

# Agenda Item 6

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

## **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

<b>Protect the most vulnerable:</b> This report focuses wholly on services targeting the most vulnerable young people in Sefton.
<b>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</b>  The participation of young people in education and employment prevents further social and economic disenfranchisement and promotes resilience.
<b>Commission, broker and provide core services:</b> The prevention of young people being NEET is covered by a range of statutory duties placed upon the Council
<b>Place – leadership and influencer:</b> The Council acts in a key leadership role in the provision of services to NEET young people.
<b>Drivers of change and reform:</b>  The Council is driving forward aggressive and innovative approaches to the future procurement and deliver of IAG services for NEET young people with local partners.
<b>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</b> The engagement of young people in skills development has a fundamental bearing on their future economic prosperity and their ability to achieve their personal and earnings potential .
<b>Greater income for social investment:</b> The Council is leading on the development of a number of methods to lever in additional income for NEET services through social investment bonds.
<b>Cleaner Greener</b> Economic engagement of young people is widely recognised as having an impact on the overall appreciation of place, respect for neighbourhoods and community cohesion.

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

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



The Head of Corporate Resources (FD5070/18) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4354/18) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(B) External Consultations**

N/A

### **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Claire Maguire
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2684
Email Address:	claire.maguire@sefton.gov.uk

### **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- The Not in Employment Education or Training (NEETs) Working Group was jointly established by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) to undertake a review of issues surrounding the delivery of the NEETS service within the Borough. The Final Report of the Working Group was received by Cabinet on 28<sup>th</sup> March 2013.
- Members requested an annual progress report to the relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Since the Senior Management Review in 2015, responsibility for NEETs, and youth transitions to work generally, have been redistributed from Head of Schools & Families to the Head of Investment & Employment. Therefore this progress report is addressed to the two relevant Overview & Scrutiny Committees as has been requested.
- Schools continue to be under a statutory duty to provide a universal Careers Education and Information Advice & Guidance (CEIAG) service to all students. It has to be both impartial and independent i.e. not wholly delivered by school staff, though a teacher may co-ordinate activities.
- Sefton Council commissions a full service contract to track the NEET cohort and those at risk of NEET, through an annual Activity Survey and a continuous monitoring system that embraces all sources and destinations for 16-18 year olds (18-25 year old for those with Special Educational Needs)
- Sefton Council also commissions an Information Advice and Guidance service for NEETs, with a view to maximising their participation and reducing the NEET rate.

# Agenda Item 6

This necessarily involves close working relationships with Youth Offending Team, Leaving Care teams, health services, Sefton Turnaround etc and external partners.

- The Raising the Participation Age (RPA) legislation has been completely implemented, and since 2015, all 16-18 year olds must be in education, training or in employment with training.
- The academization of schools has moved the fulcrum of relations between the schools and the Council from legal oversight and educational improvement to provision of back-office services and pathway planning.
- The government has imposed a funding obligation on training providers that learners with a grade D in Maths and English must continue to study these subjects in their post-GCSE programme, in effect generating an extra volume of resits and drop-outs in FE. This has a significant impact on the learning experience of young people.
- For independent training providers, the impact of the Maths/English requirement on achievement rates has come on top of difficult trading conditions, leading to poor Ofsted scores, cash flow issues, and in several cases, closure and loss of provision for 16-18 year olds in Sefton.
- The Council is a founding partner of the Sefton Education Business Partnership that exists to develop school/industry links and to prepare young people for the world of work by engaging employers and motivating students.
- Sefton Council's commitment to this agenda is clear and is at the highest level of the Council. Cllr Maher, Leader of the Council has undertaken the portfolio of Employment & Skills for the Combined Authority and has taken a specific responsibility as the chair person for the Area Based Review of Post 16 Skills Provision. Cllr Atkinson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Skills also sits on the LCR Employment & Skills Board as Sefton's representative.

## **3. The evolving Context for NEET Support**

### **3.1 LCR Careers Hub**

Schools, colleges and training providers all have a statutory responsibility for delivering independent careers information, advice and guidance (IAG) to all their learners. Ofsted ensures this duty is delivered effectively and supports the best interests of the learner in their next steps. In addition, the Careers and Enterprise Company, the National Careers Service and the DWP all fund national careers support programmes, delivered by local partners, supporting schools in delivering their careers IAG and enterprise duties. There is also a range of commercial providers in the market able to supply independent careers advice and guidance support on direct contracts to schools and colleges.

However, feedback from stakeholders involved in the LCR Area Based Review of 16+ skills Provision undertaken in 2016/17 indicated a failure in the market in terms of the perceived impartiality of careers advice and guidance being provided and the quality and

local relevance of materials being used. It has therefore been agreed that The Combined Authority will establish a sub-regional careers hub to bring cohesion and better alignment with growth opportunities to the provision of careers information.

### **3.4 LCR Apprenticeship Hub**

Sefton has expressed its full commitment as part of the LCR Combined Authority to the expansion of Apprenticeships. As a large scale employer in Merseyside, it also leads by example by creating a wide range of apprenticeship places across its departments spanning a number of occupational areas.

Apprenticeships form a key component of the LCR Devolution Deal with government and external funding has been made available to support the creation of the LCR Apprenticeships Hub. The Hub provides a range of promotional events in each LA area, hosts a number of high profile Skills Shows and undertakes ongoing engagement with employers to promote the benefits of creating apprenticeships within the workforce together with a web based resource for young people , training providers, employers and advisers. Further details on the Hub can be found here:

<http://apprenticeshipswork.org.uk/apprentices/>

### **3.5 LCR Apprenticeship Growth Plan**

In January 2018, the LCR Employment & Skills Board agreed the LCR Apprenticeship Growth Plan. This Plan has been widely consulted upon and expresses a desire for the City region to deliver a step change in both the quality and quantity of Apprenticeship opportunities with an objective to create 20,000 Apprenticeship starts by 2020.

The Plan identifies the key challenges that without collective and collaborative action could inhibit programme delivery and future growth. These include:

- The impact of apprenticeship reforms;
- Apprenticeship awareness and understanding amongst employers;
- Falling 16-18 apprenticeship participation and local demographic impact;
- An imbalance between employer demand and the availability of provision;
- The issue of low attainment of English and maths at age 16 compared to national averages in some areas;
- The technical skills gap that exists across Liverpool City Region; and
- The complexity and fragmentation of the local skills system.

### **3.6 National Careers Strategy**

Updated guidance was published by DfE following the unveiling of the government's long-overdue national careers strategy in December 2017, which requires schools and colleges to meet eight "Gatsby Benchmarks".

It states that providers are expected to work towards these standards, which have been designed over the past three years to ensure they succeed in a post-16 setting, as early as possible and meet them by the end of 2020. Colleges risk losing their grant funding if the demands are not met in that timescale but this constraint does not at this time appear to apply to schools.

The careers strategy also includes £4 million to support every school and college to have a careers leader, and a further £5 million funding to develop 20 careers hubs.

# Agenda Item 6

One of the Gatsby benchmarks is called “encounters with employers and employees”. The DfE expects every school or college to begin to offer every learner at least two “meaningful encounters” with an employer each year and this could, for example, involve students attending careers events, participating in CV workshops and mock interviews, mentoring, employer-delivered employability workshops, or business games and enterprise competitions.

From September 2018, every school or college should also appoint a named person to the role of “careers leader” to lead the in-house programme which should be published. An online self-evaluation tool, Compass, will be available in September 2018 for colleges to “assess” how their careers support compares against the Gatsby Benchmarks and the national average.

The eight benchmarks are:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each student
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

## **3.7 Provision for SEND**

Since the Children and Families Act 2014 came into force local authorities and their partner commissioning bodies have had a range of new responsibilities to develop joint arrangements to secure effective provision for children and young people with SEND. The provision of information, advice and support for children, their parents and young people is a specific responsibility that is additional to other information responsibilities and arrangements, such as the Local Offer. The primary purpose of such joint arrangements is to improve outcomes for 0 to 25-year-old children and young people who have special educational needs or disabilities, including those with Education Health and Care (EHC) plans. Sefton has recently developed a number of service options to provide placements with sympathetic employers and providers to enable SEND young people opportunities to experience local workplaces. This has included the procurement of a specialist provider to assist in the co-ordination of these placements.

## **3.8 Youth Employment Initiative through Sefton@work**

- The target group for Youth Employment Initiative has been young people aged between 16 and 29 years and NEET. YEI encapsulates a wider age cohort than other NEET interventions as it has included Universal Credit claimants under Live service and Full Service, young people claiming Income Support (largely the Leaving care group), young people affected by ill health claiming Employment Support Allowance and those who are non-claimants. As the funding is from the EU, the overriding eligibility criteria has related to residency and rights to take up work in the EU.

- The six city region local authorities have formed a consortium under the LCR Combined Authority to bid for and deliver a large-scale enhancement to the Youth Employment Gateway, called **Ways to Work** delivered by **Sefton@work**. This project has offered a local, intelligence-driven, comprehensive and integrated programme for young people and adults, designed to improve personal resilience and progress to sustainable employment.
- A key Feature of the Ways to Work Project , in addition to the individual support supplied through casework advisers, has been the provision of a significant number of paid work placements (or ILMs), enabling clients to access support in the workplace to help overcome barriers to sustainability. Local employers are invited to take part in this initiative by offering opportunities at least at the national minimum wage rate over and the placements need be in addition to their existing workforce to draw down funding to contribute towards wage costs. These ILM placements enable those with little or no work experience to understand better the world of work and develop relationship with an employer. In-work support is available through Sefton@work to help sustain clients in work for the duration of the placement opportunity and to locate progression employment after the completion of the supported placement.
- To date, more than 100 ILM opportunities have been created with local Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) deemed in a growth sector, or through other organisations where the job has a clear community benefit. These employment opportunities are across a range of sectors and have provided participants with a high quality experience where the rate of retention after the funding period completes has been in excess of 70%. The breadth of the ILM offer has been worked up by Sefton@work to appeal to many different groups of clients and spark the interest and motivation of disadvantaged groups to become re-engaged in the world of work:

This programme works in synergy with other Council services and initiatives, such as Sefton Turnaround and the Leaving Care teams. Specific opportunities with employers, including paid work placements, will be ring-fenced to clients also accessing support in these areas, thus adding value to the existing service offers to these clients

#### **4 Local Impacts**

- Taking these structural, organisational and curricular changes into account, the patterns of provision and progression are certainly challenging for today's young people. Some of these impacts are captured in the headline performance measures on NEET reported to government and accessible through the Council's data Portal for NEETs:
- The last activity survey (for year 11 leavers) undertaken showed that 96.3% of the total cohort were meeting the duty to participate. This includes attendance at school sixth form, Sixth Form College, Further Education, Higher Education, Other Post 16 Education, independent specialist providers or custodial institutions. It also incorporates those in full time training including Traineeships, EFA delivered work based learning, supported internships, study programmes etc, as well as those in Apprenticeships or full time education with accredited training.

# Agenda Item 6

- An additional 1.3% of this cohort were working towards participation such as re-engaging in activities, and those with a start date agreed. 0.2% of the cohort were taking a temporary break from learning, such as those with caring responsibilities, pregnancy, teenage parents or illness.
- This leaves just 2.2% of this cohort not meeting the duty to participate but does include those that may be in employment (but without learning) or undertaking voluntary work. There are a variety of reasons why a young person is not participating, and these can often be temporary in nature. It is important for this reason to undertake detailed tracking of these individuals, to provide specific assistance through our IAG contract to supporting individuals into EET.
- As at December 2017, for 16 and 17 year olds (the 18 year old rate no longer requiring to be reported nationally), Sefton's NEET rate was 3.5%. This ranks Sefton 30/152 nationally (1 being the worst and 152 the best). Sefton's Not Known rate is considerably better and sits at 1.3% ranking us 120/152. The combined NEET and Not Known rate is 4.8% which ranks Sefton 107/152. This clearly indicates that the systems that we have in place for data tracking are effective.
- In terms of Liverpool City Region, Sefton are ranked 5/6 (1 being worst and 6 the best) for the combined NEET and Not Known figures.
- Other impacts relate to learners' experiences of the local educational and skills system. Where providers have withdrawn from the market due to commercial concerns or inadequate quality, students in PRUs or Impact find alternative provision less attractive or accessible. Conversely, colleges regard this cohort as not ready to progress, and the drop-out rate has increased for those who do make the transition.
- The English/Maths requirement deters progression from schools to FE, generates high levels of re-sits, which do not improve grades, and lead to higher drop-out rates and learner frustration. In addition, lower achievement rates in English & Maths damage the formula funding on which Colleges rely and risk provider contraction. This has been exacerbated by the requirements for English and Maths which create a rotating effect of resits for young people not able to progress to the required standard.
- Some SEND learners with Education & Health Care Plans cannot find a suitable local provider, and all schools have struggled to supply information on SEND students to training providers in a timely manner. This inhibits their capacity to respond with bespoke offers which may be required by the learners.
- Flowing from the recommendations of the LCR Area Based Review into FE, Hugh Baird College and South Sefton College is planned to be a type B merger involving the transfer of property, rights and future liabilities of South Sefton College (an LA maintained 16 to 18 school) to Hugh Baird College. The support of Sefton Council is critical to the success of this merger which is unique in bringing together a foundation school with a general further education college. Southport College and King George V College (KGV) is also planned to be a type

B merger involving the transfer of the property, rights and liabilities of KGV to Southport and the subsequent dissolution of the KGV Corporation. The second stage bringing together the 2 merged colleges is likely to involve the creation of a new governing board and a new management structure.

