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Sefton Council 

MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)
DATE: 10 March 2020
TIME: 18:30
VENUE: Committee Room, Town Hall, Bootle

Member

Councillor
Cllr. John Sayers (Chair)
Cllr. Janis Blackburne (Vice-Chair)
Cllr. Tony Brough
Cllr. Liz Dowd
Cllr. Sean Halsall
Cllr. Daniel Lewis
Cllr. Samantha Marshall BA CIHCM
Cllr. Greg Myers
Cllr. Dave Robinson
Cllr. Yaso Sathiy

Substitute

Councillor
Cllr. Mhairi Doyle, M.B.E.
Cllr. Christine Howard
Cllr. Terry Jones
Cllr. Brenda O'Brien
Cllr. Yvonne Sayers
Cllr. Leo Evans
Cllr. Carla Thomas
Cllr. Anne Thompson
Cllr. Carran Waterfield
Cllr. David Pullin

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Olaf Hansen Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 0151 934 2067
E-mail: olaf.hansen@sefton.gov.uk

If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.

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A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested 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 3 - 10)

Minutes of the meeting held 21 January, 2020.

4. Climate Emergency - Update Report

Presentation by the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services

5. Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority - Service Delivery Plan

Presentation by the Head of Locality Services

6. Work Programme 2019/20, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

(Pages 11 - 26)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

7. Cabinet Member Reports February 2020

(Pages 27 - 78)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer



OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE BIRKDALE ROOM, TOWN HALL,
SOUTHPORT
ON TUESDAY 21ST JANUARY, 2020

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

27. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

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

28. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

29. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 November 2019 be confirmed as a correct record.

30. REVIEW OF SOCIAL HOUSING ALLOCATIONS

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing that detailed the results of an exercise to review the Social Housing Allocations policy and procedure; that provided information on the findings, recommendations and next steps arising from the review; and which sought the Committee's comments on the review.

The report indicated that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, on behalf of the 5 Local Authorities who participate in Property Pool Plus (PPP), a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings social housing allocation scheme, and St. Helens Council (who operated Under One Roof -U1R), had commissioned Neil Morland & Co (NM&Co) to carry out a review of how social rented housing was allocated across the city region; that the PPP service went 'live' in July 2012 following the introduction of a suitable IT system; and that the local authorities and participating housing associations wished to ensure that the future allocations policy was fit for purpose and supported strategic City Region wide aspirations around access to housing.

To achieve the aim referred to above the principal drivers for undertaking such a policy review included requirements that the policy:

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- was legally compliant with relevant Government legislation, in particular the recent introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, Codes of Guidance, statutory obligations and also has regard to best practice and current case law
- incorporated aims and principles which remained appropriate and relevant
- helped support and deliver good customer service and outcomes and ensured that any proposed changes improved the customer journey
- supported wider system change for homeless people, maximising the number of people in housing need who were successfully housed
- was informed by housing association partner organisation's operational and business needs, in order to promote current and future co-operation and participation in the allocation scheme

The report concluded that NM&Co had completed stage 1 of the review exercise and their report on the findings of the review were attached as an appendix to the report; and the Committee's comments on the review were sought. Neil Morland, NM&Co presented the report findings to Committee.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- the re-establishment of a post to coordinate the activities of Property Pool Plus and the potential financial implications to the Council for doing this; and procedures that could be put in place, maybe across the Liverpool City Region, to ensure continuity of service provision if there was a point of failure in one particular authority
- the inconsistent treatment of housing applicants by registered social landlords, particularly in relation to eligibility to joining the housing register where there may be a history of rent arrears but applicants have overriding needs to merit rehousing (for example due to severe health needs)

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the exercise to review the social housing allocations policy and procedures be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Economic Growth and Housing be requested to take into account the comments of the Committee as a new policy and new procedures are developed further.

31. WINTER SERVICE OPERATION

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The Committee received a presentation from Jerry McConkey, Service Manager – Transportation and Highway Infrastructure on the Council's Winter Service Policy.

