

Overview  
& Scrutiny



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

DATE: Tuesday 21st January, 2020

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Birkdale Room, Town Hall, Southport

**Member**

Councillor  
Councillor John Sayers (Chair)  
Councillor Blackburne (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Brough  
Councillor Dowd  
Councillor Halsall  
Councillor Lewis  
Councillor Marshall  
Councillor Myers  
Councillor Robinson  
Councillor Sathiy

**Substitute**

Councillor  
Councillor Doyle  
Councillor Howard  
Councillor Jones  
Councillor Brenda O'Brien  
Councillor Yvonne Sayers  
Councillor Evans  
Councillor Thomas  
Councillor Anne Thompson  
Councillor Waterfield  
Councillor Pullin

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

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# **A G E N D A**

**1. Apologies for Absence**

**2. 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.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

(Pages 5 - 12)

Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2019

**4. Winter Service Operation**

Presentation by the Head of Highways and Public Protection

**5. Climate Emergency**

(Pages 13 -  
24)

Joint report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Executive Director

**6. Borough of Culture 2020**

(Pages 25 -  
34)

Report of the Executive Director

**7. Review of Social Housing Allocations**

Report of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing to follow

- |           |   |                    |
|-----------|---|--------------------|
| <b>8.</b> | <b>Work Programme 2019/20, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan</b> | (Pages 35 -<br>56) |
|           | Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer                                    |                    |
| <b>9.</b> | <b>Cabinet Member Reports - November 2019 to January 2020</b>                       | (Pages 57 -<br>84) |
|           | Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer                                    |                    |

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

Overview  
& Scrutiny



## OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

**MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON TUESDAY 5TH NOVEMBER, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor John Sayers (in the Chair)  
Councillor Blackburne (Vice-Chair)  
Councillors Brough, Dowd, Halsall, Marshall and Robinson

### 19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Lewis, Myers and Sathiy.

### 20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

### 21. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 17 September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

### 22. STATUTORY GUIDANCE ON OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY IN LOCAL AND COMBINED AUTHORITIES

Further to Minute No. 15 of 18 September 2018 the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny.

The report indicated that the Government's Statutory Guidance was comprehensive and was set out in the following chapters:

- Culture
- Resourcing
- Selecting Committee Members
- Power to Access Information
- Planning Work
- Evidence Sessions

and that Members' attention was drawn to "Maintaining the interest of full Council in the work of the scrutiny committee" and "Communicating

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scrutiny's role to the public" where recommendations for change had been made.

The report concluded by detailing the up to date position regarding progress being made regarding the recent Local Government Association peer review in relation to Overview and Scrutiny receiving performance reports.

A copy of the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was attached as an appendix to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the statutory guidance and the measures the Council takes in relation to the issues covered in the guidance be noted;
- (2) that Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations be submitted to Cabinet and then Council for final approval;
- (3) that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting; and
- (4) that each Overview and Scrutiny Working Group consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration.

### **23. FLOOD AND COASTAL EROSION RISK MANAGEMENT ANNUAL REPORT**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services presenting formally the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Annual Report.

The report indicated that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 required that arrangements had to be made to review and scrutinise the exercise by the Council as a Lead Local Flood Risk Authority of its flood risk management functions and coastal erosion risk management functions; and that this Annual Report satisfied that requirement. The report detailed key items of work in relation to:

- Duty to cooperate with other Risk Management Authorities
- Duty to have an up to date Local Flood Risk Strategy
- The undertaking of Sefton's duties as a Riparian owner
- Maintaining a public register on Flood Risk Management Assets
- Responding to major planning applications checking the sustainable drainage systems
- Flood and Coastal Erosion events

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- Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy Update
- Green Sefton Service delivery
- Resilient Communities
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
- Working with the Planning Authority
- Asset inspections
- Capital schemes
- Partnership Working
- Merseyside Strategic and Flood Risk Partnership
- North West and North Wales Coastal Groups
- Priorities for the next year including service planning; supporting the delivery of the Local Plan; Crosby Coastal Scheme; Surface Water Management Plan level 2; Fouracres flood risk scheme; Pool watercourse; and the development of a new investment programme post 2021

Appendix 1 to the report provided information on the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Time and billing review 2018/2019.

The report concluded by seeking comments for submission to the Cabinet Member - Locality Services.

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

- The concerns expressed by local residents and elected Members arising from planning permission approvals for residential developments in areas of flood risk; and the responsibility for resolving flooding incidents if they arose
- The National Planning Policy Framework sets out government's planning policies for England, part of which requires local authorities to make a Local Plan and designate sites for housing development. Developers had to show that flooding issues are mitigated on their housing sites
- Concern was expressed at the privatisation of the building control services
- The work of the Merseyside Strategic and Flood Risk Partnership
- Differences between surface water, coastal and seasonal flooding

RESOLVED:

That the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Annual Report be approved.

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## **24. GREEN SEFTON UPDATE REPORT TO OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services that provided an update on the Green Sefton service progress after its first 18 months of operation.

Prior to the consideration of the report the Committee received a presentation from Mark Shaw, Green Sefton Service Manager. Mr Shaw provided information on:

- Green Sefton: a one stop shop for all issues associated with our landscape –from design and development, to management and maintenance and user engagement and community development; and that the service managed about 6,500ha of the landscape of the borough, Sefton's beautiful coast with protected sites, to a range of parks, greenspaces, outdoor sports and recreational sites, allotments, street trees etc.
- What our communities valued about Sefton and the Sefton 2030 Vision
- Sustainable aspects of Green Sefton to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Green Sefton values
- Positive aspects of the Green Sefton service in relation to staff working as one flexible team with a new service culture; and Innovative schemes such as insourcing cemeteries and crematoriums grounds maintenance, social investment proposals (e.g. Coronation Park)
- Income and growth issues associated with developing Sefton's golf offer; Making use of Sefton's assets; expansion of natural alternatives; and commercialisation and the approval of five growth proposals (£339k 19/20) with another 43 in the pipeline
- Key challenges affecting the Green Sefton service relating to reduced staffing levels, climate change and succession planning
- Looking forward to the future to deliver the service plan and vision which was directly linked to Sefton 2030; and to ultimately be a self-funding service by 2030,

The report indicated that Green Sefton brought together the former Coast and Countryside, Parks and Greenspaces, Flooding and Coastal Erosion and Risk Management services to ensure a joined-up approach to the vital management, development and oversight of Sefton's coastline, parks and green spaces; that the creation of Green Sefton was part of PSR 7, and its aim was 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



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- Enable more community cohesion
- Offer further opportunities for volunteers, residents and other organisations
- Create a more focussed collaborative approach to the management, development and oversight of our coastline, parks and green spaces.
- Manage all land assets (excluding highways) in one portfolio

and provided an update on the development of the service since its creation in April 2018 in relation to strategy and service planning; finance; staffing; risk management; asset management; community engagement; contractual and commissioning; policy and procedures; health and safety; ICT systems; and communications.

The report concluded by seeking comments for referral to the Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member - Locality Services for consideration.

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

- Contractual arrangements for Green Sefton permanent and seasonal staff
- The potential to improve and develop the offer for other sports as well as golf
- The expansion of “Natural Alternatives” and the cooperation of volunteers in the scheme
- The potential to clean up allotments that are overgrown to ensure that they are re-let quickly
- Support given to community groups to help them increase the number of volunteers; and to obtain external funding
- The business model associated with the development of the golf offer

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report on the Green Sefton service progress after its first 18 months of operation be noted;
- (2) Green Sefton staff be congratulated for their dedication and performance since the inception of the new service;
- (3) Mark Shaw, be thanked for his informative presentation; and
- (4) the Head of Locality Services be requested to circulate a copy of the Green Sefton presentation to all Members of the Council.

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## **25. WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2019/20, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee and the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

The report also updated on issues associated with United Utilities and increases in their charges.

Members asked questions/raised issues on the following matter:

- How the Committee could help to progress matters with United Utilities

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and updated by the inclusion of a report on the Borough of Culture programme to the January 2020 meeting;
- (2) the Head of Economic Growth and Housing be requested to submit his report on the Shale Gas Working Group – Report on Government Position published and Good Practice and Expectations Document amended to the next meeting of the Committee on 21 January 2020;
- (3) It be noted that the Head of Corporate Resources would submit potential topics for review in respect of the Council approved Motion on Climate Change Emergency to a future meeting;
- (4) taking into account the work being undertaken by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission a Working Group to investigate the factors associated with the decline of retail areas and shopping parades be not established;
- (5) the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to obtain a copy of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission when published and include it on the agenda for a meeting of this Committee;
- (6) a Working group be established to review the topic of the housing support services provided to vulnerable clients by non-governmental organisations and charities and their links to statutory agencies;
- (7) Councillor Robinson be appointed Lead Member of the Working Group referred to in (7) above and the Chief Legal and Democratic

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Officer be requested to seek additional members to serve on the Working Group;

- (8) the update on issues associated with United Utilities and increases in their charges as referred to in paragraph 4 be noted; and
- (9) the Head of Corporate Resources be requested to contact United Utilities to seek their willingness to attend a meeting of the Committee to make a presentation to Members.

### **26. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - SEPTEMBER TO NOVEMBER 2019**

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that included the most recent reports from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton), Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills.

RESOLVED:

That the update report from the Cabinet Members for Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton), Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills be noted.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	14 January 2020
	Overview and Scrutiny (Adult Social Care and Health)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	7 January 2020
	Overview and Scrutiny (Children's Services and Safeguarding)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	28 January 2020
	Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 January 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Climate Emergency		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Corporate Resources/ Executive Director	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

At the Council meeting on 18 July 2019, members agreed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency and this is included at Appendix A to this report.

Work has therefore progressed since that date on developing a programme structure, strategy and initial implementation plan for delivery of the motion and its objectives. In order to further inform this work, a baseline position is required across the council of work that is currently underway or planned that can contribute to the Council achieving the aims of the motion. This report therefore provides a summary of work undertaken to date and the exercise that is required to be led through each overview and scrutiny committee in order to establish that baseline position.

## Recommendation(s):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- (1) Note the Councils agreed approach to delivering the objectives as set out in the Council motion that declared a climate emergency;
- (2) Note the activity that will take place within the first 12 months of the programme; and
- (3) Note the important role of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee in delivering the Councils objectives as set out in the agreed motion and the initial work that is required to

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be carried out in each area of the council's activity by all Heads of Service, in order to form an initial baseline position. This initial work will be reported back to the next meeting of this committee.