- The Sefton Employment & Skills Partners Group connects the colleges, training providers, Jobcentre Plus, economic development and the VCF sector, to receive youth entrants to the adult world of work.
- The re-convened Sefton Participation Group supervises the RPA tracking system and sets the agenda for 18-29 provision and progression, escalating issues as required.
- The LCR PASS Group co-ordinates action on post 16 issues among the LA officers and, has direct connection to the LCR working Group on NEETS convened as a result of the Area Based Review.

## **5. Progress on the Working Group Recommendations**

Updates are provided as follows against each of the recommendations in the original O&S report.

### **Recommendation 1**

*To request head-teachers, and chairs of governors of high schools (including academies and free schools) within the Borough to consider increasing the breadth, range and quality of impartial advice and guidance provision for young people in schools, prior to leaving year 11, to receive advice on the full range of options available to them, and for information to also be made available to parents.*

The September Offer was made in 2016 and 2017 and Career Connect Ltd have reported the results of their Activity Survey report

Schools, colleges and training providers are in the process of being issued with a customised extract from the Survey so they can assess their relative contribution to meeting the Participation Duty.

Sefton Education Partnership Board has initiated a conversation with the heads of Sefton's primary and secondary schools to improve pre-16 standards of English and Maths.

Career Connect Ltd, the Council's appointed CEIAG partner, are also commissioned by 11 Sefton Secondary schools, to deliver CEIAG services and are in regular dialogue with Head Teachers regarding the different services they offer, including a range of specialist programmes for students who are at risk of NEET. The Career Connect offer is designed to meet and exceed school's statutory responsibility to provide impartial information advice and guidance for students in Years 8 to 13.

Career Connect Ltd are also licensed providers of the nationally validated quality award, the Quality in Careers Standard, for schools and colleges. This enables schools to achieve a quality kitemark for CEIAG. Achieving a quality award is strongly

# Agenda Item 6

recommended by the Government as it enables schools and colleges to review the effectiveness and impact of the CEIAG they offer. Four Sefton schools currently hold the Quality Award with one more school working towards accreditation.

## **Recommendation 2**

*To request head-teachers of high schools and principals of colleges within the Borough to consider increasing the level of mentoring support and guidance for young people , in order for them to be more aware of the range of options available to them, prior to leaving school and college.*

- Approximately 4 in 5 schools are contracted to Careers Connect for their Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) service. Schools regularly evaluate the effectiveness and Value for Money of their CEIAG support.
- In addition, schools are purchasing additional services to extend the offer to students e.g. employer participation in mock interviews (SEBP), or extra-curricular support for 15-16 year olds at risk of NEET (Career Connect).
- The National Careers Service has let a contract for Careers Enterprise Co-ordinators to target NEET “cold spots” in the Liverpool City Region, and The Work Company is developing an action plan with five schools and colleges in Sefton: Chesterfield, Maghull, Stanley, SSSFC and KGV.
- Sefton EBP has recruited a panel of industry mentors to work with young people in school to support and prepare them for further education and work.
- Career Connect is to re-engage with schools about the need to forward school-leaver information to the learner’s destination.
- Members will also note that the introduction of the Gatsby benchmarks as a quality standard for information advice and guidance in schools and colleges includes one area which specifically relates to “ Personal Guidance “.

Sefton Council has also co-invested in the Unlocking Potential social Impact bond delivered by Career Connect in schools. This programme is aimed at 14/15 year olds and 16/17 year olds developing their individual resilience, raising their aspirations, coping with stress and supporting students to achieve goals and outcomes. The key focus is on developing good mental wellbeing, improving attitude to learning, behaviour and attendance. This 13 week programme involves:

- Access to a personal resilience coach for up to a year.
- Weekly coaching sessions for 13 weeks in school or college.
- Mental Toughness and Carrus Assessment.
- Managing Stress, relaxation and self-control.
- Improving behaviour and developing a positive attitude to learning.
- Addressing attendance issues.
- Goal setting and personal action planning.
- Employability skills if appropriate.



- Opportunity to undertake an Entry Level Award or Level 1 Certificate in personal effectiveness.

### **Recommendation 3**

*To produce a follow-up report, to be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee(s) in twelve months' time, to include (i) whether the Council is receiving best value for money in terms of services provided within the NEETS area; and (ii) monitoring of looked after young people leaving Council care and their achievements or whether they subsequently fall into the NEETS category.*

The Council has endeavoured to achieve best value by openly procuring an Information Advice and Guidance service in line with Contract Procurement Regulations.

An invitation to tender in 2013 attracted four applications from different companies. Following scrutiny of the applications and interviews, Career Connect Ltd were appointed and have been providing this service since then.

However, following extensive consideration of these issues through Informal Cabinet and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills, the Cabinet has taken the decision to explore a new approach for the future direction of IAG NEET services for Sefton. Focusing on service improvement and achieving best value, it has been resolved to shift towards an Outcomes based commissioning model which can secure additional resource through the inclusion of social investment. As a result, a contract extension has been arranged with the current provider so that a specification of a new service can be developed which secures these aims.

The Council has secured some Development Funding from the Life Chances Fund to undertake a Feasibility study intended to explore and test the key metrics of this Outcomes Based commissioning approach and help the Council identify suitable social investment partners. The intention is to develop an IAG service offer that comprises re-engagement support and market-focused careers guidance activity to prevent long term exclusion from learning and work, rolling this provision back to an earlier age than 16 so as to address issues for younger people before they fall into the 16/17 NEET categories for reporting under the LA's statutory duty.

Monitoring of Looked After Children and Care Leavers takes place quarterly at the Corporate Learning Board. A detailed report is submitted to the Board which now includes young people up to the age of 22. Further to this, Career Connect provide a dedicated resource working with the Corporate Parenting team, with a series of support activities and interventions. The council also provides a specific employability scheme of its own to give maximum support to those Care Leavers who are considered furthest from the employment market, provision which is monitored by the Corporate Parenting Board.

Furthermore, The Sefton Participation Group has asked Career Connect to:

- Map 14-29 providers and intermediaries, to establish Sefton's current strengths and weaknesses
- Organise (with partners) a meet-the-provider event for young people

# Agenda Item 6

- Contact employers of young people in employment but not in receipt of training, to remind them of their statutory obligations under RPA (the Council does not have an enforcement role as such)
- Survey the young people not currently meeting their duty to participate on what would draw them back into education, training or employment
- Data tracking systems that have been adapted specifically for LAC have become integral to the Early Help Intervention & Prevention practice in Sefton. These requirements will be incorporated into the Procurement of a new service offer going forward for 2018 and beyond.

## **Recommendation 4**

*To produce six monthly reports, to be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee, outlining the latest position with regard to the NEETS.*

Reports have been provided on a six monthly basis in accordance with the requests of the Scrutiny Committee. However, with the re-organisation of responsibility for NEETs, the subsequent deletion of the post of Head of Service for Investment & Employment and the forthcoming adoption of the Sefton Economic Strategy, it is recommended that future reporting be undertaken as part of the Performance reporting system to be put in place once the Council formally adopts the Strategy, which is expected in 2018.

## **Recommendation 5**

*That the Council and its partners be encouraged to use all available statistical evidence to identify NEET hotspots and agree robust intervention targets to reduce numbers in these areas, together with agreed robust systems for monitoring and evaluating the impact of joint interventions.*

The use of robust data and tracking systems has enabled the Council to identify “hotspots” for NEET. Joint work with projects such as Troubled Families, Youth Contract, Sefton Education Business Partnership, along with schools, colleges and training providers has taken. Sefton training providers have secured opportunities to meet directly with young people in order to better understand their needs in a variety of locations across the Borough.

Monthly contract management meetings with the current supplier are undertaken and this allows service delivery to be flexed in accordance with patterns of demand as they emerge.

A post-16 Participation Group supports joint working and an agreed system between the council, schools and Career Connect continues to provide an interchange of information designed to enable the swift “pick up” and tracking of NEET young people. This process could benefit from more resource to improve the flow of information between the Council commissioned NEET tracking system, Council departments and providers in order to provide more responsive, targeted provision.

# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 July 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2018/19, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan – July 18		
<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 seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2018/19, identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee and identify any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

## Recommendation:

That:-

- (1) the Work Programme for 2018/19, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) Consideration be given to the selection of potential scrutiny review topics; prioritise the order in which they start; establish the Working Group(s) for each topic; and appoint at least 3 Members of the Committee to each Working Group; and
- (3) the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 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):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2018/19 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny 'adds value' to the Council.

# Agenda Item 7

The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues before making formal decisions.

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

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 Work Programme Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the 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:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2018/19
- Criteria Checklist For Selecting Topics For Review
- 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 2018/19

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2018/19 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.

# Agenda Item 7

- 1.2 Members are 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 Committee during 2018/19 and updated, as appropriate.
- 1.3 **The Committee is requested to comment on the Work Programme for 2018/19 and note that additional items may be submitted to the Programme at future meetings of the Committee during this Municipal Year.**

## **2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2018/19**

- 2.1 It is usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 A criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at Appendix 2, to assist the Committee in selecting topics and appointing Working Group(s) for the Municipal Year.
- 2.3 **The Committee is requested to select potential scrutiny review topics; prioritise the order in which they start; establish the Working Group(s) for each topic; and appoint at least 3 Members of the Committee to each Working Group.**

## **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 the Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 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 published on 31 May 2018 is attached at Appendix 3 for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded. The Forward Plan to be published on 29 June 2018 will be submitted to Members in due course.
- 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 3 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 2018/19**

<b>Date of Meeting</b>	<b>3 JULY 2018</b>	<b>18 SEPTEMBER 2018</b>	<b>6 NOVEMBER 2018</b>	<b>22 JANUARY 2019</b>	<b>12 MARCH 2019</b>
Cabinet Member Update Report	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
Work Programme Update	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>
<b>Service Operational Reports:</b>					
Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report			<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review			<b>X</b>		
Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan		<b>X</b>			
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2018/19				<b>X</b>	
United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges		<b>X</b>	<b>X</b>		<b>X</b>
Economic Strategy for Growth	<b>X</b>				
Refuse Collection		<b>X</b>			
Leasehold House Sales -					<b>X</b>
Sefton’s Empty Homes Strategy				<b>X</b>	
Parks and Greenspaces Final Report	<b>X</b>				
Mental Health and Employment Task Group - Update		<b>X</b>			
<b>Scrutiny Review Progress Reports:</b>					
Peer Review Working		<b>X</b>			
Housing Licensing Performance Framework Annual Report					<b>X</b>
Shale Gas		<b>X</b>			
NEET	<b>X</b>				

# Agenda Item 7



## APPENDIX 2

### CRITERIA CHECKLIST FOR SELECTING TOPICS FOR REVIEW

<b>Criteria for Selecting Items</b>
▪ Issue identified by members as key issue for public (through member surgeries, other contact with constituents or volume of complaints)
▪ Poor performing service (evidence from performance indicators/benchmarking)
▪ Service ranked as important by the community (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels)
▪ High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels/complaints)
▪ Public interest issue covered in local media
▪ High level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as percentage of total expenditure)
▪ Pattern of budgetary overspends
▪ Council corporate priority area
▪ Central government priority area
▪ Issues raised by External Audit Management Letter/External audit reports
▪ New government guidance or legislation
▪ Reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue
▪ Others

### CRITERIA FOR REJECTION

<b>Potential Criteria for Rejecting Items</b>
▪ Issue being examined by the Cabinet
▪ Issue being examined by an Officer Group : changes imminent
▪ Issue being examined by another internal body
▪ Issue will be addressed as part of a Service Review within the next year
▪ New legislation or guidance expected within the next year
▪ Other reasons specific to the particular issues.