Mr. McConkey indicated:

- That the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 and 58 clearly stated that the Highway Authorities had a statutory duty to maintain the highway and must at all times take reasonable care to ensure that the highway was not dangerous and that the standard of maintenance was appropriate for a highway of that character and used by such traffic; that it must also ensure that a competent person must supervise maintenance work, having received proper training with regard to the highway; and provided information on statutory guidance that must be adhered to including the release of 5 new documents in March 2018
- That in response to the statutory guidance the Council had procured a new Winter Contract; had a state of the art gritting fleet; that the gritting fleet was tracked; that the Council had a purpose built Winter Facility in Netherton; and had a long term strategy to meet the statutory requirements
- Provided information on gritting statistics which included 10 carriageway gritters covering 8 carriageway routes; that 35 tonnes of salt per call out was used covering 291 miles of carriageway; the salt storage facility for 3500 tonnes, the salt restocking agreement, and the 8 snow ploughing routes and grit bin locations
- Historical data on the number of grits per financial year
- The Policy and Operational Plan and that in the event of a major disruption a regional co-ordinating arrangement would be put in place via Gold Control, chaired by Merseyside Police with senior officer input from the Council
- Technical information relating to spreading rates; and examples of forecast summaries

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- How temperatures were predicted in areas of Sefton using thermal mapping
- Operational matters at the Bentham's Way weather station
- The relationship and performance satisfaction with the Council's contractor undertaking winter service operations

RESOLVED: That

- (1) Jerry McConkey be thanked for his informative presentation; and
- (2) the Service Manager – Transportation and Highway Infrastructure be requested to make arrangements for members of the Committee

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to undertake a visit to his service area to find out more information on the winter service operation.

32. CLIMATE EMERGENCY

The Committee considered the joint report of the Head of Corporate Resources and Executive Director that advised that at the Council, at its meeting held on 18 July 2019, agreed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency and this was attached as Appendix A to this report; that in accordance with the terms of the Council motion, work had progressed on developing a programme structure, strategy and initial implementation plan for delivery of the motion and its objectives; that in order to further inform this work, a baseline position was required across the Council of work that was currently underway or planned that could contribute to the Council achieving the aims of the motion; and that the report provided a summary of work undertaken to date and the exercise that was required to be led through each Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to establish that baseline position.

The report also advised that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee was being asked to lead an immediate piece of work for completion by the next cycle of meetings that:

- (1) conducted a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions that would inform a comprehensive council wide baseline position;
- (2) Identify all projects that were currently taking place across the council that would support the delivery of the Council's Strategy; and
- (3) Identify potential long-term issues that would need to be addressed for the Council to meet the objectives within the Council motion.

The report concluded that the output from the work referred to above should be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in March/April 2020 and be led by the respective Heads of Service in conjunction with the Committee members and Cabinet Member; and that necessary support would be available from the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Service, the Head of Corporate Resources and the Executive Director in addition to the Council wide officer working group.

The Committee also received a presentation from Stephanie Jukes, Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources and Andrew Walker, Head of Locality Services, on the background to climate change and the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration which included information on:

- Sefton's target of net zero carbon by 2030; and the establishment of a working group and its commencement of work on a strategy, action plan and partnership working

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- How Sefton quantified its emissions using the scope of the “Greenhouse Gas Protocol”
- Next steps which included most departments having now received information on the issues associated with the Climate Emergency Declaration, had been tasked with completing an initial scoping exercise and to consider further options

Mr. Walker advised the Committee that in order for the Council to meet the objectives within the Council motion each Overview and Scrutiny Committee was being asked to lead an immediate piece of work for completion by the next cycle of meetings (end of April 2020) that:

- (1) Conducted a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions that would inform a comprehensive council wide baseline position; and
- (2) Identified all projects that were currently taking place across the Council that would support the delivery of the Council’s Strategy; and Identified potential long-term issues that would need to be addressed.