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

These recommendations will provide each Overview and Scrutiny Committee with an update on the progress being made with regard to meeting the objectives of the Council motion and the work required to establish a baseline position for the Council with regard to the work in progress

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

No alternative options were considered in order to inform this exercise

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

### **(A) Revenue Costs**

At this stage there are no revenue costs associated with the recommendations within the report

### **(B) Capital Costs**

At this stage there are no revenue costs associated with the recommendations within the report

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

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

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: The impacts of climate change will be felt most keenly by the most vulnerable, who are often the least able to respond. We already know that there will be climate change impacts such as more severe weather events, (heatwaves, flooding) that would affect the elderly, infirm and those unable to afford insurance. Taking action on carbon mitigation and adaptation will help to protect those people and will also positively effect air quality and the associated health benefits.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: This work will seek to ensure council services can support communities to enjoy a better quality of life through being more resilient to climate change.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: To effectively deliver services in the future, we will be required to respond to this threat through the work being undertaken.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: In response to this global issue, the Council is demonstrating its role locally as a leader and driver for positive change.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: The Council has the potential to affect change in many key areas including planning, procurement, building, public health, green spaces. Work on reducing our carbon impacts and adapting to a changing climate will help to protect services &amp; communities, going forward.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The 'green' economy has potential to generate local, sustainable jobs on a large scale. This could include large scale retrofit of homes and businesses, renewable energy, transport updates, development of green spaces etc.</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: Developing more local opportunities for carbon reduction schemes such as housing retrofit, would offer opportunities for income/profits to be directed to local social schemes rather than to large scale corporations not based in the area.</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener: Reducing our carbon footprint is a key environmental, social and economic priority. Additionally, it has the potential to reduce air pollution, encourage modal shift to cycling/walking, enhancement of green spaces, reduce waste etc.</p>

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5909/19) and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4093/19) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

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There have been no external consultations

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## **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A- Council Motion- Climate Emergency

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1. At the Council meeting on 18 July 2019, members agreed to declare a Climate Emergency. The full motion that was agreed at the meeting is included to this report at Appendix A and in declaring a Climate Emergency, it was agreed that:

*Sefton Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, and therefore commits to:*

- *Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action.*
- *Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.*
- *Commit to municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate*
- *Ensure that all strategic decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.*
- *Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Sefton area Zero Carbon within the same timescale.*
- *Achieve 100% clean energy across Sefton Council's full range of functions by 2030.*
- *Convene an assembly of interested groups not directly represented on Council in 2020 to oversee and feed into the development of related action plans and budgets across the City.*

- 1.2. Work will therefore now progress within the Council and with partners to achieve these objectives. This report therefore provides detail of the initial steps that will be taken over the next 12 months and an immediate piece of work to be led by each of the Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee's

## 2. Proposed Approach to delivering the Council Motion

- 2.2. In order to address the issues detailed in the Council motion of 18 July 2019, the project will be led by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services. This will be complemented with the Head of Corporate Resources leading the council based activity and the Executive Director, Andrea Watts leading on external engagement and alignment especially within the Liverpool City Region.
- 2.3. It is recognised that a key strategic project such as this will need to be flexible over the course of the next decade in order to reflect the changing world that we all live in and the agenda that will face local government as a whole and Sefton MBC in particular. The governance of the project and the key workstreams will therefore inevitably need to be continually updated and refreshed in order to

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ensure that the objectives of the motion are met. As stated this review process will be undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services with any change proposed being included in the projects annual report. In accordance with this approach work has been undertaken to develop the initial governance model to support the delivery of the motion and the following groups have been identified to support the work required: -

- Sefton Climate Change Member Reference Group;
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Management Board;
- Council wide officer working group;
- Expert Panel; and
- Citizens Forum.

2.4. Terms of reference for these groups and membership are currently being developed

2.5. This motion has an agreed target date of 2030. Whilst this date is a decade away, a project of this size will need a clear strategy, agreed milestones and regular reporting through to council. To that end the project will be based upon :-

- The Council developing a clear strategy for the delivery of the council motion- this will be presented to Cabinet and then Council in Q2 of 2020;
- An initial 12 month mobilisation period that commenced from September 2019;
- The first 3 year implementation plan (2020/2021) being developed that will deliver the agreed strategy (with subsequent 3 year plans being developed from 2023 and 2026; and
- An Annual report be presented to Council on progress each year-July.

### 3. **Initial 12 month programme of Activity**

3.1. In order to mobilise the project, a number of activities will be required over the initial 12 months. There are an increasing number of councils who have declared a Climate Emergency, therefore the lead Cabinet Member and officers have reviewed the core documentation available and approaches undertaken to determine the key areas that would most suit Sefton. This will support some of the initial proposals that were also discussed in the original council motion. To that end, it is proposed that the following activity be undertaken in the next 12 months:-

- Develop terms of reference and membership of governance groups
- Develop and approve the Council's Strategy in respect of the Climate Change Emergency
- Prepare a report for each Overview & Scrutiny committee and request a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions to inform a council wide baseline position
- Identify all current projects that are taking place across the council that will support the delivery of the Council's Strategy;

- Address immediate issues in the council motion around new policies and strategies, forthcoming budget proposals, Treasury Management Strategy and all cabinet and council decisions
- Consider and define how the Sefton Strategy and implementation plan will align with the LCR work being undertaken and that of key partners e.g. MerseyTravel, MWDA, Merseyside Pension Fund
- Develop and resource the first 3 year implementation plan (2020-2023)
- Develop a thematic approach to successfully achieving the councils long term objectives; and
- Provide the first Annual report to Council in July 2020

#### **4. Engagement of Overview and Scrutiny Committees**

- 4.1. This report provides each Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a clear understanding of the aims and objectives of the council motion, the Councils proposed approach, governance model and how it will be resourced.
- 4.2. This is important, as each Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have an important role in ensuring the successful delivery of the Councils objectives by providing leadership, direction and challenge. In essence, it will be responsible for delivering the objectives of the council motion within that area of the council's activity.
- 4.3. In order to commence this work and in accordance with the Council motion each Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to lead an immediate piece of work for completion by the next cycle of meetings (end of April 2020) that :-
  1. Conducts a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions that will inform a comprehensive council wide baseline position
  2. Identifies all projects that are currently taking place across the council that will support the delivery of the Council's Strategy; and
  3. Identifies potential long term issues that will need to be addressed in order for the council to meet the objectives within the council motion.
- 4.4. The output from this work should be reported back to this committee in March/April 2020 and be led by the respective Heads of Service in conjunction with the Committee members and Cabinet Member. As required support will be available from the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Service, the Head of Corporate Resources and the Executive Director in addition to the Council wide officer working group.

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Motion Agreed by Council – 18 July 2019

## **Climate Change Emergency**

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Sefton area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide. The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely on a planet with human-caused climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”<sup>[1]</sup>, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Business as usual is no longer an option.

Children in Sefton will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Sefton. We must act now to ensure this.

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

Over 40, and increasing, local councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’. Many local authorities, including Sefton Council, have also signed up to the UK100 Agreement<sup>[2]</sup>, pledging to achieve 100% ‘clean energy’ usage by 2050 in their area, but the IPCC report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much, much sooner.

Sefton Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, and therefore commits to:

Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ that requires urgent action.

Make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030.

Commit to municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate

Ensure that all strategic decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

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Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Sefton area Zero Carbon within the same timescale.

Achieve 100% clean energy across Sefton Council's full range of functions by 2030.

Convene an assembly of interested groups not directly represented on Council in 2020 to oversee and feed into the development of related action plans and budgets across the Borough.

And to take the following actions:

1. Ensure that political groups and Strategic Leadership Board embed this work in all areas of Council activity and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that a Task and Finish group be established to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
2. Request that Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies and charge Task and Finish groups to also consider those impacts in any report and every topic;
3. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the Borough and City Region to help deliver this goal through relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
4. Set up a Sefton Climate Change group, drawing on the expertise from Councillors, local communities, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, skills providers, and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a Borough-wide strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030, by engaging with other anchor institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will also recommend ways to maximise the local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
5. Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future-their future;

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6. Review the Council's Treasury Management Strategy to give due consideration to climate change targets in the investment decision making process and in doing so request a report within 6 months from the Head of Corporate Resources on the investment strategies of all financial institutions where Council funds are or could be held;
7. Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;
8. Add the voice of Sefton Council to the calls on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;
9. In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, that Sefton's local MPs be called upon to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and that the Leader and Chief Executive jointly write to them to seek their commitments;
10. Consider other actions that could be recommended (but are not restricted to): low carbon energy production and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraging the use of electric vehicles within the fleet, workforce and wider community, integrating low carbon technologies into operational assets and projects, increasing the efficiency of buildings, prioritising these measures for housing to address fuel poverty; proactively using our powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;
11. Where needed, officer reports to the Council, Cabinet and all other Committees contain impact assessments on climate change that include carbon emission appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible; and
12. Note the Liverpool City Region Deal which will have a direct effect on Sefton's climate and ensure that all partners are aware of Sefton's ambition.

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# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 January 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Borough of Culture 2020		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

Sefton will be the Liverpool City Region's Borough of Culture for 2020, and an outline programme and business plan have been developed for the year following consultation and engagement with partners and communities across the borough. This feedback recommends focus on local history and the environment as the two priority areas for the programme, with emphasis in all events, activities and initiatives on participation (inclusive of all communities), permanence (assets, activities and relationships lasting beyond 2020), partnerships (working with partner organisations and communities across the borough), and on engendering local pride in Sefton.

## Recommendation(s):

Overview and Scrutiny Committee are recommended to:

- (1) Note the Council's agreed approach to delivering the objectives of the Borough of Culture 2020 programme;
- (2) Note the activity proposed to take place during the year, and beyond.
- (3) Provide feedback in respect of future updates and reports, if any, to Overview and Scrutiny Committee relating to Borough of Culture 2020.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

These recommendations will support finalisation of the detailed actions relating to key events and initiatives, as well as pursuit of further funding opportunities.

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

- (i) Develop an alternative programme structure – this is not recommended due to the quality and quantity of feedback received from partners and communities that has informed the programme development process.

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

### **(A) Revenue Costs**

The cost of the programme will be met by funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and from other external funding sources to be secured.

Grants in excess of £100,000 up to £250,000 (including from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority) will be approved in line with financial procedure rules by the Executive Director in consultation with the Cabinet Member and the Section 151 Officer.