# Agenda Item 7

## APPENDIX 2

### SCRUTINY CHECKLIST DO'S AND DON'TS

<b>DO</b>
◆ Remember that Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◆ Is about learning and being a "critical friend"; it should be a positive process</li><li>◆ Is not opposition</li></ul>
◆ Remember that Scrutiny should result in improved value, enhanced performance or greater public satisfaction
◆ Take an overview and keep an eye on the wider picture
◆ Check performance against local standards and targets and national standards, and compare results with other authorities
◆ Benchmark performance against local and national performance indicators, using the results to ask more informed questions
◆ Use Working Groups to get underneath performance information
◆ Take account of local needs, priorities and policies
◆ Be persistent and inquisitive
◆ Ask effective questions - be constructive not judgmental
◆ Be open-minded and self aware - encourage openness and self criticism in services
◆ Listen to users and the public, seek the voices that are often not heard, seek the views of others - and balance all of these
◆ Praise good practice and best value - and seek to spread this throughout the authority
◆ Provide feedback to those who have been involved in the review and to stakeholders
◆ Anticipate difficulties in Members challenging colleagues from their own party
◆ Take time to review your own performance

<b>◆ DON'T</b>
◆ Witch-hunt or use performance review as punishment
◆ Be party political/partisan
◆ Blame valid risk taking or stifle initiative or creativity
◆ Treat scrutiny as an add-on
◆ Get bogged down in detail
◆ Be frightened of asking basic questions
◆ Undertake too many issues in insufficient depth
◆ Start without a clear brief and remit
◆ Underestimate the task
◆ Lose track of the main purpose of scrutiny
◆ Lack sensitivity to other stakeholders
◆ Succumb to organisational inertia
◆ Duck facing failure - learn from it and support change and development
◆ Be driven by data or be paralysed by analysis - keep strategic overview,

## APPENDIX 2

and expect officers to provide high level information and analysis to help.
---

### KEY QUESTIONS

**Overview and Scrutiny Committees should keep in mind some of the fundamental questions:-**

Are we doing what users/non users/local residents want?
Are users' needs central to the service?
Why are we doing this?
What are we trying to achieve?
How well are we doing?
How do we compare with others?
Are we delivering value for money?
How do we know?
What can we improve?

### INVESTIGATIONS:-

To what extent are service users' expectations and needs being met?
To what extent is the service achieving what the policy intended?
To what extent is the service meeting any statutory obligations or national standards and targets?
Are there any unexpected results/side effects of the policy?
Is the performance improving, steady or deteriorating?
Is the service able to be honest and open about its current performance and the reasons behind it?
Are areas of achievement and weakness fairly and accurately identified?
How has performance been assessed? What is the evidence?
How does performance compare with that of others? Are there learning points from others' experiences?
Is the service capable of meeting planned targets/standards? What change to capability is needed.
Are local performance indicators relevant, helpful, meaningful to Members, staff and service users?

This page is intentionally left blank



## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JULY 2018 - 31 OCTOBER 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 7

## APPENDIX 3

Some reports to be considered by the Cabinet/Council may contain exempt information and will not be made available to the public. The specific reasons (Paragraph No(s)) why such reports are exempt are detailed in the Plan and the Paragraph No(s) and descriptions are set out below:-

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
8. Information falling within paragraph 3 above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under—
  - (a) the Companies Act 1985;
  - (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
  - (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;
  - (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
  - (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
  - (f) the Charities Act 1993.
9. Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992
10. Information which—
  - (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
  - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Council which are held at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle or the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport. The dates and times of the meetings are published on [www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk) or you may contact the Democratic Services Section on telephone number 0151 934 2068.

### NOTE:

*For ease of identification, items listed within the document for the first time will appear shaded.*

**Margaret Carney**  
**Chief Executive**

### FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Approval of Pro Forma for Sustainable Drainage Systems document, Guidance notes and SuDs and Flood Risk Information Notes	Paul Wisse paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2959
Housing Development Company	Kerry Smith kerry.smith@sefton.gov.uk
Housing DevCo - Land Assembly	Kerry Smith kerry.smith@sefton.gov.uk
Bootle Heritage Complex	Nicky Owen nicky.owen@sefton.gov.uk
Ways to Work-ESF Grant Acceptance	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442
Sefton Economic Strategy Framework	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442
Business Growth Programme - ERDF Grant Acceptance	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442
Place Marketing for Investment Project - ERDF Grant Acceptance	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442
Parks and Greenspaces Working Group	Ruth Harrison ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2042

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p><b>Approval of Pro Forma for Sustainable Drainage Systems document, Guidance notes and SuDs and Flood Risk Information Notes</b></p> <p>The purpose of the Pro Forma is to pull together national (e.g, National Planning Policy Framework) and local (Sefton’s Local Plan EQ8) requirements concerning flood risk and drainage into one document, to be completed by the applicant and submitted with a major planning application. The Pro Forma sets out what should be investigated and provided by an applicant as the bare minimum when submitting a planning application. This is to ensure that all applications have sufficient information for the Lead Local Flood Authority to assess and provide comments, without the need for objecting on the grounds of insufficient information provided.</p>
---------------------------------	--

# Agenda Item 7

## APPENDIX 3

	The guidance document, 'Completing your Pro Forma', is to accompany the Pro Forma to assist applicants or developers with additional advice and information in order to complete the Pro Forma – this includes reference to policy. In addition, a series of Information Notes have been prepared which pull together the above guidance and set out the requirements for drainage strategies and technical guidance required when planning applications are submitted.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018			
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	General public and key stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	The Sustainable Drainage pro forma and guidance notes have been prepared in conjunction with the Merseyside Flood Risk Coordinator. Consultation on the SuDs and Flood Risk Information Notes took place for 6 weeks in March / April 2018 via notices in the local press, the Council's website, emails and direct notifications			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Approval of Pro Forma for Sustainable Drainage Systems document, Guidance notes and SuDs and Flood risk Information Notes			
Contact Officer(s) details	Paul Wisse paul.wisse@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2959			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Housing Development Company</b> To approve the process for selecting and recruiting board members
---------------------------------	---



## APPENDIX 3

Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 21/06/2018 to 26/07/2018. Reason: The Board Member recruitment process is not yet complete and the deferral will allow the involvement in the process of the recently appointed Head of Commercial Development			
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	Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing			
Method(s) of Consultation	Briefings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Housing Development Company			
Contact Officer(s) details	Kerry Smith kerry.smith@sefton.gov.uk			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Housing DevCo - Land Assembly</b> To seek a decision relating to the approved Housing DevCo business case			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Fully exempt			
Wards Affected	All Wards			

# Agenda Item 7

## APPENDIX 3

Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing; Cabinet
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Housing DevCo Land Assembly
Contact Officer(s) details	Kerry Smith kerry.smith@sefton.gov.uk

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

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	26 Jul 2018 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 21/06/2018 to 26/07/2018. Reason: Funding streams are still being investigated for the development of the complex and investigations and survey work on the building are ongoing			
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	Nicky Owen nicky.owen@sefton.gov.uk			

## APPENDIX 3

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Ways to Work-ESF Grant Acceptance</b> Acceptance of grant offer for the extension to the ESF Ways to Work Programme (Liverpool City Region Integrated Business Support Project) from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority with effect from 1 January 2019			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018			
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	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills; Executive Director; Liverpool City Region Local Authorities; Liverpool City Region Combined Authority			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Ways to Work-ESFF Grant acceptance			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Sefton Economic Strategy Framework</b> Completion of the Sefton Economic Strategy Framework following consultation. The strategy presents a rationale for the Council's Growth Programme, one of four key pillars of Framework for Change, agreed by Council in January 2017
Decision Maker	Cabinet

# Agenda Item 7

## APPENDIX 3

Decision Expected	<p>26 Jul 2018            Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 21/06/2018 to 26/07/2018. Reason: the consultation period on the Sefton Economic strategy had been extended and 189 responses plus considerable written feedback had been received. Consequently, the evaluation period will also now have to be extended and it is anticipated that the revised final draft of the Strategy will be produced for consideration by Cabinet on 26 July</p>			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	<p>Businesses; Developers; Investors; Professional Intermediaries &amp; Networks e.g. Chambers of Commerce, Federation of Small Businesses and Professional Sefton; Other Liverpool City Region Local Authorities/Chief Executives; LCR Combined Authority; Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership &amp; Sector Boards; Liverpool City Region Employment &amp; Skills Board; Prime Contractors &amp; Supply Chains Members of Sefton Leadership Collaborative, including Further Education, CCGs; Sefton Council for Voluntary Services; The Ten Parishes; Organisations with insight into residents of Working Age especially Jobseekers, People on Low Incomes, and Equality Groups; Transport Providers/Commissioners; Any other relevant groups/organisations</p>			
Method(s) of Consultation	<p>High influence consultees – full suite of documentation made available via email, expectation that consultees will consult internally/with members through their networks, allow for informed and in-depth responses, expectation responses will be made public unless otherwise indicated            Low influence consultees – Focus groups; also universal invitation to participate through web and other media, refer to the consultation questionnaire form;            Online –Focus groups for job seekers via Sefton@Work , Strand by me and People First; web pages containing an invitation to consult, the Sefton Economic Assessment, the consultation document containing the draft Framework, and links to eConsult questionnaire            Cascade Briefing – mass mail out of links to Online pages to</p>			

## APPENDIX 3

	stakeholders identified above, using existing networks & mailing lists e.g Sefton Economic Forum, plus membership organisations such as InvestSefton electronic business mailing list (c.3000) Sefton CVS; Chambers of Commerce; Federation of Small Businesses et Personalised Invitations – to High influence consultees
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sefton Economic Strategy Framework
Contact Officer(s) details	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442

## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Business Growth Programme - ERDF Grant Acceptance</b> Acceptance of grant offer for the extension to the ERDF Business Growth Programme (Liverpool City Region Integrated Business Support Project) from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority with effect from 1 January 2019			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018			
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	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills; Executive Director; Liverpool City Region Local Authorities; LCR Chambers of Commerce; Liverpool Vision; Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership; Liverpool City Region Combined Authority			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings; ERDF briefing			

# Agenda Item 7

## APPENDIX 3

List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Business Growth Programme-ERDF Grant acceptance
Contact Officer(s) details	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Place Marketing for Investment Project - ERDF Grant Acceptance</b> Acceptance of grant offer for the extension to the ERDF Place Marketing for Investment project from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority with effect from 1 January 2019			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	26 Jul 2018			
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	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills; Executive Director; Liverpool City Region Local Authorities; Department of International Trade; Liverpool Vision; Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership; Liverpool City Region Combined Authority			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings;workshops			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Place Marketing for Investment project-ERDF Grant acceptance			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mike Mullin mike.mullin@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 3442			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

## APPENDIX 3

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	26 Jul 2018 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/04/2018 to 26/07/2018. Reason: To enable the Working Group and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) to consider the Final Report at their meetings to be held on 4 April and 3 July 2018 respectively			
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			

This page is intentionally left blank



# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee -(Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 July 2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Cabinet Member Reports – March 2018 to June 2018		
<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 for the period March 2018 to June 2018.

## 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 that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

**(A) Revenue Costs – see above**

# Agenda Item 8

**(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;  
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, are the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills portfolios.

This page is intentionally left blank

**CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT  
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 3 July 2018)**

COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	June 2018

## **NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS**

### **Area Coordination**

The first constituency forums for the South and Central areas took place at the end of June in Bootle Town Hall and Crosby Lakeside centre. The North Forum will be held on the 5 July in the Atkinson Studio room in Southport from 18.30.

A new footpath has been installed at Gardner Avenue allotment to allow disabled residents to access them.