and that Heads of Service were on-going with this work on behalf of the Committee.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- The suspension of the food waste collection service
- Methods to ensure that the Council’s vehicle fleet is efficient as possible to reduce carbon emissions
- Sanctions that could be applied to road haulage companies using Sefton’s highways for the pollution that their vehicles produce; and how the introduction of Clean Air Zones in Sefton could help with this
- The scope for obtaining energy from more green friendly, renewable sources
- difficulties in assessing the Council wide carbon emission baseline position
- what government funding had been provided to help the Council in achieving its climate emergency targets; and the acknowledgement that the Council had been proactive in pursuing and self-funding this agenda

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council’s agreed approach to delivering the objectives as set out in the Council motion that declared a climate emergency be noted;
- (2) the activity that will take place within the first 12 months of the

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programme be noted;

- (3) the important role of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee in delivering the Council's objectives as set out in the agreed motion and the initial work that is required to be carried out in each area of the council's activity by all Heads of Service, in order to form an initial baseline position; and that this initial work will be reported back to the next meeting of this Committee, be noted;
- (4) the Head of Corporate Resources be requested to make a further presentation to the next meeting of the Committee on the scientific background and context to climate change and the climate change declaration;
- (5) the Head of Locality Services be requested to circulate to Members of the Committee briefing papers on the introduction of Clean Air Zones; and
- (6) Stephanie Jukes and Andrew Walker be thanked for their informative presentation.

33. BOROUGH OF CULTURE 2020

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director advising that Sefton would be the Liverpool City Region's Borough of Culture for 2020 and that an outline programme and business plan had been developed for the year following consultation and engagement with partners and communities across the borough; that this feedback recommended a 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.

Members of the Committee made reference to the following which could be included in the Borough of Culture programme:

- Alan John Percivale Taylor FBA, a British historian who specialised in 19th and 20th-century European diplomacy; was a journalist and a broadcaster and who became well known through his television lectures, who was born in Birkdale
- the Labour Party Conferences held in Southport in 1930's, at the former Garrick Theatre (now the Mecca bingo hall) that supported a motion for the establishment of the National Health Service
- Dan Dare, a British science fiction comic hero, created by illustrator Frank Hampson who also wrote the first stories. Frank Hampson was educated at King George V School, a grammar school in Southport

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- Formby's Viking connection and any assistance that could be gained in this respect from the production company responsible for the HBO series "Vikings"

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Council's agreed approach to delivering the objectives of the Borough of Culture 2020 programme be noted;
- (2) the activity proposed to take place during the year, and beyond in relation to the Borough of Culture be noted; and
- (3) the Executive Director be requested to provide feedback in respect of future updates to the Committee if necessary.

34. 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; and which provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

The report also updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Town Centre Commission.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2019/20, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be approved;
- (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) in relation to (3) above, if the Government's stance changes in respect of non-hydraulic fracturing shale gas exploratory development, then the Head of Economic Growth and Housing be requested to report further to the Committee; and
- (5) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

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35. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS - NOVEMBER 2019 TO JANUARY 2020

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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Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	10 March 2020
Subject:	Work Programme 2019/20, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	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 report on Leasehold House Sales be included on the Work Programme in the next Municipal Year;
- (3) the Committee considers items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the work programme referred to in (1) above; and
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

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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:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: 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.

Contact Officer:	Olaf Hansen
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2067
Email Address:	olaf.hansen@sefton.gov.uk

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.

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

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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 **Leasehold House Sales**

The request for a report on Leasehold House sales dates back to the submission of a report to this Committee in 2017. The recommendation was for the Head of Regeneration and Housing to report back to the Committee on the outcome of the Government's consultation on measures to tackle unfair practices in the leasehold market.

The 'outcome' of the Government's consultation will be the publication of proposed legislation. Government have previously promised the introduction of new legislation, but it has never been forthcoming or published yet.

The reason it was indicated that another report would be provided at the March meeting was because that was the last one in the current municipal year, and the earliest it was expected new legislation might come forward; and there was the need to not lose sight of the need for a further report.

In reality however the O&S report will probably be one provided in the next municipal year, but it still not certain when. It is therefore recommended that he report be submitted in the next 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 March, 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 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 28 February 2020 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**

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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>

15 January 2020 – Budget Meeting

The budget meeting of LCRCAO&S was scheduled to held on 15 January 2020. However, as the meeting was inquorate it did not proceed and was subsequently re-scheduled. A private session was then held to discuss the following items and to canvass O&S Councillors' opinions:

- Mayoral Combined Authority Budget Setting Report 2020/21; and
- Review of Actions to Improve Poor Air Quality Across the Liverpool City Region.