### **(B) Capital Costs**

There are no capital costs associated with the programme.

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

### **Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):**

The proposals aim to maximise community participation and benefit with the funding available. The cost of the programme will be met by funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and from other external funding sources, which will be approved in line with financial procedure rules.

### **Legal Implications:**

There are no legal implications.

### **Equality Implications:**

There are no equality implications.

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

Protect the most vulnerable:

The programme will be finalised to ensure engagement of all communities, supporting positive health and wellbeing outcomes through participation, and reflecting the ethos of a borough for everyone.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Engagement has been undertaken and will continue with communities across the borough, reflecting their objectives and opportunities and supporting engenderment of local pride.
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable.
Place – leadership and influencer: The focus of the programme will be on stories about us, by us, and for us – this will support engenderment of local pride in Sefton and the places within.
Drivers of change and reform: The programme is aiming to increase participation in a range of cultural activities.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: The programme team will maximise opportunities from external funding sources to support the implementation of ideas, events and initiatives with communities across the borough.
Cleaner Greener: A key element of the programme will be on environmental sustainability, supporting the Council's objectives in this respect.

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

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

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD5918/20) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

(LD 4102/20) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

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

Communications via local press and radio in April and May 2019 ascertained a wide range of feedback from partners and communities across the borough, in terms of ideas, initiatives and proposals. This feedback has been used to develop the structure and focus of the programme, and the key priorities and stories therein.

Engagement with partners and communities has continued in response to this feedback, and informal and proactive consultation has taken place with existing partner organisations across the borough.

A consultation event was hosted on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2019, at which further perspectives and ideas were sought. That feedback has informed the programme and the proposals within the report.

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As part of the launch of the programme in December 2019, a public vote is underway to identify on which “Sefton stories” the programme focused during 2020. A process has also been established through which partners and communities can express interest in support (financial or otherwise) for their ideas, initiatives, events and installations.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Stephen Watson
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## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## 1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Sefton has been named as the Liverpool City Region's Borough of Culture for 2020, with the focus for the Borough of Culture (BoC) programme being on **Sefton people and stories – stories about us, stories by us, and stories for us – all of us**. This is broad enough to support a wider range of ideas and opportunities, and aligns with the prioritisation of Sefton's communities in the development of ideas, initiatives and events. It has also resonated with communities and partners in engagement to date on the BoC opportunity.

1.2 The Liverpool City Region's Borough of Culture framework identified five key elements proposed to underpin the programmes across the years. These comprise:

- **Children and young people** – accessing, enjoying, learning and thriving through culture and creative engagement with skills and talent pathways.
- **Positive outcomes** – wellbeing, health, education, cohesion and future world of work.
- **Communities** – increased participation, particularly the ageing society. **All communities / parts of Sefton.**
- **Distinctiveness of place** – promoting the creative and culture offer to local people and visitors.
- **Infrastructure** – leaving a **legacy** through better infrastructure for culture and creativity.

1.3 Moreover, we have identified what would be additional Core Principles for Sefton's Borough of Culture 2020 programme, using "four Ps" which have been identified to support discussion and prioritisation regarding opportunities for the BoC programme:

- **Participation** – initiatives that maximise opportunity for participation; not just event attendance, but in the cultural activities themselves (arts, music, writing, etc); and ensuring **inclusivity** – reflective of a borough for everyone (irrespective of gender, age, ethnicity, geography, ability, demography, etc).
- **Partnerships** – working with partners to deliver 2020 and beyond together; this is the borough's year of culture, not the council's.
- **Permanence** – ideas, installations, events and relationships that will remain in place beyond 2020.
- **Pride** – opportunities that help engender pride in our community and the communities within Sefton

## 2. Themes and programme structure

2.1 The theme of the year will be stories – it is proposed to use the tagline "**Myths and Realities**" to support this. The shape of the year would be:

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- Focused on much of the storytelling across the earlier parts of the year – relating to local heritage, and recognising the nature of history and stories and how myth, memory, perspective and subjectivity influence such stories over time.
- Becoming increasingly focused on the environmental theme over the second half of the year, culminating in the notable events and initiatives to be developed for November 2020, hopefully to coincide with the UN Climate Change Summit (which London is bidding to host). Whereas a story such as Napoleon III in Southport could border on “myth”, the climate change emergency would be the “reality”.

2.2 The nature of the challenges involved in storytelling and myths is recognised. It is therefore critical that evidence is used where it exists to support such stories, or that there is transparency on where such evidence may not exist. This ought not to hinder the BoC opportunity given the wealth of stories, ideas and opportunities emerging, but will require management in the appropriate manner.

2.3 The shape of the year outlined above reflects the key themes identified by our communities and our partners through feedback, engagement, and the Sefton CVS event held in July 2019. This has been consolidated and captured as well to support engagement with potential funding partners.

2.4 **Local History** is consistently identified as a key area of opportunity, with the stories people want to tell, or that people want to celebrate, being identified through the engagement to date. This is discussed further in section 3.

2.5 **Environmental sustainability** is the other key theme identified by partners and communities. It is therefore intended that the shape of the year reflects these focus areas and demonstrates that we have listened to communities and partners in maximising the BoC opportunity. Section 4 discusses this area further.

2.6 The above identifies the basis for the stories to be told across the year (the “what”), and there are a range of means through which these stories can be told (the “how”). By way of example, the story of Isaac Roberts is one that resonates with communities in Maghull (see section 3), and this can be progressed through such means as blue plaques, events, performances, creative writing and photography.

2.7 While there might be some major new events across the borough, across the year, the foundation of Sefton’s programme for BoC 2020 is a **large number of community-led initiatives and events**, in all areas of the borough, celebrating stories of our people and our place.



### 3. Local History and Heritage

3.1 Local history has been identified as a priority by our communities and partners and provides a large number of ideas and opportunities for stories across the year.

3.2 The approach has been to understand what these stories are, and the range of ways in which those stories can be captured, communicated and celebrated. There is a long list of stories that provide opportunities to engage local communities during the programme, and it is proposed to identify and finalise those priorities through further consultation with communities.

3.3 Several “Sefton stories” have been identified as focus themes for certain months during the year, including Red Rum, tourism and the borough’s coastline, Bootle Blitz and the VE Day anniversary, and the environment and climate change emergency. A public vote is underway to identify other priorities from a range of options proposed by communities

#### 3.4 Myths and Realities

It would be proposed in the curation of each story to be transparent and respectful in terms of which elements of each story are historical fact, and which may have less evidence. This approach would align with such programmes as *Horrible Histories*, which uses a narrator to add detail to stories on screen in terms of what is true, and what can’t be evidenced. This could be woven into the comic strip boards being developed and any online content.

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## 4. Environment

- 4.1 The other key theme that has emerged strongly from community engagement is the environment. This would align well with the Council's brand and vision for the borough, as well as presenting a range of opportunities.
- 4.2 In terms of the "Myths and Realities" tagline, this would be positioned as the "reality". There may be events and initiatives throughout the year, but it would be proposed to focus on this particularly in October and November 2020, to align with the timing of the UN Climate Summit to be held in Glasgow.
- 4.3 As well as events and initiatives focused on the same themes – participation of communities, permanent legacy, and pride – it would be proposed to commission a series of permanent installations across the borough to reflect this "reality".
- 4.4 It is proposed to develop this element of the programme as part of the strategic and organisation-wide discussions that are commencing following the Council's climate emergency motion.
- 4.5 Moreover, it would be proposed to implement an environmental policy for the year that ensures that our activities and events are reflective of the council's ethos and vision for the borough in this regard. (e.g. single use plastics in catering provision at events).
- 4.6 One notable opportunity that is being progressed is the proposal for every child in the borough to plant a bulb during the year, starting with the November 2019 launch programme. The plan and the funding route will be developed by Green Sefton.

## 5. Application Process

- 5.1 In order to allocate a proportion of the core funding received, as well as of any future sources of funding secured, an application process has been established to enable partner organisations and communities to express interest in support (financial or in kind) for their ideas and proposals.
- 5.2 These are capped at £15,000, and as per the Cabinet minutes of October 2019 final approvals are delegated to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing.
- 5.3 The application process will remain open with any future deadline dependent on additional income sources.



## 6. Business Plan

6.1 The Business Plan for BoC 2020 remains draft, but is described for illustrative purposes to reflect the priorities of the programme.

6.2 Funding routes include the core Liverpool City Region Combined Authority funding, as well as opportunities to be pursued with Culture Liverpool, the Arts Council, National Lottery Heritage Fund, and commercial sponsorship.

6.3 The business plan will ensure focus on and prioritisation of the community-led events and initiatives, with a review and approval process in accordance with the delegation of authority proposed.

6.4 **Measurement of Success** - Liverpool City Region plans to place Culture and Creativity at the heart of the strategic objectives:

- i) to accelerate economic growth
- ii) improve skills and
- iii) further develop its distinctive visitor offer
- iv) to support a place-based strategy and the city region's plans for a Local Cultural Partnership (LCP).

Indicators of impact and success on each borough are the core underpinning of the success of the Borough of Culture programme.

In partnership with the Borough of Culture Evaluation working group, the Institute of Cultural Capital (ICC) and Liverpool John Moores University (LJMU) have developed an evaluation framework for each borough to implement before, during and after their year of culture.

This framework will provide the longitudinal evaluation of the Borough of Culture programme for the next 4 – 5 years and will develop a methodology which will attribute causality to a large-scale cultural invention.

The framework is designed to help each borough to plan evaluation / research methods for the programme of culture, which will range from business/ residential surveys, case study examples, feedback sessions to commissioned research for major events through the Liverpool Enterprise Partnership (LEP).

The research and evaluation will also provide a local picture of the impact of cultural intervention for Sefton in 2020 and beyond.

Implementing and collating research will take time and the need to be realistic to what extent we can carry out this research will need to be considered.

An essential part of the bidding process for funding of an event and/ or space will need to have a research condition which can be used to develop the framework.

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Major events (new and existing) will have major research (carried out by the LEP) and existing events will have previous research which can be used in comparison.