A family fun day took place at the TA Barracks in Netherton as part of the celebrations arranged to commemorate George Masters VC. As part of the celebration Pelham Way in Netherton has now been renamed Georges Masters Way. New street name plates have been installed.

Aintree Youth & Community Centre has now closed for refurbishment works. It is due to reopen at the end of July. All users have been accommodated in other buildings where necessary.

The Community Payback service continues to operate on a weekly basis and has delivered over 4,720 hours of unpaid work in Sefton since its inception in 2017.

### **Welfare Reform**

#### Summer food project

There are 8 Childrens Centres, 1 school and a voluntary organisation taking part in this year's programme. All Centres have confirmed their participation and the days in which they will be allocating food during the summer.

Sefton CVS will be working with voluntary groups to support the programme on days when there is no offer from the main centres. They are also working with us to help serve food in Childrens Centres that are struggling to staff this year's programme by providing volunteers.

#### Food Bank

The number of people accessing the Foodbank in South Sefton from April 2017 – March 2018

- Vouchers presented:        5712
- Adults fed:                    7593
- Children Fed:                5431
- Total number fed:           13024

# Agenda Item 8

Number of people accessing the Foodbank in North Sefton from April 2017 – March 2018

- Vouchers presented: 2361
- Adults fed: 3317
- Children fed: 2230
- Total number fed: 5547

## **Domestic and Sexual Abuse**

The contract for the joint Sefton and Knowsley domestic abuse campaign was awarded to a company called Social Marketing Partners. They are leading the design and implementation of the campaign with involvement from local partners from a range of agencies. The overall target audience is the general public but the campaign will also raise awareness with professionals and frontline staff, especially in relation to coercive and controlling behaviours. The campaign is due to be launched in July 2018. Whilst the campaign itself will be for short period of time, consideration for longevity of the message is being built into the approach to ensure it can be continued after this.

The contract for the pan Merseyside sexual violence support contract was awarded to RASA (Rape and Sexual Abuse) Centre Merseyside and RASASC (Rape and Sexual Assault Centre Cheshire). A total of £448,500 has been committed by partners per year for the next 3 years. Sefton has contributed £50,000, £25,000 from Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and £25,000 from Public Health.

The Merseyside Strategic Domestic Violence and Abuse Group (SDVAG) is working on developing a new a new strategy for the group. Local strategies, policies and priorities will form part of this work, which is being facilitated by SafeLives, a leading national domestic abuse organisation.

Sefton Council submitted its response to the Government's public consultation on domestic abuse before the closing date of 31 May. A Council representative also attended the consultation event in Manchester hosted by the Ministry of Justice to provide feedback.

## **Hate Crime**

Preparations are underway for the Liverpool Pride 'Coming out of the shadows' event and the Remembering Srebrenica day.

## **Equality and Diversity**

Sefton Council has been awarded the Navajo Merseyside & Cheshire LGBTIQ Chartermark. The assessment that took place in March identified some areas that the Council needs to improve on, and there will be an action plan developed to meet these needs. The award was presented at the Navajo awards event on the 17 May in Liverpool.

## **SSCP Update**

The end of year report and action plan for 2018/19 has been presented to the partnership.

## **Community Transition fund**

A total of £755,092 has been approved for projects, leaving a balance of £270,101 uncommitted.

**1 Introduction**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Overview and Scrutiny Panel regarding key headlines and achievements of the Integrated Youth Service.

**2 Recommendation(s) That:** The Overview and Scrutiny Panel notes the report

**3. Youth offending Team (YOT)**

**3.1 YOT - Performance**

3.1 Sefton's performance for reoffending has improved and is good compared to Merseyside and Cheshire YOTs in achieving reductions. The number of reoffenders is low and the number of re-offences per reoffender has also reduced.

3.1.2 This reoffending measure has been newly introduced by the Youth Justice Board which compares data over a shorted time frame, therefore the results will fluctuate, for example previous Sefton's reoffending rate has increased and this result indicates a decrease. A longer term view will provide a more rounded picture.

3.1.3 YOT has audited cases to understand reoffending patterns and the majority of re-offences are committed within the first month to 3 months which is before YOT interventions have been able to make a significant impact.

3.1.4 Rates in relation to first time entrants into the criminal justice system remain very good. The use of custody has also improved. In March a Sefton young person appeared in Liverpool Crown Court and she was expected to receive a custodial sentence, however the pre-sentence report provided assurance that YOT could manage the young person within the community and the court supported this, praising the practitioner on the quality of her report. This represents a far better outcome for the young person.

3.1.5 YOT has completed a self-evaluation against the new HMIP Inspection Criteria which includes the use of out of court disposals for the first time. YOT has an action plan to improve on some specific areas including breach of order processes. A workshop was held for staff in March to support their learning.

**3.2 HM Inspectorate of Probation (HMIP) - Revised Inspection Framework**

3.2.1 HMIP is currently developing new standards for inspection of adult probation and youth offending services. Currently the proposed framework is in a process of consultation to agree standards that represent good quality work.

3.2.2 Further development will follow from collated responses and learning from pilot inspections in 2017 and early 2018. From spring 2018 the revised inspection cycle for Youth Justice Services will be introduced with the intention of inspecting each YOT every four years; some inspected more frequently based upon a targeted approach using intelligence led information.

3.2.3 Sefton YOT has not been inspected since 2013 and is likely to be inspected within the new framework.

3.2.4 The proposed quality standards will cover the broad spectrum of YOT work by incorporating 'Out of Court Disposal' work which has never been included before. The draft standards are grouped into three domains with each being underpinned by key questions and prompts.

## Agenda Item 8

3.2.5 The following items are:

- Domain 1 – Organisational Delivery
- Domain 2 – Court Disposals
- Domain 3 – Out of Court Disposals

3.2.6 An overall judgement rating will be categorised as either inadequate, requires improvement, good or outstanding, which will be published. In preparation, the YOT Team will undertake a service audit to inform an action plan for Improvement in preparation for inspection.

### 4. Targeted Youth Prevention

#### 4.1 Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Pilot

4.1.1 In December 17, colleagues from the Integrated Youth Service completed the ACE recovery toolkit training and are part of a pilot project to deliver two 10 week programmes to parents over the course of 2018

4.1.2 The aim of the project is to support parents to understand the impacts of their own childhood experiences on them as parents and develop strategies to overcome the impacts to increase their parenting capabilities. This project is in partnership with Liverpool and Knowsley Councils and will be evaluated through John Moore's University Public Health Institute.

4.1.3 Sefton commenced the first pilot course May with nine parents who have experienced multiple adverse experiences. The feedback after the first session was excellent and work is ongoing to secure engagement for the remainder of the project.

#### 4.2 Local Government Association (LGA) – Case Study

4.2.1 The Local Government Association recently showcased Sefton's New Beginnings project at an exhibition in Parliament in May for the 'Bright Futures' campaign.

4.2.2 New Beginnings LGBTQ (Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Questioning) Group supports children and young people within the LGBTQ community by providing a safe space to discuss their issues and engage in raising awareness sessions but also receive tailored support should they encounter difficulties. The offer extends to parents who have stated that the support is highly beneficial to them and their children.

4.2.3 The group has expanded and delivers sessions in the Southport in response to increased demand for support. Colleagues who deliver the sessions have supported partner agencies and have provided training to schools and police cadets.

### 5 Recommendation

5.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Panel is requested to note the contents of this report.

## LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

### Our North Book Launch

Publication launch of Our North – a book created with young people in Sefton (and Runcorn) courtesy of Rob Hancock in youth provision, Sefton.

We're launching a book made with photographers and young people. The book explores the fashion, heritage and identity of the North today, through collaborative photography with young people from Sefton and Runcorn. Young people distributed free copies of the title through Sefton's Libraries.



The Library Service has been successful in its latest Arts Council England grant application to continue support for the Human Library project. £44,800 has been granted and the funding will enable the project to reach beyond the immediate Bootle area and planning is underway to deliver some pilot projects in Crosby and Netherton. This will include having a volunteer steering group, with volunteer representation also on the project steering group itself.

## **Digital Inclusion skills**

Arts Council Funding for the Human Library project has enabled the library service to extend its work in digital inclusion. Working in partnership with Barclays Digital Eagles the summer activities programme for children will now feature enhanced coding clubs, including the programming of robots.

Staff spent a day at Bootle library, learning a variety of coding skills. This will enable them to deliver sessions to the community using digital resources in an effort to enhance STEM knowledge in all generations. Examples of use could be using Micro: Bits to create stepometers to promote healthy lifestyles or to assist start-up businesses with low cost programmable technology.

## **THE ATKINSON**

### **Happy Birthday to The Atkinson**

This May was The Atkinsons 5<sup>th</sup> Birthday. The team is working with communications team to promote the huge success of the venue and to celebrate some of the fantastic highlights of Sefton's exhibition, music, comedy, theatre programme.

### **Southport Festival**

11-13 May the annual festival returns to the town and The Atkinson are at the heart of the event working with Tourism, Southport Bid and community arts groups to create a diverse and engaging festival to attract visitors and residents into the town

### **Locality Working – Lion King Literacy Project**

A project with The Atkinson, Libraries, Children Centres and School Learning started on 24 May. Using film and new teaching methods we aim to upskill and develop creative learning, imagination and overall literacy within preschool and infant children. It was screened on 6 June with follow up sessions until 3 July when we will host a celebration event outside The Atkinson in Diana Gardens. The children and teachers will see the Lion King and it will be used as a catalyst to develop teachers training and to engage with their pupils creatively creating memories and characters.

### **Business advice surgeries Legacy**

A Children's book launch is to take place at The Atkinson as the result of a successful business start-up given by John Mathias.

### **Volunteer Fair**

A building-wide and very successful Volunteer Fair took place to promote and celebrate the incredible variation of volunteering in Sefton on Weds 6 June as part of Year of the Volunteer.

## **HOUSING**

### **HOUSING**

#### **Liverpool City Region**

I represent the Council on the Sub-Regional Housing & Spatial Planning Board (feeds into the LCR Combined Authority Strategic Agenda).

I previously reported that the Homes and (Page 89s Agency announced the availability of a Housing Infrastructure Fund (HIF) to help unlock large housing development schemes, and part of the

# Agenda Item 8

funding available for Combined Authorities to bid for. The LCR CA completed a bid and application for the city region. The outcome of this bid was announced in February and the LCR failed to secure funding under this programme.

The Government have also announced additional funding to develop services to combat rough sleeping. £27m has been offered to 3 Combined Authorities: Liverpool City Region, West Midlands, and Manchester. The Board will be looking to oversee the development of a 'Housing First' service proposal to utilise the resources to be offered to LCR CA. A service proposal is still being finalised, although the new Housing Minister announced the LCR CA will be allocated £7.7m over the first 3 years of this initiative.

The LCR has recently received confirmation that the 2017/18 Homelessness Trailblazer funding has been approved and Year 1 funds have arrived with the Combined Authority. This will be a 2 Year funded programme.

More details are yet to be shared relating to any grant conditions that may be imposed. There will then need to be agreement and arrangements for proposals to be progressed.

It may be possible to utilise the homeless prevention element of the LCR Trailblazer funding for local service development that would help deliver our homeless prevention interventions.

## **Registered Provider Sector**

Work by a collaboration of 5 housing associations LCR has led to a successful Estates Renewal bid focussing on parts of Bootle, and they were awarded £150k.

The RP consortia have confirmed they are using this funding to pay for consultancy work to look at designing a collaborative investment plan for all RPs property in the area. The RPs have procured Halsall Lloyd Partnership consultancy who are currently carrying out this work on their behalf. We await their proposals coming forward.

## **Homes and Community Agency (now Homes England)**

I have previously reported that the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) announced a number of programmes and funding, which are designed to help deliver new house building.

I have previously approved a Sefton bid for infrastructure funding to help deliver new housing on the 503-509 Hawthorne Road site. We learnt in January that this bid wasn't successful. However, the notification we received from HCA states; ...for unsuccessful bids MHCLG will explore using some of the additional £10 billion of funding allocated to housing delivery in the Autumn Budget to support some local authorities to develop their housing ambitions. This suggests there may still be opportunities to explore funding support for our scheme/site.

The HE also has an 'Accelerated Construction Programme', under which they will look to provide tailored solutions to help bring sites forward for development. The former Peoples site on Hawthorne Road is being considered under this programme.