12 February 2020 – Re-Scheduled Budget Meeting

The meeting was quorate, and the LCRCAO&S was asked to consider the business outstanding from the inquorate budget meeting scheduled to be held on 15 January 2020, namely:

- Appointment of Vice-Chair;
- Appointment to the Audit and Governance Committee 2019/20; and
- Review into the Liverpool City Region Local Enterprise Partnership.
- Task and Finish Review – Next Steps.

The Minutes of the meeting will be available in due course, using the link referred to above.

4 March 2020 - Next Meeting

The next regular meeting of the LCRCAO&S is scheduled to be held on 4 March 2020.

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

4.9 The Committee is requested to note the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

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

5.1 United Utilities

United Utilities are progressing their site selection and investigations toward deploying sustainable drainage systems measures at schools. This has led to an initial meeting between UU and Churchtown Primary School which will determine what next steps can be carried out. The project had been envisaged to be completed by the end of March 2019, but will now be extended in to the following year. Energy & Environmental Management Officers will seek further updates on progress to inform Committee when they become available.

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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
Service Operational Reports:					
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
Scrutiny Review Progress Reports:					
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		X			
Post-16 SEND Provision Working Group	X				



SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 APRIL 2020 - 31 JULY 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

- 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:-

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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 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

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
Southport Market	Mark Catherall mark.catherall@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2315
Finance Monitoring Report the Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle	Kate Edgar kate.edgar@sefton.gov.uk
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	Southport Market Future Options for Southport Market			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	2 Apr 2020 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/03/2020 to 02/04/2020. 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			

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Finance Monitoring Report the Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle Update to Members on the financial performance of Bootle Strand Shopping Centre			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	2 Apr 2020 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 05/03/2020 to 02/04/2020. Reason: to enable further internal consultations to be undertaken			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Part exempt (paragraphs 3 and 4)			
Wards Affected	Derby; Linacre			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regeneration and Skills			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Head of Corporate Resources			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings, calls and email exchanges			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Finance Monitoring Report the Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle			
Contact Officer(s) details	Kate Edgar kate.edgar@sefton.gov.uk			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Crosby Flood and Coastal Defence Scheme 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
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	scenario(s) and funding options will be presented to Cabinet for approval.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	25 Jun 2020 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 06/02/2020 to 25/06/2020. Reason: The business case for the project continues to evolve and requires more time to seek confirmation of match funding from partner organisations. This formal report will be presented to Cabinet later in 2020 once these issues have been worked through			
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 (SCIG)			
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 mark.shaw@sefton.gov.uk			

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Agenda Item 7

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee - (Regeneration and Skills)	Date of Meeting:	21 January 2020
Subject:	Cabinet Member Reports – November 2019 to January 2020		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing (Green Sefton element) Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	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?

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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:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications: 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.

Contact Officer:	Olaf Hansen
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2067
Email Address:	olaf.hansen@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing;
Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing
Cabinet Member - Locality Services;
Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control; and
Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Attached to this report, for information, are the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the Communities and Housing; Health and Wellbeing; Locality Services; Planning and Building Control; and Regeneration and Skills portfolios.

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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills – 21st January 2020)		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Patricia Hardy	Communities and Housing	10 th March 2020

NEIGHBOURHOODS AND PARTNERSHIPS

Area Co-ordination

The Community skip programmes across the borough continue to grow and are welcomed by the community.

- Netherton and Orrell programme has collected **7.84** tonnes of waste.
- Ford ward programme ended in November but is due to start a further six-month programme in February 2020.
- Church ward programme has collected **8.24** tonnes of waste.
- Manor Ward programme has so far collected **5.54** tonnes.
- The final phase of the programme in Knowsley Road and Albany Road in Southport has taken place. It was interesting to note that the skips were used more before Christmas than after. A total of 1.6 tonnes of waste were collected in the 4 skips
- A skip was placed in Preesall Close in the first week of January. This was very well used by the residents. It is hoped that this will now help address the fly tipping.