The total cost of the Borough of Culture research and evaluation is a £5k contribution from each of the Boroughs towards the costs.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 January 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Work Programme 2019/20, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) 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 review the Work Programme for 2019/20; to identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to receive an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and to update Members on the progress of items that have previously been considered by the Committee

## Recommendation: That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted; and consideration be given to any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) the presentation on the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan be deferred to the meeting to be held on 10 March 2020;
- (3) bearing in mind that the Government has decided not to take forward the proposals for any changes to permitted development rights for non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploratory development at this time, updates on the Government position and Good Practice and Expectations Document be removed from the Work Programme;
- (4) 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; and

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- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2019/20 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny 'adds value' to the Council. To comply with a decision of the Committee to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
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 2018/19; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; and Green Sefton 2018/19 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2019/20.
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 a report in the Work Programme relating to the Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth
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 review of Winter Service and Operational Plan; the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2018/19; the Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services; Green Sefton 2018/19 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2019/20 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.

Head of Locality Services

Head of Economic Growth and Housing

### (B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

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## Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2019/2020
- 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.

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## Introduction/Background

### 1. **WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20**

1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2019/20 is set out in Appendix 1 to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.

1.2 Members are 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 2019/20 and updated, as appropriate.

### 1.3 **Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) – Service Delivery Plan**

The Work Programme approved in July 2019 indicated that an item would be considered at the meeting of the Committee held on 21 January 2020 about the MRWA – Service Delivery Plan. The Head of Locality Services has been in contact with the Chief Executive of MRWA who has indicated that the MRWA will set its budget and approve its Service Delivery Plans for the year ahead on 7 February 2020; and that as part of this process further action on waste in response to Climate Emergency declarations, etc may be included. It is recommended therefore that this matter be deferred to the Committee meeting on 10 March 2020 to enable this updated and interesting information to be included in the presentation to Members.

### 1.4 **Shale Gas Working Group – Report on Government Position published and Good Practice and Expectations Document amended**

It was intended that a report on the above matter would be submitted to this meeting of the Committee. The Head of Economic Growth and Housing has advised that Officers remain vigilant in monitoring the progress and reporting of non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas development and extraction.

Sefton responded to a recent ‘permitted development rights’ consultation (the primary purpose of the consultation was to seek views on the principle of whether non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration development should be granted planning permission through permitted development rights). The Government published its response on 1/11/19 – there were 15,226 responses overall. There were 4639 responses to the specific question of the permitted development principle. There was minimal support for this proposal. Nearly all respondents (97.5%) opposed introducing a permitted development right for non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploration development.

The main tenant of the Government response is reproduced below with the Head of Economic Growth and Housing’s emphasis on the key point.

It is our view that while there could be considerable merit in taking forward these proposals in the future, the sector in the UK is at too early a stage in its development to properly assess the impact of the measures or their ability to deliver changes suitable for the future potential planning needs of industry. The

consultation has also identified that there is little consensus on what the measures would look like or the degree to which they would be worthwhile currently. As such, the Government has decided not to take forward the proposals for any changes to permitted development rights for non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploratory development at this time.

This was followed by a further announcement on 2 November 2019:

The Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy said that, after the OGA concluded that further seismic activity could not be ruled out, "further consents for fracking will not be granted" unless the industry "can reliably predict and control tremors" linked to the process.

As such, it is recommended to close this workstream to further reporting whilst this stance at national Government level remains.

- 1.5 The Committee is requested to approve the deferral of the presentation on the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan to the meeting on 10 March 2020; remove the issue from the Work Programme relating to shale gas extraction; comment on the Work Programme for 2019/20; 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 2019/20**

- 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 Last year the Committee agreed to establish a Working Group to review the topic of the Effectiveness of the Council's Enforcement Activity. This review is on-going and it is anticipated that the Working Group's Final Report will be completed before the end of the Municipal Year.
- 2.3 The Committee, at its last meeting held on 5 November 2019 agreed to establish a Working Group to review the topic of housing support services provided to vulnerable clients by non-governmental organisations and charities and their links to statutory agencies. Councillors Blackburne, Marshall, Michael O'Brien, Robinson and Anne Thompson have agreed to be members of the Working Group; and it is anticipated that the first meeting will be held in January, 2020 to approve the scoping document.
- 2.4 For the information of Members a criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at **Appendix 2**. This is used to assist the Committee in selecting topics and appointing Working Group(s) for the Municipal Year.
- 2.5 Bearing in mind that the Committee currently has two Working Groups running it is recommended that no new Working Groups be established.

## **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

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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 23 December 2019 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.
- 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.**

## 4. **LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

- 4.1 During the last cycle of meetings, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 22 October 2019 (Minute No. 20).
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 4.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.

### 4.4 **Role**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by the Combined Authority in May 2017 in accordance with the Combined Authorities Order 2017.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:



- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a 'critical friend to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan.

## 4.5 **Membership**

The Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Dowd, Howard and Marshall. Councillor Dowd is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

Councillors Pugh and Sir Ron Watson are the respective representatives of the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

## 4.6 **Chair**

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. Councillor Thomas Crone, a Green Party Councillor serving on Liverpool City Council has been appointed Chair for the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

## 4.7 **Quoracy Issues**

A high number of meetings of the LCRCAO&S have been inquorate.

The quorum for meetings of the LCRCAO&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is set out in legislation.

The Combined Authority's Monitoring Officer will be looking to work with the Monitoring Officers from the other Combined Authorities to identify what problems they are experiencing with Scrutiny and how/if they had overcome them. Representations to Government would also be considered once all options locally to resolve the quorum issue had been exhausted. The CA Monitoring Officer would then be able to provide evidence to Government that the quorum level was obstructing the work of scrutiny within the CA.

## 4.8 **Meetings**

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link

<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0>

### **6 November 2019**

The last meeting of the LCRCAO&S was scheduled to be held on 6 November

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2019. However, this meeting was inquorate and its business could not be formally transacted. Nonetheless, because Members were in attendance the items were discussed. Members received an update from the Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham and considered reports on updating on the Liverpool City Region Housing Statement; the Liverpool City Region Housing First Service; and Apprenticeships.

## **15 January 2020 – Budget Meeting**

The next meeting of LCRCAO&S will be held on 15 January 2020. The meeting will be asked to consider the budget proposals for 2020/21 to be agreed by the Combined Authority; and to make recommendations to the Metro Mayor and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority in respect of the proposals.

Details of both meetings can be obtained using the link referred to above.

## **5. UPDATE ON THE PROGRESS OF ITEMS THAT HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE COMMITTEE**

### **5.1 Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission**

As Members will be aware the Committee at its last meeting agreed, taking into account the work being undertaken by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission, that a Working Group to investigate the factors associated with the decline of retail areas and shopping parades be not established; and that the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to obtain a copy of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission when published and include it on the agenda for a meeting of this Committee (Minute No 25 (4) and (5) refers).

5.2 The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has contacted the Liverpool City Region and been advised that it is anticipated that the Town Centre Panel and Commission final report will be approved in quarter 3 2020. This will be reported to the Committee in due course. Additional information has also been provided for the benefit of members and this is set out below.

5.3 The LCR Town Centre Panel and Commission has been set up with the terms of reference set out below, and includes officer representation from each Local Authority, as well as the Investment Manager from the CA. Sarah Kemp, Executive Director attends from Sefton. The first meeting was held in October 2019 and it is anticipated that meetings will be held monthly thereon.

### **Town Centres Panel**

formed September 2019

#### **Objectives:**

- To share best practice in the revival of our town centres
- To maximise funding from all sources that goes into this revival
- To provide feedback on the Town Centres' Fund and engage with the associated Town Centres' Commission
- To provide a forum to prepare the best possible LCR submissions for Future High Streets' Fund, Towns' Fund and other programmes aimed at town centres

- Emphasising positive collaboration, coordination and deliverable ambition

**Membership:**

- One member per LA, representative from each of CA's investment, policy and integrated transport teams
- Observers welcome

**Governance and operation:**

- Established as a sub-group of the Growth Group
- Wes Rourke and Sophie Bevan to co-chair
- Monthly meetings unless otherwise recommended by the co-chairs
- CA to provide secretariat and to facilitate meetings

The **Town Centre Commission** will report to the Panel and has a remit, as a group of selected experts, as follows:

The purpose of the Commission is *"...bring together public, private and community partners from across the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and beyond to support the Metro Mayor, the CA and Constituent Authorities in identifying and supporting efforts to deliver the long term sustainability and vitality of our town centres as the focal points of their communities"*

**The key objectives of the Commission will be:**

- To diagnose any issues affecting the vitality and viability of our town centres (within LCR)
- To understand the role our town centres should play and their contribution to sustainable communities
- To identify practical steps to enacting a sustainable future for our towns and
- To provide a platform from which LCR partners can make evidence-based interventions to deliver the sustainability of town centres within the LCR

The Commissioners are in the process of being appointed, to form a small group of stakeholders representing public, private and community sectors who will meet approximately every 6 weeks to oversee the project. The meetings will provide an opportunity to discuss emerging findings from the research and to consider specific policy issues common to all towns across LCR.

IPPR North will provide the secretariat to the Commission for the duration of this project including taking notes of meetings, arranging meetings and agendas and sending out invitations.

In terms of the indicative timeframe for key outputs the ambition is to provide an Interim report by Q1 2020 and the final report by Q3 2020 (*noting that LCR local industrial strategy is scheduled for March 2020*)

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## APPENDIX 1

### OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS) WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20

Date of Meeting	2 JULY 2019	17 SEPTEMBER 2019	5 NOVEMBER 2019	21 JANUARY 2020	10 MARCH 2020
Cabinet Member Update Report	X	X	X	X	X
Work Programme Update	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Service Operational Reports:</b>					
Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report			X		X
Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan		X			
Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2018/19				X	
United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges	X		X		X
Sefton Economic Strategy for Growth		X			
Update on Operational Activities delivered via Locality Services		X			
Leasehold House Sales					X
Mental Health and Employment Task Group – Update				X	
Green Sefton 2018/19 Annual Report, Service Vision 2030, and Service Plan 2019/20			X		
Climate Emergency				X	X
<b>Scrutiny Review Progress Reports:</b>					
Housing Licensing Performance Framework Working Group Update on Recommendations	X				X
Effectiveness of Local Authority		X			

**APPENDIX 1**

Overview and Scrutiny Committees – Government Response to DCLG Select Committee Report					
Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity - Approval of Working Group Final Report		<b>X</b>			
Post-16 SEND Provision Working Group	<b>X</b>				

## 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 8

## 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.
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### 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?