## **Housing Development Company**

I am the Cabinet Member sponsoring the establishment of a council wholly owned housing company that could build and sell (and/or rent) properties, which was approved by Cabinet in October.

Work is ongoing to formally establish the company. There are a lot of detailed activities to be addressed during the transition to delivery period, leading to the legal establishment of the company.

We have recently appointed a new Commercial Director, who started with the Council in May. Part of his role will be to lead on the implementation of the Housing Company.

## **Private Rented Sector Licencing**

Our 3 private landlord licensing schemes went live on the 1st of March - focusing on the licensing of all private landlords in Bootle, but developing additional HMO' licensing schemes to cover more types of HMO properties for Southport and Waterloo.

# Agenda Item 8

We have been actively promoting these schemes to ensure as many landlords as possible apply for Licenses. We will begin to carry out compliance visits where we issue licenses. Following an initial 6 month 'amnesty period' we will begin to take enforcement action where we find private rented properties where the landlord hasn't applied for a license.

As at the 5th June, we had received 239 full applications and 255 partially completed applications, and issued 20 full licences and 23 draft licenses.

It has come to light that a significant number of the properties for which we have received licence applications, did not have a current gas safe certificate in place. We have noted (from the date on the certificate) that many have only recently been obtained, which suggests that it is the need to apply for a licence that has forced the landlord to have the checks carried out. This suggests that licensing is already having a positive impact in improving property standards and management.

An Overview & Scrutiny working group has met to consider and approve setting up a performance framework, so we can try to evaluate the effect of our schemes in future.

## **High Rise Fire Safety**

I have previously reported on the work undertaken since the Grenfell fire disaster. More recently OVH have been in dialogue with the Councils Building Control team to agree the detail of the work they will undertake to reinstate their 2 high rise blocks. OVH have since begun undertaking preparation works in advance of implementing reinstatement works.

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

I have recently considered and approved a policy on the introduction of Civil Penalties, which will allow us to fine landlords as an alternative to pursuing prosecutions through the legal system. I hope this will begin to be implemented in the coming months.

The national Database of Rogue landlords and Banning Orders has been introduced from April. I intend to review the Council's own housing enforcement policies in the coming months.

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

## **Housing Development**

Developer Bellway Homes have made progress with 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. The first homes have been completed and new families began to move in since January.

## **Homeless Services and Housing Options Service**

The Council has a legal duty to adopt a Homelessness Strategy. During the course of 2018, we will be working toward adopting a new strategy by September 2018.

The Homeless Reduction Act (HRA) came into force from April 2018. The Act introduces a new 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 were previously obliged to assist.

We will need to monitor and assess the impact of the new measures on the demand for Council services.

# Agenda Item 8

## Leasehold house sales

I have previously reported on the work O&S Committee considered and the response I submitted to the Government consultation on behalf of Sefton Council.

The Government's response to this consultation was published on the 21st December 2017. The full published response can be accessed here:

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/670204/Tackling\\_Unfair\\_Practices\\_-\\_gov\\_response.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/670204/Tackling_Unfair_Practices_-_gov_response.pdf)

A further report on the Governments consultation response and proposals was brought to the Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting in March.

I have also been working with officers to agree information which has now been placed on the Council's website offering guidance on leasehold sales to help raise the awareness of the issues of leasehold house sales. This is available;

<https://www.sefton.gov.uk/housing/tackling-unfair-practices-in-the-leasehold-market.aspx>

### **Irlam House and OVH**

OVH approached the Council concerning decisions their Board had taken about the future of Irlam House. OVH are looking to demolish or sell this high rise block of flats. They were seeking our agreement to award tenants high priority rehousing status (Band A) on the basis of their proposals qualifying as a regeneration scheme. Their request to award PPP Band A status has been refused. At this point in time it is difficult to assess whether there is a clear regeneration proposal and outcome that will be pursued. Nor does there appear to have been any significant consideration of other factors such as the results of any tenant consultation, social/community impacts of the options, impacts on rehousing capacity or other applicants on the housing register.

The PPP allocations policy and the Regeneration criteria state;

*5.4.3.1 This will include residents being displaced as a result of their home being included in a Regeneration Area for clearance or redevelopment by the Scheme Council or by a Scheme Landlord in partnership with the Scheme Council. Only those schemes approved by the Scheme Council will be included in this Sub-Band.*

As the future regeneration plan for Irlam House is unclear, nor been agreed by the relevant Scheme Council (Sefton), the above criteria has not been met.

### **Extra Care Housing**

At it's meeting in March, Cabinet considered a report about the future provision of extra care housing for older residents. Together with Councillor Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I will seek to oversee the work required on the Council's approach to Extra Care Housing. Extra Care Housing has been identified as a model which helps people to live independently at home for longer, thereby either delaying or preventing the need for long-term residential care and helps people to remain well, therefore avoiding Hospital admissions.

This also links to work I am overseeing with Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Skills, concerning the future of the Coffee House Bridge site in Bootle. SAFE Regeneration have been developing proposals for the future development of this site, which may include a proposal to develop a new-build extra care scheme.

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b> <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 3 July 2018)</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
Cllr Fairclough	Cabinet Member for Locality Services	June 2018

## Strategic Transport

### Port Access

- The programme of multi-modal interventions is continuing including rail infrastructure requirements, promotion of coastal and inland shipping, short term highway improvement measures and options for long term major highway improvement. Work on the doubling of the rail line into the Port and improvements to signals at Earlestown West are scheduled to be completed by March 2019.
- The judicial review of the options consultation process is scheduled to be heard on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2018. The Chief Executive has submitted evidence on behalf of the Council.
- Highways England is continuing with the design and assessment of their preferred option and submitted requests for access to Council land to undertake surveys and for information to be used in the environmental assessment. The Council has advised Highways England that it considers that work on the scheme should be suspended until the Judicial Review has been concluded and has not granted access to Council owned land. Requests for information are being dealt with as requests under the Environmental Information Regulations.

### LTP & Growth Plan

- Sefton is continuing to work with Merseytravel and the other Merseyside authorities on the delivery of the transport capital programme.
- The development of the M58 Junction 1 scheme continues although the start of construction has been delayed because the Council does not yet have access to the land. One objection was received to the Compulsory Purchase Order and the issue will be considered through written representations rather than a Public Inquiry. In the meantime, the Council is seeking to resolve the issue by negotiation and is also discussing with landowners' representatives the possibilities of securing access to the land through agreement in advance of completing the acquisition of the land. Highways England has approved all of the necessary departures and the Safety Audit Work has been undertaken.
- The Notices to Treat for the North Liverpool Key Corridor scheme were served on the landowners at the start of June, which will result in the necessary land being vested in the respective Councils. Contracts have been exchanged with one of the land owners in Sefton's section, and the land should shortly be secured. Works are progressing on the A565. Works within the Sefton section of Derby Road have been re-scheduled to enable stats diversions, but are expected to start in autumn. The detail of the works along Regent Road has been confirmed by Liverpool CC

# Agenda Item 8

and the Regent Road works, including the resurfacing of the full length, have started. The scheme is programmed for completion in 2019.

- Construction of Maghull North station is nearing completion and the station is scheduled to open on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2018. There has been substantial ongoing dialogue with local residents. The Council is monitoring activities in support of residents, particularly noise levels.
- Work continues on the sustainable transport intervention proposals for Years 3-6 as part of the City Region programme. Sefton has three schemes approved as part of the programme, amounting to almost £3m of allocated funding. This consists of three phases of improvements on the A565, in Seaforth, Waterloo and Thornton, as well as a cycle route between Maghull and Kirkby and East-West cycle improvements in Southport. Schemes for the A565 in Thornton and on Buckley Hill Lane (to relieve Edge Lane) and improvements to Southport East West cycle links are planned for delivery this financial year.
- The traffic modelling and options testing for the Southport Eastern Access and the Maritime Corridor projects is continuing but has taken longer than anticipated. City Region funding is being used for both projects and strategic outline cases for both projects are currently expected to be completed in the autumn.
- The business case for the Local Growth Fund schemes on the Key Route Network was approved by the CA on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. The programme includes proposals for a major junction improvement at the Dover Road junction on the A59 Northway. Work has started on developing the scheme, identifying static diversions and initial discussions have been held with the main landowner.

## **Local Transport Schemes**

- Delivery of the Transportation Capital Programme for 2017/18 is continuing and the programme for 2018/19 has been approved by Cabinet Member.

## **Sustainable Transport**

- The Combined Authority is waiting to hear whether the bid for the European Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) fund submitted to the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) in February 2018 has been approved. A decision is expected in the summer. Proposals for a new, inland pedestrian and cycle route at Crosby Coastal Park, which will avoid the issue of wind-blown sand on the promenade and proposals for a major upgrade of the Coastal Road cycle route were included in the bid.

## **Street Lighting**

- The Council's new Street Lighting contractor is continuing to deliver services to a high standard which is reflected in the early KPI reports. Working relationships between the Contractor and the Council officers are continuing to positively develop.
- New faults are still being received daily from the public which continue to be recorded and processed accordingly.

## Traffic Signals

- The LCR joint Traffic Signal maintenance Contract commenced on the 1st April 2018. To date the Contract appears to be running well not only for Sefton but the other LCR Authorities. Siemens who are the Contractor offered some added value within the Contract submission which will benefit all of the Authorities at no additional cost.
- Discussions remain ongoing on beginning to migrate some of the traffic signal communication circuits from analogue to digital technology. This work will need to be developed and delivered over the next few years as the current analogue circuits provided by BT are to be withdrawn after March 2020. The LCR has secured funding to carry out such upgrades on sites along the KRN to which Sefton will directly benefit from.

## Highway Maintenance

- The micro-asphalt surface treatment works for this year's Highway Maintenance programme are now complete with the exception of some localised remedial works.
- The carriageway resurfacing works element of the programme remains ongoing.
- The remedial work to the resurfacing works on Lord Street Southport will take place within the next two weeks.
- Spray 2 of this years planned highway weed spray programme is ongoing. Spray 1 was delayed due to weather issues earlier in the year.
- The grass cutting programme remains ongoing. Cut 3 of 8 is nearing completion.

## Winter Service

- The annual consultation with Elected Members is currently underway. Councillors have been requested to raise any issues or make any comments of the delivery of the service and the operational plan so that Cabinet Member can consider any changes before the start of the next winter season. The deadline for response is the end of June. The revised policy and operational plan will be presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee in September as usual

## FCERM

### • Green Sefton

The service restructure that brought together FCERM, Coast & Countryside and Parks & Recreation has now been completed. This new service will all work together to ensure a joined up approach to the vital management, development and oversight of Sefton's coastline, parks and green spaces. The service aims to:

- Improve the way we manage Sefton's natural assets
- Provide a single point of contact and enable more efficient and effective use of resources and offer potential to create new opportunities for income generation
- Enable more community cohesion
- Offer further opportunities for volunteers, residents and other organisations
- Create a more focussed, flexible and collaborative approach to the management, development and oversight of our coastline, parks and green spaces.
- Manage all land assets (excluding highways) in one portfolio

# Agenda Item 8

- **Flooding events**

There were thunder storms in northern Sefton on the 31<sup>st</sup> May that resulted in very heavy rainfall for a period of 30mins causing widespread temporary highway flooding. There were two reports of property flooding in Birkdale, Essex Road where there was significant garden flooding but internal flooding was prevented by mitigation measures that had been installed, this included flood doors. Another property suffered flooding under the floor boards, but again didn't rise high enough to enter the property.

## **Highway Development and Design**

### **Planning Applications**

- Since the beginning of March 2018 the team has processed 297 planning applications. This includes applications for sites identified in the Council's adopted Local Plan. This has involved liaising closely with case officers from the planning department. The team are currently assessing a number of applications including some of the local plan sites such as land east of Maghull, Lydiate Lane and others. The recent planning committee which closed at 11:35pm, dealt with five local plan sites, which provided for over 675 units.