An Arson Reduction campaign has taken place in partnership with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service focusing on the streets around South Road. Kerry delivered leaflets regarding rear entry fly tipping as part of the campaign to properties in the following roads. The leaflet can be viewed by clicking on the link below: -

<https://indd.adobe.com/view/95b6950e-2291-4bde-8b49-98bfea3220b3>

- St Johns Road
- Argo Road
- Corona Road
- Lyra Road
- Norma Road
- Handfield Road
- Lorne Road
- Neville Road
- Curzon Road
- Willoughby Road
- Glendower Road

The scrambler bike project presentation event took place at Police Headquarters in Liverpool on Tuesday 4th February. Young people from five primary schools within South Sefton were invited to receive their prize for taking part in the project along with members from all three emergency services who assisted with the Road Traffic Re-enactment that was delivered in September.

Sefton Borough of Culture

A small grants funding opportunity was launched on the 16th December. We have currently received thirteen applications from group for up to £5k worth of funding. The Borough of Culture Steering group met on the 11th February to assess these applications. We have also received four application for funding between £5k -£15k. These applications will be reported to Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing to review and authorise.

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Meetings have taken place with various community organisation to help support further funding applications.

Welfare Reform

Food bank

1 April – 31 December 2019	South Sefton	Southport
Total Vouchers received	5067	1624
Adults Fed	6399	2233
Children Fed	4345	1520
Total Fed	10744	3753
Crisis Type	Low income - 2462 vouchers presented 5378 people fed	Low income – 807 vouchers presented 1796 people fed
Family Type	Single 2761 vouchers presented 54.49%	Single 770 vouchers presented 47.41%
Age group	No Data available	25 – 64 1927 people

Hate Crime

A training session was provided for school governors at Formby PDC in February. Sefton CVS have requested sessions for their staff in Waterloo and Southport.

Homelessness

Homeless presentations continue to increase. This is due to a range of issues such as austerity, the Homeless Reduction Act which contains the duty to refer and other determinants such as Private Landlord reluctance to deal with Universal Credit. As a result, the use of temporary accommodation and in turn bed and breakfast has increased. This is in line with the national picture that sees Councils in England seeing significantly more homeless households than the previous year.

The use and subsequently the cost of providing Bed & Breakfast in Sefton has risen significantly in 2019/20 compared to the previous year as temporary accommodation is constantly full and there are no other options with regards to housing individuals and families where a duty to provide accommodation lies. There has been an increase in the number of families presenting as homeless resulting in higher cost B&B accommodation being provided, where possible. This type of B&B accommodation has cooking facilities and is more like a small flat.

Housing Options

As a result of the Homeless Reduction Act the average length of time taken to complete a homeless assessment has risen from 20 minutes to 90 minutes. This means staff have less time in sourcing move-on accommodation or being more proactive with preventing homelessness.

The Early Intervention and Prevention Housing Options Advisor carries out work with cases that are pre-56 days to becoming homeless in an effort to prevent the homelessness incident from occurring. We have 2 more of these officers starting (3 in total) in the next month. This will allow better partnership working with One Vision Housing, Department for Work and Pensions as well as internal teams such as

Early Help, Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care to identify potential homeless cases at the earliest opportunity and put effective interventions in place.

An assertive outreach worker from the LCR Combined Authority is now collocated with the Housing Options Team 1 day per week. This focus of this role is to support those people leaving prison and those being discharged from hospital that require supporting with housing related needs.

YOUTH OFFENDING TEAM (YOT)

First Time Entrants (FTE)

Sefton's continues to be proactive through prevention strategies, particularly with out of court disposals and the use of Community Resolutions. FTE's are locally tracked at the end of each quarter using data from the YOT criminal justice system, local tracking shows a reduction in FTE's for all quarters for financial year 2018/19 and continued reduction comparing Q3 2018-19 with 11 FTE's and Q3 2019-20 with 9 FTE's.