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## SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

**FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 FEBRUARY 2020 - 31 MAY 2020**

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

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

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:-

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 3

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.*

**Dwayne Johnson**  
**Chief Executive**

## APPENDIX 3

## FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Cleansing Services Vehicle Fleet Procurement	Marie Gosling marie.gosling@sefton.gov.uk
Green Sefton: Golf Driving Ranges Development	Mark Shaw mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk
Southport Market	Mark Catherall mark.catherall@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2315
Crosby Flood and Coastal Defence Scheme	Mark Shaw mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk

**SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL  
FORWARD PLAN**

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Cleansing Services Vehicle Fleet Procurement</b> Following approval from Cabinet in April 2019 to undertake a procurement exercise to renew the refuse collection fleet, it was agreed to provide a further report upon completion of the initial procurement process detailing costs, options, and funding proposals.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Feb 2020 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 09/01/2020 to 06/02/2020. Reason: internal financial information on next year's budget is currently being assessed. This will allow an informed decision to be made on the make-up of the required vehicle fleet, and therefore the cost			
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	A range of vehicle providers across the transport industry			
Method(s) of Consultation	Following initial consultation with a range of providers across the industry, a compliant procurement process has been undertaken via authorised framework agreements for the main vehicle components including lifting mechanisms,			

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 3

	vehicle bodies and chassis.
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Cleansing Services Vehicle Fleet Procurement
Contact Officer(s) details	Marie Gosling marie.gosling@sefton.gov.uk

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Green Sefton: Golf Driving Ranges Development</b> The report will seek support for the Business Case to develop two driving ranges associated with Bootle Golf Course, and Southport Golf Links			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Feb 2020			
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	Resident Golf Clubs, users and non-users			
Method(s) of Consultation	Consultation has been undertaken in meetings with resident clubs at both courses. This has been supported by outline consultation with users at Bootle Golf Club. Both proposals will be subject to further consultation process should they be approved for development and delivery			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Green Sefton: Golf Driving Ranges Development			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mark Shaw mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

## APPENDIX 3

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Southport Market</b> Future Options for Southport Market			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	6 Feb 2020 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/12/2019 to 06/02/2020. Reason: final design information is still awaited and therefore more time is required to evaluate any potential costs			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Fully exempt (Paragraph 3)			
Wards Affected	Dukes			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Officers, public, stakeholders, Cabinet Members			
Method(s) of Consultation	Through Sefton Council's Public Engagement and Consultation Panel			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Southport Market			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mark Catherall mark.catherall@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2315			

### SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<b>Crosby Flood and Coastal Defence Scheme</b> Sefton Council are developing a business case in partnership with United Utilities and the Environment Agency to secure funding (£15-£20M) to undertake a scheme in Crosby to reduce risks associated with coastal change and surface water flooding. The preferred scenario(s) and funding options will be presented to Cabinet for approval.
Decision Maker	Cabinet

# Agenda Item 8

## APPENDIX 3

Decision Expected	6 Feb 2020 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/12/2019 to 06/02/2020. Reason: The Outline Business Case needs to be agreed with the Environment Agency before the Council confirm the exact scale and scope of the scheme, and therefore the contribution required of the Council			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	No	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	Blundellsands; Manor; Victoria			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Informal Cabinet; Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing; North West Regional Flood and Coastal Committee; Merseyside Strategic Flood Partnership; Sefton Capital Finance Team; Sefton Council Planning Department; Sefton Council - Coast Task Group; and Sefton Council Capital Investment Group			
Method(s) of Consultation	Public consultation covering strategic options was undertaken 15th July to 16th September 2019 as part of the Crosby Coastal Park Vision. A subsequent consultation will run when the planning application is submitted.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Crosby Flood and Coastal Defence Scheme			
Contact Officer(s) details	Mark Shaw <a href="mailto:mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk">mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk</a>			



# Agenda Item 9

<b>Report to:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - (Regeneration and Skills)	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	21 January 2020
<b>Subject:</b>	Cabinet Member Reports – November 2019 to January 2020		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) 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; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills reports relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for the period October 2019 to January 2020.

## Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing; Locality Services; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element); 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?

# Agenda Item 9

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**

**(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, Moncur's (relating to Green Sefton) 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 (to follow);  
Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing  
Cabinet Member - Locality Services;  
Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control; and  
Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills (to follow).

## **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 Health and Wellbeing; Locality Services; and Planning and Building Control portfolios. The Cabinet Member reports for the Communities and Housing and Regeneration and Skills portfolios will be submitted to Members in due course.

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<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b>		
<i>COUNCILLOR</i>	<i>PORTFOLIO</i>	<i>DATE</i>
Ian Moncur	Health and Well Being	January 2020

## **Green Sefton**

In summary, key ongoing issues headlines are as follows:

Development:

- Regional Coastal Monitoring next phase bid
- Crosby major scheme development
- The Pool project development
- Gormleys maintenance work
- Coronation park social finance project

Community and Resources

- Development of a new Tree strategy
- Market testing of empty buildings and land opportunities
- Golf driving ranges development
- Major consultation on the vision for Ainsdale Beach
- Allotment strategy working group
- Volunteers and group development strategy 2020
- Natural alternatives expansion

Land Management

- Green Sefton: Enterprise (our steps into the commercial world – bringing additional staffing and resource)
- Insource grounds maintenance for Cemeteries and Crematoria (incl 9 new staff joining the team April 2020)
- Changes to beach car park management and visitor engagement – longer hours of operation, and improvements to infrastructure
- Last year of the 10 year HLS project on Ainsdale and Birkdale sandhills
- Replacement of vehicles, fleet and machinery planned spring 2020
- England Coast Path (potential in house project delivery, only Local Authority in the UK!)

Overall: Green Sefton

- Coast Plan sub strategies development

# Agenda Item 9

- Our 'place based' strategy development
- Re-looking at time management; to make sure we focus on the right things at the right time
- Internal Working groups continue to develop – (incl income and growth, information and intelligence, systems of working, health and safety etc)

Overall: wider

- Input into Climate Change strategy
- Borough of Culture (incl environment focus autumn 2020)
- Good Business festival (incl coast themed focus for conference)

In more detail, ongoing updates across the service include:

## **Service Plan**

The progress of the establishment of the service has been reported to Cabinet Member (Health and Well Being), and Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Skills):

Some headline stats and facts:

- Working better as an integrated team within a new service culture (eg flexible response to flooding incidents)
- Succession planning with four apprentices into full time roles within the service
- Becoming a centre for innovation with initiatives such as the insourcing of the cemeteries and crematoria grounds maintenance function, and the social investment pilot project at Coronation Park
- Developing 48 income and growth proposals to assist with ongoing budget pressures, an aspiration for the service to become cost neutral to the council by 2030, and to find new ways of funding improvements to the boroughs landscape over time
- All of the above in conjunction with our communities - last year we recorded 44,000 hours of volunteer time (equivalent to 25 full time employee's)

More detail can be found in the full report together with an executive summary presentation: [Green Sefton annual update](#)

## **Community & Resources**

### **Community Engagement Team**

**Volunteering** - the Community Engagement Team recorded a total of 23,000 hours of volunteer input from community groups including Friends of Groups, and In Bloom groups in 2018/19.

There are currently 23 'Friends of' groups associated with Green Sefton's open spaces (parks, coast, countryside etc). Held twice a year, the Friends' Forum is an opportunity to bring these groups together to discuss common themes and share information. October's event covered discussions on 'Borough of Culture', an update on 'Parks Funding' applications, presentations for Friends of Crosby and Hightown Beaches and workshop facilitated by Sefton CVS on the issues and challenges facing groups with regard to accessing funding, growing members, developing skills, promoting groups, sites and activities.

**Natural Alternatives** is Green Sefton's long-running inclusion programme for adults and young people with additional needs. Volunteer hours were recorded of circa 21,000 hours in 2018/19.

Recruitment of two fixed term staff is supporting the expansion of this model in 2019/20 with the expectation that they will be self-funding from 2021 and onwards.

**Funding** - Using the Team's knowledge and experience, we are supporting a number of groups applying for external funding:

- **SpaceHive** – Friends of Ainsdale Beach – artwork for the coast (Borough of Culture)
- **Pocket Parks** – Friends of Merrilocks Park (railings) and Gateway Collective (raised planters)
- **Parks Funding** – 14 Friends of Groups awarded funding up to £2000 – we'll report on each project as it is completed / implemented

That's over £30,000 brought in to our open spaces by Friends of Groups in 2019/20

**Community Ranger Projects and Initiatives** - the Community Engagement Team have supported 'Food Growing in Parks' - led by Regenerus and involving Friends of North Park, South Park and Netherton Community Garden.

'Trees for Learning' – worked with 23 schools and 3 community groups planting 3000 trees as part of a DEFRA backed programme to support state primary schools to plant 1 million trees by 2020 within their school grounds and local green spaces.

**Engagement Outreach Activities – tackling anti-social behaviour** - the Community Engagement Team engage with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Team 'Outreach' on a weekly basis. Since March 2019 the MFRS has deployed its outreach workers at Seafront Gardens, North Park, Victoria Park, Coronation Park, Killen Green Park and Bootle Golf Course.

'Park Nights' – working with Sefton Council's Recreation and Culture Team to ensure young people are targeted in a positive way to engage in various sports activities.

Princes Trust Project – will be undertaking a 2-week Team Challenge in North Park and South Park.

Bedford Park

Merrilocks Park joint with NA

Duke of Edinburgh – Botanic Gardens

# Agenda Item 9

'Conquer Life CIC' - funded by the Home Office to empower young people aged 8 – 18 years at various venues in Bootle are engaged in North Park.

Corporate Engagement activities – Santander at Killen Green Park (July 2019), Rotten Row, Victoria Park Community Garden and Seafront Gardens

**Awards** - This year's Volunteer Celebration Event took place at St Luke's Church in Crosby. Attended by representatives from 28 'Friends of', 'In Bloom' and other community groups, the awards were presented by Mayor of Sefton, Cllr June Brown. Congratulations everyone!

The variety of projects and ideas from the community is truly impressive. Many of these contribute to national / international Awards and benchmarking schemes notably **'Northwest In Bloom'** and **'Green Flag'**.

Green Sefton officers attend regular steering group meetings, provide gardening support, advice, administration and guidance to new groups, organise week-long judging in July.

**2019 LCR Year of the Environment** – Green Sefton hosted a celebration day at Southport Eco Centre on May 31<sup>st</sup>, from 10am to 4pm with over 800 people in attendance.