### **Section 38 Highways Act 1980 legal agreements**

- There has been a considerable increase in submissions and the subsequent processing of these at times, lengthy applications, particularly following the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites.  
The report is as follows: -
- No of live s38 and current developments subject to a s38 application - 27
- No of stalled or no activity (on the part of a developer) - 10
- Number of development sites adopted within the last 6 months (March 2018 to June 2018) -4
- No of submissions awaiting technical approval - 6
- Number of new and recent submissions awaiting administrative set up - 3

### **Section 278 Highways Act 1980 legal agreements**

- There is an on-going increase in the numbers of these type of applications generally due to the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites. Whilst a number of these schemes have been completed in the last period, an equivalent number of new applications have also been received.
- The team are currently managing 49 live s278 HA 1980 highway works schemes in various stages of development on behalf of the Council and with values exceeding £1.5m. The successful delivery of these schemes is dependent on close liaison with the Legal, Finance and Planning Departments.

### **Public Rights Of Way (PROW)**

- Rights of Way Improvement Plan (ROWIP) 2 – Ongoing negotiations with the Liverpool City Region and other neighbouring Authorities
- English Coastal Path – On site route feasibility reviews commenced with Natural England and a final year claim about to be submitted of £5,400 of which covers officer time incurred on the project
- Advising on the preparation of two Schedule 14 Applications for up to nine additional PROW's
- St Lukes Church Road claim is being submitted to the Licensing and Regulatory Committee which all being well, will mitigate the potential for a major Public Inquiry for which the Council would have to bear associated costs



## **Strategic Highways Development and Future Planning**

- The team is continuing to take a lead in managing the transportation issues involved with the Land East of Maghull and this is ongoing.
- The team is continuing to work closely with the Planning Department on new initiatives to ensure a 'One Council' strategic approach to development to ensure that the necessary new transport infrastructure is in place to support new developments coming forward in future years.
- New SPD – the new SPD Sustainable Development and Travel has been through a public consultation exercise with reviews and comments addressed. It is being reported to CM Planning shortly. Officers are assessing planning applications using the new SPD as it now has significant weight in planning terms. This includes requesting vehicle charging points for all new housing and commercial developments.
- The team is seeing more developments affecting the daily operation of the highway and as such, at the request of the Planning Committee, we are asking to see more construction traffic management plans so that we can manage the highway network efficiently and effectively with minimum disruption to users of the highway and with the important benefit of highway safety.

## **Design**

- This part of the team is also supporting the delivery of the Step programme  
Current schemes include:
- Feasibility study for Southport Eastern Accesses – to improve the connectivity to Southport Town Centre and the seafront
- A59 Port Capacity – a scheme to improve capacity along the A59 through Maghull, on its approach to Switch Island
- Various cycle improvement schemes to link the eastern side (Kew area) to the centre of Southport and a scheme to link the borough boundary at Kirkby to Maghull.

## **Cleansing Services**

- Green garden waste collections have recommenced in March, and given the somewhat colder conditions, the initial collections were half what they should have been in volume terms. However, the recent warm weather has changed both the presentation rates and volumes, and in April and May we have collected more garden waste than ever before in these months.
- The Cleansing operation continues to have ongoing problems with access to a small but significant number of roads for refuse and recycling (and green garden waste) collections throughout the Borough. A number of alleviation schemes have been developed including the use of (when practicable to do so) a smaller vehicle by re-organising rounds, or the involvement of local Ward Councillors who have petitioned for parking restrictions. This has helped the delivery of the service, however, the problem is deteriorating given the volume of car numbers and the parking habits of those drivers. Additional measures are being developed and will be reported accordingly.
- The Cleansing Manager & Head of Service for Locality Services Provision met the Director of Operations at the Port of Liverpool to discuss ongoing issues around fly tipping and littering by drivers of road haulage companies using the Millers Bridge entrance to the Port of Liverpool, predominately around the Derby Road / Dock Road Industrial Estate. This has been causing severe operational problems for the street cleansing service. The littering issue, which includes offensive

# Agenda Item 8

waste, has been raised with the relevant port authorities. A number of interim solutions have been agreed between both parties and a route map on the way forward agreed which will be reported to future O & S Committees.

- The Cleansing operation is providing services & assistance for the various shows across the Borough during summertime, including the Food & Drink Festival, Formby Festival, Air Show, Southport Flower Show, Bootle Festival, Food & Drink Festival, Tall Ships, etc. As these events are organised 'internally' there is minimal 'profit' attached to the services. However, it is also beneficial that local residents and visitors alike see Sefton Council staff delivering such efficient services across a wide and varied range of events.

## **Transport Vehicle Maintenance**

- The Vehicle Maintenance Service is continuing to increase external business with the new Tachograph Calibration Station. In-house tests have also provided a saving to the Cleansing Department on HGV testing. Private MOT's and Taxi Compliance tests have increased by 30% so far this year.

## **School Crossing Service**

- Working with colleagues in Road Safety and Parking Services we are making a concerted effort to reduce dangerous parking at SCP sites across the borough. We have performed spot checks complete with speed gun on a number of locations across Sefton. Whilst still in its infancy it is proving to be a successful deterrent for indiscriminate motorists.

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b> <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) - 3 July 2018</b>		
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Daren Veidman	Planning and Building Control	3 July 2018

## 1. Local Planning

### The Sefton Local Plan

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

### Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) and other policy documents

- 1.2 Having had 5 updated and new SPDs adopted by the Council in September, a further 5 SPDs and a series of Information Notes have been prepared. They were consulted on in March / April. The SPDs are due to be adopted by Cabinet in June, whilst the Sustainable Drainage and Flood Risk Information Notes are due to be adopted in July.
- 1.3 The Statement of Community Involvement has been updated and consulted on, and consultation has also taken place on an Information Note relating to Recreational Pressure on the Sefton coast. These were adopted by Cabinet in March 2018.
- 1.4 SPDs for the Crosby Coastal Park and Pavement cafes, outdoor sales and A boards will be prepared during the course of 2018, and the Design and Shop fronts, security and signage SPD will be updated.

### Liverpool City Region work

- 1.5 Work on the proposed Strategic Spatial Framework for the Liverpool City Region is now being led by the Combined Authority. Follow up work required relating to the need for a strategic B8 (warehousing) Study has been commissioned. This will initially identify the need for new logistics development associated with the growth of the Port of Liverpool. A subsequent piece of work will assess optimal locations where this need could be located.

### Neighbourhood Planning

- 1.6 Four Neighbourhood Plans which are being prepared by five Town and Parish Councils in Sefton.

# Agenda Item 8

The Maghull and Lydiate NPs were submitted for examination in April. Having assessed the submission to ensure the correct documents have been submitted, we are about to undertake the statutory 6-week consultation for each plan (known as the Regulation 16 Consultation), prior to submitting the Plans for independent examination. The consultation is due to start in June 2018.

- 1.7 This will impose new challenges on the team as we organise examinations for each Neighbourhood Plan.

## Other work

- 1.8 Members of the Local Plans team continue to provide policy advice on all relevant planning applications and pre-application inquiries. In addition, several members of the team are helping Development Management by processing their own caseload of applications.
- 1.9 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 advice once the planning applications have been submitted. Discussions have resumed with the developers of the Land east of Maghull site and the other landowners / developers in relation to the preparation of a Master Plan to ensure this strategic site is developed in a comprehensive manner with all appropriate infrastructure being provided at the right time and in a coordinated way.
- 1.10 The Government has recently consulted on a revised draft national planning guidance. It is expected that the revised NPPF, national planning guidance and other documents will be published in July. If they follow the revised text, this will impose big challenges on us, especially in relation to the provision of affordable housing as new products are proposed. Consequently we have asked our retained consultants to assess what the implications will be for Sefton.

## **2. Heritage and Conservation**

### Heritage at Risk

- 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 Recent success includes the continued restoration of Verandahs on Lord Street, Southport along with the improvements undertaken at previous derelict sites.

## Regeneration

- 2.3 Following the submission of the Stage 1 Townscape Heritage bid for Southport Town centre in December, the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have awarded the full requested development grant of £70,100. This will allow 12 months to develop a full stage 2 bid where a grant award of £1,625,000 with a combined funding pot of £2,358,211 will be secured subject to approval.
- 2.4 The project will focus on the properties between Lord Street and the Promenade and enhance the quality and strength of the linkages between the town centre and the Seafront so that the two become better integrated. This will include increasing the levels of economic activity within the target area to reduce the number of vacant and underused properties, through repair and reinstatement of historic features, along with complementary training and education initiatives.

## Development Management

- 2.4 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 100 detailed consultation responses from February to May 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, on site monitoring and enforcement cases.

## **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 major applications relating to sites identified for development in the Local Plan.
- 3.2 Between February 2018 and May 2018 we have approved 160 units of residential accommodation.

The following 9 major developments were considered and approved by Planning Committee.

Ref	Address	Proposal
DC/2018/00101	Land To The South Of Andrews Lane Formby L37 2YH	Application for approval of reserved matters for the residential development comprising of up to 95 dwellings and

# Agenda Item 8

		public open space pursuant to outline planning permission DC/2016/01740 (refused 22/12/2016 allowed on appeal) for appearance, landscaping, layout and scale
DC/2017/01616	Maghull High School Ormonde Drive Maghull Liverpool L31 7AW	Part demolition and redevelopment of the existing school, including a new two storey school building, new playing field area and reconfigured car parking.
DC/2017/02112	5 Marsh Brows Formby Liverpool L37 3PD	Erection of a 5 Storey apartment block (13 units) following the demolition of the existing former dairy
DC/2017/02352	1 & 3 Ronald Road Waterloo Liverpool L22 3XU	Erection of a part two, part three storey block of 10 apartments with associated landscaping after demolition of two properties (Alternative to DC/2017/00773 refused 20/10/2017)
DC/2017/00456	Land North Of Turnbridge Road Maghull	Layout of a residential development of 39 dwellings with new access and landscaping
DC/2016/02383	Erection of four residential apartment blocks with access from Town Lane, Kew	Land Adjacent Southport And Formby District Hospital East Of Town Lane Town Lane Kew Southport
DC/2017/02351	New Dementia Care Home Parkhaven Trust Estate Liverpool Road South Maghull L31 8BR	Erection of a new single storey 46 bed care home with ancillary accommodation including kitchen, laundry, plant room, staff facilities and surrounding landscaping following demolition of the existing building.
DC/2017/02368	47 Canal Street Bootle L20 8AE	Erection of a warehouse unit for manufacturing, storage and office space after the demolition of the existing units 24, 25 and 26.
DC/2017/02347	Site Of Former 240 Hawthorne Road Bootle L20 3AS	Erection of 11 no dwellings and 9 no apartments with associated amenity space and car parking

3.3 We have received a total of 766 applications in this time scale, including 85 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% increase of planning fees (introduced in January 2018) and additional fee income through entering Planning Performance Agreements (PPAs) has allowed us to recruit further staff. They are proving 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 We have experienced long term illness to three of our staff which has put extra pressure on the rest of the team. One member of staff has left and two others have returned so things are now more stable. We are also hoping to strengthen the enforcement side of the service which has been under constant and increasing pressure in recent times.
- 3.7 We are looking at how we organise our staff and procedures to make sure that the maximum effort is directed towards those schemes which are the most sensitive, complex and contentious, and that we provide the best possible service within existing constraints. This will mean new ways of working and we will be exploring these over the next few months.

## Enforcement update

### 3.8 Review of the quarter from 1 February 2018 – 31 May 2018

- New cases – 220
- Cases resolved – 180
- Formal action: 1 x Breach of condition notice.
- 29 retrospective applications totalling £8,543 fees.

3.9 Formal action – one enforcement notice served: Cease the importation and storage of road planings and remove road planings from the land, location: Land to the rear of 491 Hawthorne Road Bootle -

3.10 The varied service the enforcement team offers continues to achieve a high level of success. The number of complaints received remains consistent with previous years. The size and complexity of cases constantly varies and this is reflected in the time it can take to negotiate and resolve without recourse to formal action. It remains the priority and purpose to resolve any breach of planning control without recourse to formal action. The small number of enforcement notices so far served highlights and emphasises officers' ability.

# Agenda Item 8

## 4. Building Control

### Performance targets

- 4.1 The Building Control Team continues to meet its key statutory targets in relation to plan checking and the carrying out of site inspections. It also meets the majority of the locally set performance targets it sets itself. Results of the 4th quarter of financial year 2017/18 show that the Team's market share is 75% - which remains equal to or better than that of neighbouring authorities and is significantly above the average for English Councils, which stands at 67%. The Building Control Team also continues to meet all key statutory targets for plan assessment and the carrying out of site inspections.