**Crosby Coastal Park Consultation** – Green Sefton are led on the consultation on the 'Vision for Crosby Coastal Park' over the summer involving with a number of events, guided walks and talks etc. The outcome of this will be reported to all early in 2020

## **Facilities & Resources Team**

**Update on land and property** – The Facilities and Resources team are working on several projects to make better use of empty properties etc. These include:

The Hub at Botanic Gardens – exploring interest in the vacant greenhouses

Fernery at Botanic Gardens – Botanic Gardens Community Association (BGCA) offered a two-year licence to manage the fernery.

Hesketh Park –negotiated the release of the leasees catering rights for the 'conservatory area' of the park and the leasee is considering managing the public toilets.

Linacre Bridge Hub are completing leases on Johnsons Pavilion and are also interested in Orrell Mount Pavilion.

An expression of interest from Crosby Stewart FC to refurbish and manage Brookvale Pavilion is being considered.

An initial draft of an expression of interest has been received by Formby Community Football Club for the self-management of Watchyard Lane Playing Fields

Church Green, Formby –a small surfacing scheme at this site to alleviate local parking issues has been well received by residents.



**Traveller incursions, securing site security** – we have completed works to erect posts at the Stray, Southport and are writing to residents at Bills Lane, Formby regarding options to secure land to which residents require access. Further works will be required to other sites (subject to funding). To date this year we have experienced four encampments, three of which were ended by us seeking a court order.

**Allotments** - Green Sefton hosted a meeting of the North West Allotment Officers group at Ainsdale Discovery Centre and are developing a working group to agree the approach the future management and development of this work area

**Sports** - Officers continue to hold periodic meetings with the Council's Managing agent for football to discuss a range of works and how we might participate with FA funding initiatives. Improvements have been undertaken at a number of changing rooms and at this time we are looking at a programme of works with Community Payback.

**Golf** – There is a desire to increase the range of people using the courses, including young people, families and women. A number of colleagues from across the council volunteered to join on a working group developing these ideas. The actions agreed from this were to:

- Introduce a range of new contracts and a pricing structure which is cheaper and more accessible
- Gain approval to build a driving range and practice facilities at both courses
- (This is in addition to work being done by the growth programme to substantially improve the built facilities at both courses).
- A 'Festival of Golf' week ran in conjunction with the British Masters at Hillside Golf Club, introducing activities such as frisbee golf, competitions with 'money can't buy' prizes and free annual contracts for juniors who join during the week-long event - the event took place in May and was deemed a success
- We are working with Tourism to raise the profile of the two sites and updating promotional information online. We are also planning further promotional events over the Summer to increase foot fall to the courses.

<b><u>New Contract Type</u></b> <b><u>Uptake April 1<sup>st</sup></u></b> <b><u>2019 to date</u></b>	<b>10 round contract</b>	<b>9 hole contract</b>	<b>Weekend only contacts</b>	<b>Free junior contracts (Festival)</b>
<b>Bootle</b>	36	5	5	3
<b>Southport</b>	8	17	2	50
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>53</b>

## **Tree and Woodland Team**

Contract for Tree Works - has been successfully tendered and awarded by the Tree & Woodland Team.

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Tree planting season 18-19 - approximately 350 trees have been planted this year throughout the borough by the Council's contractor. (it should be noted that circa 700 trees have been felled over the last three years, but over 900 have been planted in their place)

Highway tree replacement projects – working with the Highways Maintenance team, a number of trees were identified for removal due to their root systems outgrowing the location and causing damage to footways and the works completed over the winter.

Health & Safety work - The Tree and Woodland Team continue to monitor and prioritise tree works throughout the borough and including the “Epicormic Season”, removing the lower epicormic growth found on Lime trees where it is a problem for sight lines. Over 300 streets are visited at this time.

Living Christmas trees - The team continue to monitor the establishment of the living Christmas trees planted recently. Some trees are showing signs of stress and all remain under a replacement guarantee which will be called on if necessary.

## **Land Management**

**Higher Level Stewardship Habitat works.** Habitat improvement works are well under way and the team are making great progress. Minor amendments have been made to working practices following concerns from local residents due to the frequency of burning and communication of planned works.

**Fleet Vehicles Tender.** The first batch of Fleet vehicles have been procured and prepared for issue, comprising of small vans and service vehicles for play and repairs. The remainder of the fleet will be procured once the capital for vehicle renewal has been approved.

**Income Generation.** A report has been approved by Growth Board, and Cabinet Member for the creation of ‘Green Sefton Enterprise’ which will assist with providing the means to offer Grounds Maintenance services to other land owners. The initial team will comprise of 4 additional seasonal staff on a six-month contract. Several small contracts have been established in 2019/20 following direct approaches to Green Sefton for grounds maintenance, including schools, other council services and a Parish Council. Further marketing will be via the Schools Portal for support services and social media. Progress will be carefully monitored and the team (contracts) extended/increased in line with new contracts.

**Cemeteries Insourcing.** The current grounds maintenance and gravedigging contract with Continental expires in March 2020 and work is progressing well for TUPE transfer for the insourcing of the team. A review of fleet, machinery, depots and equipment has been undertaken to ensure a smooth transition of operation on April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020. The formal TUPE process will commence in January 2020 and a meeting has been arranged at the end of the month with the transferring personnel, HR and the trade Unions

## Development Team

### Schemes

**Crosby Coastal defences and flood scheme.** Work continues on the modelling, design and options analysis to develop an outline business case. The scheme was presented to the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee in July and was received positively, and another update will be provided in January 20. The initial options for the coastal defences were consulted on over the Summer as part of the Crosby Coastal Park Vision consultation.

**The Pool, Crossens.** A consultant has been appointed to undertake modelling and option analysis. The options assessment is due to be completed in January 2020. A long list of options has been identified and these are being refined to produce a short list of potentially viable options which will include some outline design work.

**Fouracres, Maghull.** A preferred option of pumping has been identified. Designs are currently being working up to assess its feasibility for securing grant funding. The initial costings of this option have made it unviable, we are reviewing further options and funding opportunities, which include those being considered by United Utilities.

**Ainsdale Birkdale foreshore drainage scheme.** This scheme was due to be undertaken this Autumn to enable free land drainage across the foreshore whilst improving the habitat quality for the protected species. However, delays in the appropriate authorisations from Natural England, this has now been reprogrammed for Autumn 2020

**Gormley Statues.** We are working with the Antony Gormley Studio to undertake the maintenance of all the piles for the statues. Around half of the statues were repaired in Autumn, with the remaining to be addressed in spring 2020

**Buckley Hill overflow car parks.** The overflow matting has been in place for several months with timber bollards and 30 new trees demarcate the edge of the parking area. Unfortunately, early use by local clubs, and poor weather has resulted in some damage and the site needs remedial works which are being developed.

Natural Alternatives will undertake the installation of additional bollards and support the planting of a hedge. The cycle racks will also be installed this summer. The overflow parking will be open for the new season.

**Southport and Municipal Golf Courses.** Work has begun on the designs of new driving ranges to be installed at these sites.

**Surface Water management plan level 2.** Sefton Council have award the contract to JBA to undertake a detailed optioneering exercise in three key flood risk areas; Maghull, Formby and Seaforth & Litherland. This project will identify, assess and develop outline business cases for a range of measures to reduce flood risk in the

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areas. This will lead to a future programme of works that will require several grant applications for funding.

## **Section 106 funded works**

There remains a significant amount of monies associated with several parks throughout the borough. The Development team are engaging with the Ward Councillors to identify schemes and projects to deliver sustainable improvements to these parks. The team have met with the Council's Neighbourhoods team to discuss initial ideas.

The team are looking at undertaking a place-based approach to assessing future requirements of parks. This will include looking at the park in a wider context of place, its roles in providing space for recreation, relaxation, families, wildlife and flood risk management.

<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
<b>Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)</b>		
<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Portfolio</b>	<b>Period of Report</b>
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Locality Services	January 2020

## **Strategic Transport**

### **Port Access**

- The programme of multi-modal interventions is continuing including rail infrastructure requirements. Work on the doubling of the rail line into the Port has been delayed several times and should now be delivered in 2020. Subsequent improvements to signals at Earlestown West have also been delayed but are also expected to be delivered by the end of 2020.
- Highways England provided a newsletter update and held public information sessions at two venues in October. All the comments received have been included and are available to see on the website - <https://a5036portofliverpoolaccess.commonplace.is/about>. The formal consultation is being scheduled for 'the first half of 2020', but no firm dates have been shared with the Council. Formal notices have been served on the Council to secure entry to sections of Rimrose Valley in order to complete a range of ground investigation and environmental surveys, starting early in 2020. Subject to obtaining all the necessary approvals, Highways England has indicated a possible start of construction in late 2022.

### **LTP and Growth Plan**

- Sefton is continuing to work with the LCR Combined Authority, Merseytravel and the other local authorities on the delivery of the transport capital programme.
- Works have continued on the construction of the new slip roads at junction 1 of the M58 motorway with the earthworks and drainage on the northern side of the motorway largely complete. Giddygate Lane will be formally stopped up in early January to enable the remaining earthworks to be completed on the southern side. The works have also included the completion of the first phase of the Maghull – Kirkby cycle track. If the scheme remains on programme, then the slip roads should be operational in April 2020. The slip roads and associated land will then be transferred to Highways England. The Contractor, John Sisk and Sons, are committed to leaving a positive legacy and have completed some playground surfacing works at a local school and some improvements in Lunt Meadows wildlife reserve. They also received a very impressive score in the most recent assessment under the Considerate Constructors scheme.

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- On the North Liverpool Key Corridor scheme. Liverpool City Council 'descoped' the remaining works from Osborne and appointed Kings (who had previously been the principal sub-contractor, as main contractor). The new footway on the eastern side has now been formed following the diversion of all the necessary cables and much of the traffic management is being removed. In January, works will focus on the completion of the remaining sections of central reserve and the carriageway widening. The carriageway surfacing will be the last operation within this section. Much of Regent Road has been resurfaced within the Sefton section although further works are planned in the vicinity of a building in poor condition (once it's been strengthened) and on the section between Millers Bridge and the dock entrance.
- Liverpool City Council have experienced some delay in securing the land currently occupied by Wildthang and Lookers. The new Wildthang facility is being constructed is nearing completion. Once completed, the building will be occupied, allowing the relevant section of the existing building to be demolished and carriageway widening to be undertaken. The City Council have confirmed that the highway works in this area will be by Kings, following on from the current works.
- Work continues on the sustainable transport intervention proposals for Years 3-6 as part of the City Region programme. Sefton has three schemes in 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. The various licenses and land agreements necessary to facilitate the cycle improvements are still progressing with agreement reached on a number. The scheme on Buckley Hill Lane (to relieve Edge Lane) is nearing completion. Delays have been experienced as a result of stats diversions, but these have been completed. Planning approval for the Maghull to Kirkby cycle route has been granted and part of the works delivered (see above). Tenders have been received for the for the Southport scheme and an assessment is ongoing. Approval to commence the works has been secured from the SUD team at the city region. The junction works at the 5 lamps junction will be delivered in conjunction with a cycle improvement scheme on Great Georges Road, for which a consultation exercise has been planned. Information is expected to be available in February.
- Grant funding for the development of Outline Business Cases for the Southport Eastern Access and the Maritime Corridor projects was approved by the CA in June and Offer Letters have now been received and signed. Atkins have been appointed under the Council's TTSS framework to undertake the Maritime Corridor scheme and have completed modelling works. Work has commenced on the compilation of the Business Case and arrangements have been made with Network Rail for discussions over proposals for the Heysham Road Bridge. Traffic counts have been ordered for the Southport Eastern access work. These will be undertaken in January.
- Works on the major junction improvement at the Dover Road junction on the A59 Northway started in July, initially with the stats diversions. AE Yates have been appointed to deliver the main contract and the main works commenced in November with a view to achieving completion by spring 2020.

## Local Transport Schemes

- The Transportation Capital Programme for 2019/20 was agreed with Cabinet Member in June 2019 and an update report has been compiled for approval in the first week in January 2020.

## Sustainable Transport

- The European Sustainable Urban Development (SUD) funding for two major cycling schemes was approved in December 2018. The design of a new, inland pedestrian and cycle route at Crosby Coastal Park, which will avoid the issue of wind-blown sand on the promenade, has largely been completed with works programmed to be delivered together with the Great George's Road scheme. Similarly design work is progressing on the Coastal Road cycle route. This will be delivered as part of the Southport East-West links with a view to starting delivery in Autumn 2019.

## Highway Development and Design

### **Planning Applications**

- The highways development control service continues to process significant numbers of planning applications despite ongoing challenges associated with availability of staff. This includes applications for sites identified in the Council's adopted Local Plan. This continues to involve close liaison with case officers from the planning department. Considerable time and effort has been spent on assessing major applications for a new supermarket on Meols Cop Road, Southport and the Land East of Maghull proposals.

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

- There has been a consistently high level of submissions and the subsequent processing of these at times, lengthy and complex 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 - 33
  - No of stalled or no activity (on the part of a developer) – 8 but developers continue to be followed up on these matters
  - Number of development sites adopted within the last 3 months - 0
  - No of submissions awaiting technical approval - 8
  - Number of new and recent submissions awaiting administrative set up - 5

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

- The numbers of this type of applications remains high, generally due to the approval of planning applications for Local Plan sites. The team are currently managing 58 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.

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- In terms of Minor Works agreements, a revised Minor Works process has been approved by Cabinet Member. One Minor Works scheme has been completed, with a further two scheduled for delivery and a third awaiting payment from the developer before it can be delivered.

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

- English Coastal Path – Liaison with Natural England and Green Sefton is continuing and on site route feasibility reviews are almost completed. Green Sefton are closely involved in this project with available time charging to cover staffing resources and overheads. Natural England's programme is to publish the report identifying the route and the margin in early 2020.
- We are advising on the preparation of one Schedule 14 Application for up to eight additional PROWs associated with the St Luke's Church Road scheme. The St Luke's Church Road application is ongoing with contract negotiations with landowners. One landowner has signed the agreement and negotiations are continuing with the other three. The Planning Inspectorate has imposed a 12 month deadline to consider this application.
- Seven Definitive Map Modification Orders have been made to update the Definitive Map and these are currently being consulted on.
- Legal Event Modification Orders for Southport and Bootle have been made. The Definitive Map and Statements for these areas have been updated and given a new Relevant Date.

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

- The team is continuing to work closely with the Planning Department to provide 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.
- The team is continuing to request construction traffic management plans for new developments 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. Once plans have been agreed, the team is working closely with colleagues in network management and planning to ensure that the plans are being adhered to.

## **Highway Design**

- This part of the team continues to support the development control function and the delivery of strategic transport investment schemes, such as potential major schemes and the STEP programme.
- Current schemes include:
  - A59 Northway/Dover Road junction improvements – supervision and contract administration of a scheme to improve capacity and improve accessibility along the A59 through Maghull, at the Dover Road/Liverpool Road South junction. The main project commenced on site in November 2019 following static diversion works.



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- Various cycle improvement schemes to link the eastern side of Southport (Kew area) to the town centre and seafront and the Maghull to Kirkby cycle route, all funded through the STEP programme.
- Site supervision of the A565 Buckley Hill junction improvements is ongoing with an anticipated completion in early 2020 following delays associated with stats diversions.

## **Permit Scheme**

- There has been an influx of work related to superfast broadband rollout by BT. Regular performance meetings are being held to try and ensure, as best we can, that work is completed to the correct specification and in accordance with the permit regulations.
- Discussions are on-going with our software provider to ensure that we are ready to move to the new street manager permitting system on 1<sup>st</sup> April.

## **Winter Service**

- Financial updates are now being provided on a regular basis to monitor expenditure.
- To date (08/01/20) we have gritted the carriageways on 19 occasions and the footway on 4 occasions.
- Discussions are on-going regarding the extension of the current forecasting & bureau Merseyside contract for the final optional 12 months.

## **Street Lighting**

- New faults are still being received daily from the public which continue to be recorded and processed accordingly. The Contractor is currently performing well against their target KPI's.
- Emergency Call-out cover has been arranged with the Contractor for the Christmas Shutdown period.
- Subject to available funding there are proposals to complete some further trials of different manufactures LED lanterns in the New Year.

## **Traffic Signals**

- The LCR joint Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract continues to function well across the city region.
- The LCRCA UTC Communications upgrade project remains ongoing however there have been some recent delays due to both BT and Siemens which now mean completion is forecast for March 2020.

## **Highway Maintenance**

- The delivery of the Highway Maintenance programme remains ongoing with carriageway resurfacing projects continuing. All district road schemes are now complete. The remaining schemes which are on the KRN are due to commence in February 2020.

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- A new Contract for the construction of vehicle dropped crossings has just been awarded and will commence in January 2020. The existing Contractor has been successful in retaining the Contract.

## Cleansing Services

### Leaf Clearance:

The street cleansing operation was been completed by mid-December with some 800 tonnes of leaves sent to a composting unit for soil conditioning. The operation to remove leaves was hampered this year by the weather conditions which saw particularly wet weather making it very difficult to collect leaves from roads and pavements. However, all operatives persevered, and the annual process has now added approximately 1 additional percentage point to the overall rate of recycling within Sefton.

It should also be noted that Sefton is the only City Region Council that composts its leaves for soil conditioning.

### Christmas & New Year Collections & Street Cleansing Activities:

A revised collection service operated over the festive period, with notification of the changes published on the Councils' website and in local media. Normal services refuse services resumed on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2020. The service operated very effectively across the whole period due to the support of supervisory staff undertaking driving duties during the closedown.

Street Cleansing from December 23<sup>rd</sup> to January 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020, operated on a skeleton service to meet the needs of Councils efficiency savings and budgetary process. Any issues identified by public or elected members were dealt with as quickly as possible, within the limited resources available. Street litter bins and shopping areas were prioritised during this period to reduce street litter, and to support the commercial districts.

### Events.

Cleansing Services has completed its 2019 events calendar, including various Christmas lights switch-on events throughout the Borough. Cleansing activity at all events has been delivered to a very high standard with many compliments received from organisers and visitors alike. Cleansing Services eagerly looks forward to participating in the "Borough of Culture" events in 2020.

### Environment Bill 2019.

As previously notified to members, the above bill was not formalised due to the dissolution of Parliament and the subsequent general election. The new Government has indicated in the Queens speech in December that it will resurrect the Bill, and that it intends to press ahead with compulsory food waste collections from 2024. It is also still deciding whether to enact other legislation around collection cycles and frequencies for bins (grey/brown/green), and also whether to insist that Councils are prevented from charging for certain services such as green (garden) waste, and also additionally and potentially prevent charging for bulky item collections.

Sefton has taken the lead in the City Region over food waste and a group of senior officers from all City Region Councils are formulating a report to the February meeting of the MRWA (Merseyside Waste & Recycling Authority) containing proposals on the

'way forward' for food waste collections within the City region. This Committee will be apprised of details as they are emerging.

## **Burials & Cremations**

### New Software - Plotbox

The 'Go-live' date was due at the end of 2019. However, data migration has proved to be more complex than was expected. This led to the data 'sign-off' only taking place in late December 2019. As such, the introduction of the new system has been postponed until the end of the financial year in March 2020. It is vitally important when dealing with data which has to be correctly stored for very long periods of time that any system changes are undertaken in a robust manner. As such, it is felt that the additional time provided to ensure that the system fully meets all of the required standards can and will be used to its best effect.

### Benchmarking & Recognition

Benchmarking within the Burials & Cremation service is undertaken via APSE (the Association for Public Sector Excellence). Since the opening of a new private sector facility in Burscough a few years ago, the Council service has had to review all operations and seek new ways of generating income and reducing costs, in order to meet the required budgetary provision for the service. Performance scores are used by APSE to recognise such performance improvement and also identify those services deemed as 'best performers' from across the country.

As such, we are pleased to announce that Sefton Council Burials & Cremation Service has been nominated and recognised for both the '**most improved service**' and the '**best performer**' categories within the APSE Benchmarking service.

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<b>CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT</b>		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) – 21 January 2020		
<b>COUNCILLOR</b>	<b>PORTFOLIO</b>	<b>DATE</b>
Daren Veidman	Cabinet Member Planning	21 January 2020

## 1. Local Planning

### The Sefton Local Plan

- 1.1 Planning applications continue to be submitted on allocated sites. Of the 47 housing sites allocated in the Local Plan (policy MN2) planning applications have been received for 25, equating to approximately 4,650 homes (as at 31 December 2019). We expect a number of other large applications to be submitted over the next 12 months on our housing allocation sites.