### Income and financial performance

- 4.2 Building Regulation income for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter of 2017/18 shows an increase of 10% when compared with the same stage in the previous financial year. Whilst costs have also increased, the fee earning element of the Teams work has produced a surplus, which will be used to part subsidise the other various related statutory work elements of Building Control work - such as ensuring safety at sports grounds and dealing with reports of dangerous structures.

### Safety at sports grounds

- 4.3 The Building Control Team will shortly commence its annual round of inspections of the various sports stadiums within the Borough - where a safety certificates is held - including Southport Football Club and Aintree Racecourse. In April 2018 (and for a number of preceding months) the Team attended Aintree Racecourse to ensure that all of the temporary viewing and hospitality structures were constructed safely for this year's Grand National race meeting.

Building Control Officers work closely with the emergency services in relation to safety at sports grounds issues and they always consult with colleagues in the police, fire brigade and the ambulance service on the contents of issued safety certificates.

### ISO 9001 Quality Assurance standard

- 4.4 From the beginning of 2018, in a move to reduce costs, the Building Control Team changed its independent ISO 9001 accreditation provider. The new provider is Local Authority Building Control (LABC) and the first inspection audit (by external assessors) took place in April 2018. The assessment audit process was successful and the Team has recently been awarded ISO 9001 accreditation. Sefton Council were one of eight local authorities in a national ISO 9001 pilot scheme for LABC, which they hope to roll-out to all other local authorities in the country.



Having ISO 9001 accreditation is seen by many developers, as a pre-requisite for providing a building control service.

## 5. Technical Support

### Performance

5.1 Performance against targets for the period of February to May is detailed below. We have endeavoured to meet our targets but due to the influx of large scale housing applications, the seasonal increase in land charge search requests and the increase in market share of Building Regulation applications we have had to allocate resources to ensure all services are covered.

- The validation of planning applications for this period (Feb – May 2018) within the target of 5 days is 46%, with cases taking an average of 6 working days. This includes the validation of 7 large scale applications (Major applications take significantly more time and resources to process than other applications).
- The team registered and acknowledged 97% enforcement complaints within 3 days (17% over target, an increase of 1% on the previous quarter)
  - Booking in of Building Control applications stands at 57% within 3 working days with the average number of days to book in being 4 days.
  - 92% of pre-application enquiries were validated within 3 working days. This is an increase of 27% on the previous reported period.
  - The team achieved 98% of land charge searches within 10 working days.

### Service Development

5.2 The scanning of historic documents is underway to ensure we are able to function when the agile working project is implemented within the department. Plans have been amended to ensure optimal use of the space available when the service returns to the ground floor of Magdalen House.

5.3 The data cleaning project is continuing, this project is to ensure our planning and land charge data is accurate and up to date in preparation for the migration of the local land charges register to HM Land Registry. It is anticipated that the Local Land Charges register and searches of it will be transferred by the end of 2018.

5.4 A service improvement group has been reinstated to look at possible service development opportunities, income generation and identify more effective ways of working.

5.5 Officers have ensured that our working practices comply with the General Data Protection Regulations including alterations to our webpages and documentation. All staff have received training on the implications and requirements of the new legislation.

# Agenda Item 8

5.6 Due to staff changes within the team a training programme for validating of planning application was put in place, this included an external training provider giving detailed guidance and best practice advice.

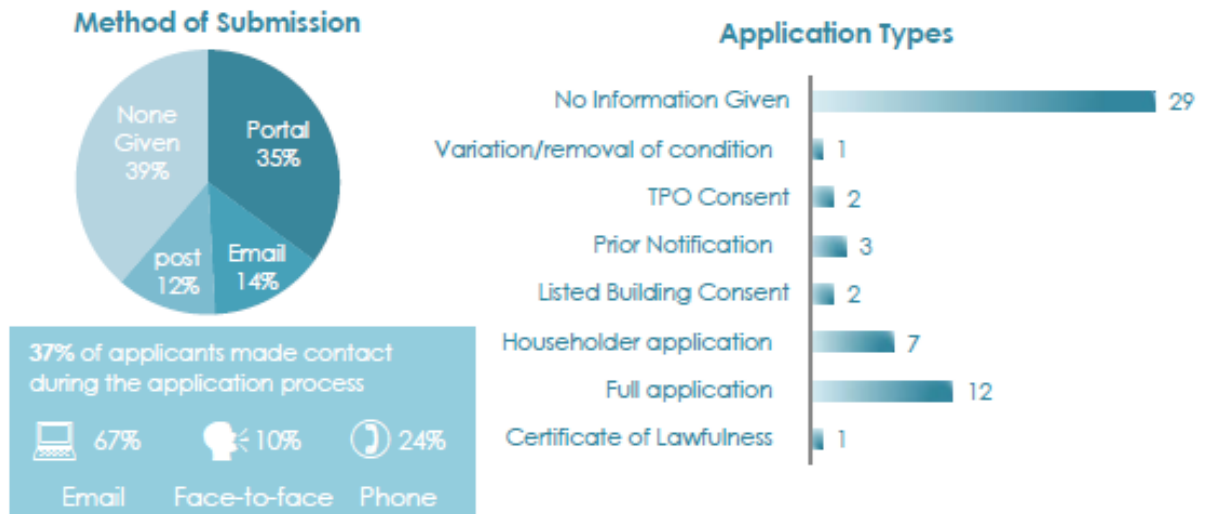
## 6. Customer Feedback

6.1 The results from our customer feedback survey for Planning Services for 2017-18 are:

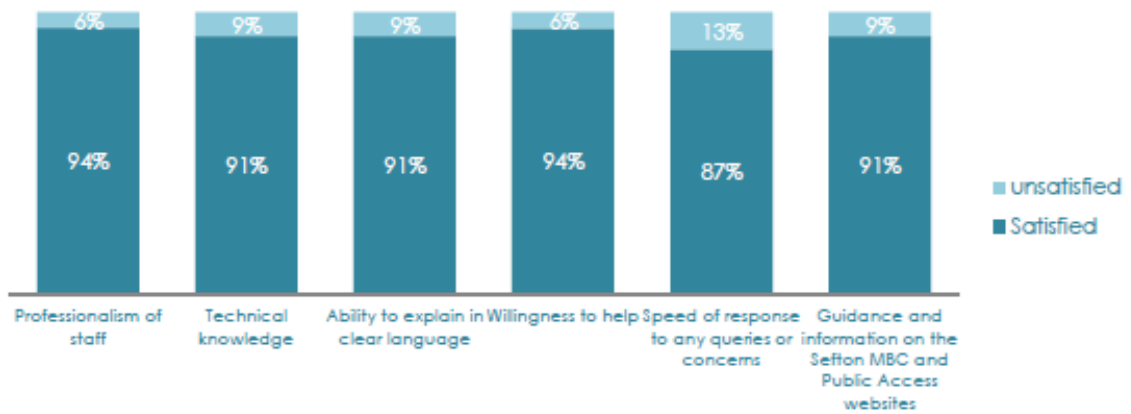
### PRE APPLICATION ADVICE



### APPLICATION SUBMISSION



## OVERALL CUSTOMER SATISFACTION\*\*



\*\*of those who responded to the question  
\*Based on 2017 survey of 57 responses

This page is intentionally left blank

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b> <b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) - 3 July 2018</b>		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
Marion Atkinson	Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills	June 2018

## InvestSefton update

### **Sefton Growth Hub/ ERDF Business Growth Programme**

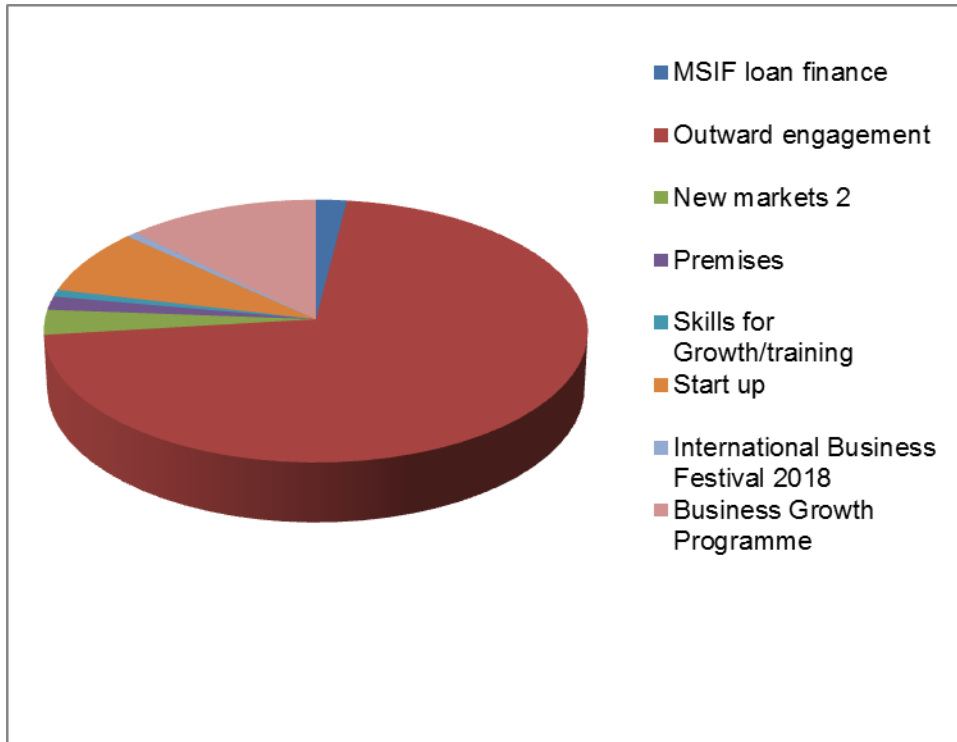
InvestSefton is one of the Liverpool City Region growth hubs working alongside the Local Enterprise Partnership, other local authorities, Chambers of Commerce and The Womens Organisation. This is part of current UK Government funded activities delivered locally by Local Enterprise Partnerships. In Sefton this activity has been merged with the ERDF Business Growth Programme to help provide a more cohesive service to businesses. InvestSefton has been awarded a further 12 month contract until 31 March 2019 to deliver.

**Up to 31 May 2018 InvestSefton has engaged with 1,810 businesses, carried out 1,489 diagnostics and brokered 1,737 businesses into other areas of support.**

Business enquiries through Sefton Growth Hub continue to rise with the same mix of firms from a range of industry sectors seeking advice, guidance and more intensive support. Key trends emerging include diagnostic and managed referral support from the team in areas such as sales and marketing, including diversification, access to finance, business start-up, intellectual property, selling goods to and access to council services such as procurement and planning. More recently the introduction of the General Data Protection Regulation Act has caused some businesses to seek advice and the response to this is covered under 'Outward Engagement'.

Business referrals into other support areas are shown below:

# Agenda Item 8



## Outward engagement

InvestSefton responds to spikes in demand by organising business workshops for groups of businesses. The events form a key part of delivery as it allows InvestSefton to reach a wider number of businesses on key topics relevant to their needs. These have recently included a response to the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), a legal act of the European Parliament and the Council that came into force on 25 May 2018.

The GDPR primarily seeks to provide unified and clear rules on stronger data protection that is fit for the digital age, give individuals more control of their personal information processed by companies and ease law enforcement. GDPR orchestrates the harmonisation of data protection law across the EU. The new regulation will also affect non-European companies that offer goods or services to, and or monitor the behaviour of, European Union residents, and therefore process any of their personal data.

InvestSefton held two specific GDPR events at which James Brayshaw of Adaptive Communications, a Southport based GDPR expert, talked about how the new regulation will affect businesses. The events were a major success:

- Park Hotel, Netherton-25<sup>th</sup> April-95 delegates attended of which 55 were individual Sefton Businesses
- Ramada Hotel, Southport-26<sup>th</sup> April -85 delegates attended of which 63 were individual Sefton businesses

The above events followed a successful Meet the Buyer session with Heron who are undertaking a new health development in Southport. A selection of comments

received from businesses for this, together with those from the April events is provided below:

**CJB Energy Services Ltd** – *Each time I come to one of these they are excellent. Julie (especially) and the rest of the guys are so helpful and supportive and are helping my business thrive.*

**EQE Health Ltd** – *Excellent opportunity – thanks Julie.*

**Plughole Planters** – *Thanks for a great event and ongoing support.*

**Waterloo Electrical Supplies Ltd** – *Very good to attend a meet the buyer event and see what happens and is expected of us.*

**Yvonne Holland** – Have just started computer lessons – one to one sessions. My email was hacked in 2014 and lost all confidence.