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

- 1.2 The National Planning Policy Framework makes clear that creating high quality buildings and places is fundamental to what the planning and development process should achieve. On 1 October 2019 the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government published a National Design Guide, which illustrates how well-designed places that are ‘beautiful, enduring and successful’ can be achieved in practice. It forms part of the Government’s collection of planning practice guidance and is to be read alongside the separate national planning practice guidance on design process and tools.
- 1.3 The Policy Team will undertake a comprehensive review of the existing suite of supplementary planning guidance to determine what changes are necessary to bring them up-to-date with the National Design Guide, within the context of the recent climate change and environment announcements. This review will result in a new Design SPD and amendments to other SPDs to reflect updated design principles. Other SPDs will be published in the early part of 2020 covering topics such as ‘Landscape’, ‘Shop fronts, security and signage’ and ‘High Streets’.
- 1.4 A number of SPDs will also be refreshed in 2020 including ‘Flats and HMOs’, ‘New Housing’ and ‘House Extensions’.

### Liverpool City Region work

- 1.5 The Combined Authority has commenced early engagement with the public on the Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region, with web-

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based consultation at [www.lcrlistsens.co.uk/ourplaces](http://www.lcrlistsens.co.uk/ourplaces) concluding on 14 January 2020. The Council has submitted high level comments to the consultation and the Planning Policy Team continues to contribute to work on the Spatial Development Strategy, and to cross-boundary and other strategic work including City Region wide studies and the a 'Visitor Management Strategy' for the Greater Merseyside area.

- 1.6 The Statement of Common Ground on strategic, cross-boundary planning matters which was jointly prepared by the Combined Authority and the City Region authorities (including West Lancashire) has now been approved. This will now guide co-operation between Local Planning Authorities.

## Neighbourhood Planning

- 1.7 The Formby and Little Altcar Neighbourhood Plan was supported at a referendum held on 10th October 2019 and was 'made' (i.e. adopted) by the Council in November 2019. This now forms part of the Development Plan for Sefton.

## Other work

- 1.8 Members of the Local Plans team continue to provide policy advice on all relevant planning applications and pre-application inquiries, including large housing developments on the Local Plan allocations.
- 1.9 As a result of the Government's publication of a revised national planning policy framework, we recently reviewed our Local Plan policy approach to the provision of affordable housing, particularly as a result of new threshold and definitions that have been introduced. Slight changes to how we apply the Council's affordable housing planning policy will now be enacted, including a slight change to the tenure mix of affordable homes.
- 1.10 As part of the requirements set out in the NPPF we not only have to have a 5-year supply of deliverable housing, but we also need to ensure that we pass the 3-year Housing Delivery Test. If we do not, we have to set out an action plan indicating what steps we will undertake to address the deficit and boost the delivery of housing in Sefton. This could result in us having to review our Local Plan, which will require a major input of both financial and staff resources.
- 1.11 Last year, for the first time for many years, the Council has been able to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land. However, in the most recent Housing Delivery Test results (to March 2018) show that the Council have not delivered the number of homes required. In order to improve housing delivery going forward the Council are looking to set up a Housing Delivery Task Group

to look at what barriers there are for housing delivery and how they may be overcome. The group will hold its first meeting in the spring.

- 1.12 As part of our statutory requirements, and to ensure we meet the tests set out above, we are updating our Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment (SHLAA). This is done each year and looks at the supply of land available for housing in the borough, with the emphasis on supply in the next 5 years.
- 1.13 We are also currently undertaking an Urban Capacity Study, looking at potential development sites across the borough street by street. This will provide us with information on sites that are potentially available in the urban area and whether they are suitable for development.

## **2. Heritage and Conservation**

### Heritage at Risk

- 2.1 We are continuing to work towards the removal of the 6 Conservation Areas from the National Register. This includes a number of different work areas including raising their profile through Twitter and Facebook, regeneration funding bids, working with the local community, Conservation Area Appraisals and Management Plans, 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 and vacant sites.

### Regeneration

- 2.3 The Southport Townscape Heritage project, has now been given permission to start from the National Lottery Heritage Fund (NLHF) in accordance with the detailed second round submission. This will be delivered over the next 5 years.
- 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.
- 2.5 Work has begun on the capital grants aspect of the project with a number of site meetings with potential grantees. Further development of the

# Agenda Item 9

complementary initiatives part of the project is also underway including more detailed discussions with prospective partnerships.

## Development Management

2.6 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 75 detailed consultation responses from October - December 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.

## 2.7 Planning Policy

The draft Green Lane Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan has been out to public consultation which ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> January. Comments are being reviewed and collated with consideration being given to inclusion within the document.

## 3. **Development Management**

3.1 The pressure on this part of the Service continues with planning applications having been received for 25 of the 47 housing sites allocated in the Local Plan (approximately 4,650 homes). We expect a number of other large applications to be submitted over the next 12 months on our housing allocation sites.

3.2 Between October and December we have approved 117 units of residential accommodation (taking account of the numbers in full or 'reserved matters' applications only, and not 'outline').

The following 5 major developments were considered and approved:

Reference	Address	Proposal
DC/2019/01069	Land To The North Of Bartons Close Southport PR9 8NF	Erection of 30 dwellings
DC/2019/01164	St John Stone R C Primary School Meadow Lane Ainsdale	Erection of 47 dwellings
DC/2019/01387	Santander Uk Plc Bridle Road Netherton L30 4GB	Erection of new 20,211 sq. metre (GIA) office buildings (Use Class B1) and three pavilions



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		comprising a total of 496 sq. metres (GIA) of floorspace (Use Classes A1/A2/A3/A4/A5/D1/D2),
DC/2019/00662	Car Park Lifeboat Road Formby	Erection of four bin surrounds and three pay and display machines with associated works, works to the main and overflow car parking areas, temporary male/female and disabled toilet units and staff welfare unit
DC/2019/01602	12 King Street Southport PR8 1JZ	Change of use of the ground floor to retail (A1) and the first and second floors to 10 self-contained apartments (C3) including the erection of 2 dormers to the front elevation.

- 3.3 We have received a total of 456 applications in this time scale, including 56 pre-application enquiries.
- 3.4 The capacity of the Service is stretched by the increased pressure relating to dealing with many complex and contentious applications. It is a team effort across the Service to assess and determine applications expediently and in line with Government targets.
- 3.5 This part of the service has lost a senior member of staff during the past year which is affecting its ability to perform as effectively as possible. In May 2019 we engaged a contract planner for three months to help deal with the increased workload. We intend to recruit to our vacant post from April 2020.
- 3.6 The enforcement side of the service has been strengthened over the past year and is responding well to increased pressure and a constantly busy workload. Carl Salisbury has settled well into the Planning Officer (Trees) post and we are exploring ways in which he can work collaboratively with the Green Sefton team, offering efficiencies in how we provide this part of the Service and opportunities to generate income.
- 3.7 We continue to look for opportunities to 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 continue to explore these where we feel they lead to an improved service.
- 3.8 The National Design Guide, and any future changes to our planning guidance, will require amendments to the local validation list to ensure that applicants are clearly demonstrating how they are addressing good design, and the principles of climate change, within their proposals. This is likely to be done by seeking better quality Design and Access Statements. There are other proposals to improve the quality of design through creating a Design Panel and establishing a Design Awards scheme.

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## Enforcement update

### 3.9 Review of the quarter from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2019

- Number of complaints received: 172
- Number of complaints closed: 215
- Retrospective application fees from 24 schemes (including enforcement notice compliance checks, ground A enforcement appeal fees): £6464

## **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 is also meeting the majority of the locally set performance targets. Results for the 3rd quarter of financial year 2019/20 showed that the Team's market share remains at 73% - which is equal to or better than that of neighbouring authorities and is significantly above the average for English Councils, which stands at 67%. Given the demise of Approved Inspector, Aedis, in mid 2019, it is expected that the current level of market share will rise in the fourth quarter of 2019/20.

### Income and financial performance

4.2 Building Regulation income for the 3rd of 2019/20 is currently on target to deliver a small operating surplus - which will be used to off-set the cost of providing the statutory elements of the service such as dealing with dangerous structures, safety at sports grounds etc.

### Safety at sports grounds

4.3 As part of conditions of the Safety Certificates held by Southport FC, Marine FC and Aintree Racecourse, the Building Control Team undertakes annual inspections in order to check the grandstands are properly maintained. The inspection of the five grandstands at Aintree Racecourse were undertaken in December 2019 and the remaining inspections at Southport FC and Marine FC will be completed earlier in the new year.

### Staffing

4.4 Approval has recently been obtained to fill a vacant Building Control Officer post. Arrangements will be made to advertise, interview and appoint to co-inside with the start of the new financial year.

## Appointment of consultants

- 4.5 Following the removal of the Council’s in-house structural calculation checking facility, steps have been taken to appoint Liverpool CC as the replacement checking consultant. Arrangements are also in place to re-advertise for the Council’s emergency contractor – following the end of the current contract period with Sovini.

## 5. Technical Support

- 5.1 Performance against targets for the period of October to December 2019 is detailed below.

	Target	Aug-Oct	Oct - Dec
<b>Planning Applications Validated</b>			
Majors (within 8 days)	80%	83%	100%
Others (within 5 days)	80%	79%	74%
<b>Pre-Application Enquiries</b>			
Registered within 3 days	93%	92%	95%
<b>Land Charge Searches</b>			
Completed within 10 days	100%	97%	99%
Completed within 7 days	80%	90%	96%
<b>Building Regulation Applications</b>			
Registered within 3 days	96%	98%	96%

Overall performance has improved across the areas highlighted. Staff shortages have impacted our ability to meet all our targets. The team have been working flexibly to ensure we maintain good standards of service and minimise the impact on performance wherever possible.

There has been a significant increase in the time take to validate minor applications as a direct result of staff absence and delays in the recruitment process. Authorisation has been given to fill 1 post, although recruitment will not take place until April. The team’s performance levels, although 6% below target, were enhanced due to the introduction of paperless working.

## 5.2 Service Development

We have introduced a system to make better use of technology available to officers. From 21 October, officers within the Technical Support and Development Management teams have been dealing with planning applications electronically. Officers have undertaken training and are working well with the new system.

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Work is underway to set up a Sefton Design Review Panel and a Sefton Design Awards Ceremony. The Panel will be made up of a multi-disciplinary group of technical specialists that will review recently completed developments.

Work on the transfer of the Local land Charges Register to HM Land Registry is ongoing. An initial export of the data has been checked and an analysis of specific data issues has been compiled. Sefton have formally been included in the HMLR transfer schedule for 2020/21. The transfer will only take place once the data update and issue resolution are complete. This project will need to be resourced from existing staff with a knowledge of data requirements and standards. The completion of this project may have knock on implications for the other areas of the work of the team but it is hoped that this can be managed effectively to avoid dips in performance.