**United Automation Ltd** – It would be good to have a follow up after a trial period to discuss problems/success and share experience.

**Eledigital** – Good event, essential for me and supporting my new business.

**John H Boston Ltd** – Nice to know Sefton has a department to help businesses (whether new or established)

**Karen Potter -Estate Agent** – Thank you for a well -run event.

InvestSefton also organised a Financial and Professional services event in Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre on 27<sup>th</sup> April. This was attended by 33 delegates from 15 Sefton businesses who received a presentation from the Isle of Man Government on new investment opportunities.

A Sefton Economic Forum is arranged for 8<sup>th</sup> June. The event will focus on business and investment growth and the panelists are:

- Tony Evans – Journalist, author and former football editor of the Times
- Peter Moore – Head of Commissioning, Sefton Council
- Rob Capleton – International Business Festival, Liverpool Vision
- Robin Tudor – Liverpool John Lennon Airport

Feedback on the event will be provided in the next update.

InvestSefton's Growth Hub provides an overarching support service for businesses of any size or sector in the borough and blends this into its ERDF programme which is restricted to SMEs who undertake business to business activities. The ERDF Business Growth Programme is the subject of an extension to March 2022 and InvestSefton led the consortium on a new expression of interest (EoI) submitted on 31 April by the Combined Authority. The EoI is now being appraised by the Ministry

# Agenda Item 8

of Housing, Communities and Local Government with a decision expected by mid - July 2018.

## Case studies

Cabinet Member recently visited two businesses supported by InvestSefton; details below:

**Jack Hodson Ltd** a family owned business which has been trading in Sefton since 1966; the company expanded from Canal Street to a modern production and office facility in Aintree Business Park in March, and the company is flourishing. Jack Hodson founded the company and ran it with his wife until retirement. Three generations of the Hodson family work in the business, which is now run by Jack's two sons, Peter and John Hodson. The business is the 'go to' national supplier of security-related electronics for police vehicles, and participates in frameworks for the fitting of cameras, lightbars and security measures to marked and unmarked police vehicles.

The business works for a number of police regions in the UK in England and Wales, and has won market share from its competitors. The business employs 26 staff. They have introduced a number of innovations in relation to workflow and processing vehicles faster, reducing waiting times and cost. They also commissioned a local manufacturing business to work with them in designing housings for vehicles.

The business has been supported by InvestSefton and Sefton@Work for a number of years, and is currently being assisted under the Sefton Business Growth Programme. They have an in-house training programme, and hire staff from the local area. One Sefton@Work referral joined the business 14 years ago and continues to be an important part of the workforce



*Peter & Jack Hodson showing Cllr Atkinson a Police car fit-out*



**Churchill Sheds**, an owner-managed business, based in Netherton. The business began trading as a partnership in February 2016, and employs 4 staff and casual labour temporary staff at peak periods. The company manufactures purpose-built sheds, industrial barns, office units and workshops for businesses, the hospitality sector, and rural producers. The company build specialist products such as Dutch Barns and bespoke wooden hospitality bars

Trade comes from a variety of sources, including on-line marketing, signage, and passing trade to their Dunnings Bridge Road estate which includes industrial flooring suppliers, a wood merchants, roofing centre and builders merchants. All products feature 100% tanalised (pressure treated) rot-resistant frameworks to ensure longevity. The business is seeking to develop their product range, for cabins and workshops. A development undertaken recently for Age Concern was for office space, and a developer commissioned a cabin for a care home development.

Under the Business Growth Programme InvestSefton has supported the business with locating and bidding for public contracts, with Councils and the NHS, registration on The Chest and Contracts Finder portals, and using the Planning Portal to source work. The business is committed to sustainability, and is being supported with developing a bespoke Social Value and Sustainability policy to help with bidding for contracts.



*L/R Back Dave Riley Churchill Sheds, Cllr Atkinson – front Julie Swarbrick, Ian Williams, Churchill Sheds showing the company's outdoor bar product*

## **Access to Finance**

InvestSefton provides a range of support for businesses seeking finance, loans, grant and venture capital through banks and financial institutions such as Merseyside Special Investment Fund (MSIF). The team has supported a number of MSIF applications and they are included in the following fund update for Sefton:

- Sub £100k loan fund-5 x businesses for the total value of £365,000 (cumulative total is 61 x businesses for the total value of £2.2m)
- 3 x Regional Growth Fund applications drawn to the value of £321,000 in Sefton and a further 3 offered (£174k)
- 9 x Start up loans drawn to the value of £174,000 in Sefton-the second highest area outside of Liverpool.

# Agenda Item 8

## Inward Investment update

- The Mersey Reach project (Chancerygate) has submitted a revised S73 application following consultation with the local community and ward members. This is currently subject to formal consultation with an expectation that the application will be considered on 4<sup>th</sup> July. Funding is still progressing as planned. There is early interest in the scheme from local businesses that are looking for c. 20,000-30,000 sq ft units, both would result in job creation.
- Atlantic Park-the planning application for a 105,000 sq ft B8 building, plus a decked car park will be determined in May and is likely to be a Delegated Decision. The SIF application was submitted to consultants for appraisal in March, with the results of this expected sometime in June 2018. Discussions are ongoing regarding further development on the site.
- InvestSefton continues to provide ongoing support for regeneration opportunities, including Bootle Town Centre, Crosby Town Centre, Southport Business Park, Southport Town Centre amongst others. Enquiries are also being managed for various food and beverage operators, including the potential redevelopment of the Old Roan PH discussed below.
- InvestSefton lead's the operational single inward service for the city region (Chairing the Group), utilising ERDF funding through the Place Marketing Project and represents the group on the Internationalisation working group. The Business Development Manager led the project extension bid for the recent Priority 3 ESIF call.
- The Business Development Manager is Sefton Council's nominated lead for LCR Digital Infrastructure programmes and will help coordinate Sefton's input for a LCR Local Full Fibres Network bid for funding. The draft framework for this has now been presented to Chief Executives and further information will be provided to Cabinet Member.
- The Department of Investment and Trade funded Key Account Manager (KAM) is now in place and has commenced engagement with Sefton businesses. Currently engaged with Greencore (Sushi San), Huber Packaging and Stork Cooperheat.
- The Business Development Manager is a member of the **International Business Festival** 2018 Local Sounding Board. As part of this InvestSefton will be working with the Festival Team and local businesses to maximise benefits from this event for Sefton. A number of actions and activities are being planned including securing 20 free tickets with the InvestSefton team providing one to one support to those selected. The Invest Sefton team has arranged workshops and other engagement to encourage local business participation including the aforementioned Sefton Economic Forum on 8<sup>th</sup> June. A postal marketing mail out (funded by the IBF) has gone out to some 850 Sefton businesses inviting their participation in the festival. The IBF team advised that outside of Liverpool the most interest has come from Sefton businesses.

- The BDM is working with 'The Extraordinary Club' to create a new Creative and Digital Incubator in St Hughs, Bootle Town Centre. Information was shared at the previous CM Briefing and an introduction made to Cabinet Member. The BDM is supporting the development of the proposal and looking at potential revenue streams to enable this to be delivered.

## Tourism Update

### **Business Tourism**

- So far in 2018/19, part way through the first quarter, three conferences have been converted worth around £1m to the local economy. These events will bring approx. 1900 bed nights to the destination
- Four Live enquiries were added to the system in the same period, which if confirmed, would provide an economic impact IRO £1.4m.
- In terms of conferences that have taken place since January, we have hosted eight events in total. These events brought IRO £4.07m into the local economy and generated around 3575 bed nights.
- We have confirmed attendance at the TUC main conference in Manchester and The Meetings Show in London, in order to hopefully generate more enquiries. A review of exhibition attendance is underway to make best use of resources.

### **Events**

#### **Southport Festival, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup> May**

- This event is a partnership between Southport BID, Sefton Council, Southport Contemporary Arts and the private sector. This event is now in its third year. It is a town wide event which includes Arts, Jazz, Folk, Literature, Poetry, Comedy and Visual Arts. There are numerous venues that take part including – The Atkinson, Wesley Street, Town Hall Gardens, Bars & Restaurants.
- Additional activity for 2018 included Arts & Crafts on Mermaid gardens, a live music stage on Chapel Street, Pif Paf cycles on the Town Hall Gardens and a Viking exhibit.
- A full evaluation of the event will take place, however footfall statistics for the weekend of the festival showed an increase with a number of businesses reporting increases in sales also.

#### **Food and Drink Festival 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> June**

- The event was a great success attracting over 36,000 visitors over 3 days
- There were 55 Street Food Traders, 45 Producers and 18 Bars

# Agenda Item 8

- The Children's Festival was a particular highlight and featured arts and crafts, slime and sand art workshops, sports activities, storytelling and princess dress up.

## **Southport Air Show 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> July**

- There will again be a programme of night flying on the Friday including a fireworks finale. Gates will open at 6.30pm, flying displays from approximately 7.30pm and Fireworks at 10pm
- Confirmed aircraft include the Red Arrows (Friday only), Typhoon (Sunday only) plus the Battle of Britain Memorial Flights, Tigers Army Parachute Display Team
- This year's supported Charities include RAF100, Sefton4Good and The Air Cadets.
- Tickets sales are increasing steadily, sales are currently up on 2017.

## **British Musical Firework Championships 28<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> September**

- The 7 new competitors are all confirmed and have been fully briefed on the event, all music selections have been submitted.
- Ticket sales once again are up on last year to date, with the seating area proving popular

## **Destination Marketing**

- The seasonal marketing campaign tender was placed on The Chest and was won by Viv-id. They will manage the summer, autumn and winter/spring campaigns. The summer campaign is about to commence (a mix of radio and digital activity).
- The visitsouthport.com search engine optimization (SEO) contract was placed on The Chest and awarded to the incumbent. The April website hits were down on 2017 (April was a cold / wet month) but May figures were substantially (23.8%) up.
- Visitor Guide – distribution of the 50,000 guides is well underway, demand is strong and printed stocks will have been exhausted by mid-July. We will then rely on the digital version.
- Southport Restaurateurs Association – membership remains static at 27. Local advertising (press and digital) is underway.
- Visitor Passport – 60,000 copies printed and in distribution (via coach hosts, local accommodation providers and conference organisers).
- Conferences – Southport attending Meetings Show and TUC congress to promote the destination.

- Golf – Demand for Sefton courses (and accommodation) remains strong after The Open. England's Golf Coast packages are performing well - Golf green fees £102,991.85 (7% up on this time last year). Accommodation booked through EGC £54,759.78 (11% up on this time last year). EGC is a separate partnership organisation.
- Recent PR activity has secured coverage in a VisitBritain 'Manchester and North' campaign, coverage for Food & Drink Festival and secured 'familiarisation' visits from three journalists who will then produce features for their respective media (magazine, radio and blog).

## Southport Market and Tourism Operations

- The Southport Pier works as part of the CCF continues to progress, the first new leisure unit is complete and ready for handover with the structural paining nearing completion.
- Works will soon begin on the seaward shelter, end pavilion along with new access with project completion due end of 2018.
- Trading conditions at Southport Market continue to be tough, mirroring the high-street nationally. Work continues to secure new traders with advertising campaigns taking place in sector led print along with paid Facebook advertising. Pro- active sales also takes place in order to secure the quality of traders required.

## Growth Project Updates

### **Bootle Access and Connectivity Study**

Atkins has been appointed to deliver the study through the Transport Framework. This is progressing in line with the programme with the Draft baseline report expected early June 18 and the final stage 1 scoping report expected early Aug 2018;

### **Bootle Town Hall Complex**

Commercial assessment on the viability of the building to be reported in the next Cabinet Member's brief and details are still awaited from the consultants GVA.

A meeting was held with Hugh Baird Management Group to initiate discussions on a joint project. The discussions were a very positive start and will form one of the options within the Bootle Town Hall complex.

### **Coffee House Bridge**

Discussions are progressing regarding the development of this site in conjunction with Safe. Sefton MBC, following procurement, have appointed Hydrock to conduct the ground investigations.

# Agenda Item 8

## **Regeneration Team**

The three members of the team, attended APM training in Manchester. The course has given them all the same basic knowledge of Project Management and a sound basis for on-going training.