Court Disposals

Court Disposal tracking also shows a reduction, during the first two quarters of 2019-20 compared with 2018-19. In Q1, 2018-19 there were 36 Court Disposals compared with 22 in Q1 2019-20 and in Q2, 2018-19 there were 34 Court Disposals compared with 24 in Q2 2019-20. Q3 2019-20 has seen a decrease with 28 court disposals compared to 40 in Q3 2018-19.

Custodial Sentences

The use of Custodial Sentences remains low in Sefton. There were 2 Custodial Sentences in 2018-19 during Q2 and there has been 1 Custodial Sentences in 2019-20 during Q3.

February Programme

Having received funding from the Merseyside Police via the Violence Reduction Partnership, YOT staff are preparing to deliver the February Programme over half term to groups of young people who are known to YOT services. The programme itself will cover a range of activities and educational sessions to increase participation in positive activities and to embed understanding around the negative impacts of crime and gang culture. YOT intend to bid for further funding so that more programmes can be delivered in the school holidays throughout the coming year.

Trauma Informed Practice

In partnership with colleagues in Public Health and Sefton CVS, Localities have secured funding to deliver Trauma Informed Practice Training. This will be delivered throughout February and March to front line staff from the Council and Partners, in addition Senior Leaders and Elected Members have been invited to a session to develop their understanding and secure their support for Sefton to become a trauma informed borough.

Princes Trust

Approximately 30 staff from the Family Wellbeing Centres and our Partners have been trained to deliver the Princes Trust programmes which are a suite of courses and workshops for young people. They offer positive activities with an education element right through to supporting young people to write CV's and prepare to apply for employment. Many of the courses award accreditations so young people can achieve at their own pace and develop friendships in a positive setting.

Youth Service

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Preparation work is underway to get Sefton ready for the Duke of Edinburgh Awards Ceremony which will take place at the Southport Convention Centre on Thursday 26th March. There will be an

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abundance of young people who have worked tirelessly throughout the year to achieve the prestigious award as recognition of hard work and commitment.

Commissioned Youth Providers

The commissioned youth providers have had a busy start to the new year and some have been able to deliver additional activities which have been funded by Merseyside Police via the Violence Reduction Partnership. They continue to deliver programmes and activities through the week across the borough supporting young people to engage and achieve in social environments.

LIBRARY & INFORMATION SERVICES

Libraries secure £10,000 grant from Lottery Heritage Fund

2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. The Library Service has secured a £10,000 grant from the Lottery Heritage Fund and £6000 matched funding from the Borough of Culture to run a variety of WWII related activities. The Library Service is developing a project to encourage community engagement and raise awareness across the borough of the impact of the conflict, particularly on Bootle. However, the conflict had consequences for each area of Sefton and the library project will seek to highlight the contribution of individual communities, which will engender pride in residents. Using a framework of a previous project, we will seek to research world War II casualties, which will be made available on an existing website for residents and researchers to use. A team of volunteers will be recruited to assist in these activities.

Award for Libraries project

In the recent Star Awards, Libraries once again secured the Chief Executives Award for outstanding team achievement. This time the library team received the award for delivering the Beyond the War Memorials Project, which received national recognition including features on it in The Guardian, BBC News, ITN news, local radio and mentions in MP speeches in the House of Commons. Heritage Lottery who funded the project were equally delighted with the project and requested the Library Service submit evidence on the impact of funding to a Parliamentary Select Committee

Pop-up exhibition space created

To support activities for the Borough of Culture, a new pop-up exhibition and event space has been created at Crosby Library. A former reserve stock room has been cleared and a major redesign of the upper floor completed to create a new space. This space has a capacity to host up to 50 people and a series of exhibition will be planned throughout the year. The first exhibition is now open which is Bootle in the Blitz. This large exhibition couldn't be hosted any other library due to its size and the subject resonates with the activities planned to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II on VJ Day on 15th August 2020.

Liverpool City Region Cultural Awards runner-up

Library staff attended the Liverpool City Region Awards recently where the Human Library Project at Bootle Library had been shortlisted from a number of submissions in the Cultural Impact Award. The project was a creditable runner up for the award, but it still demonstrates the importance of the library's role in supporting good mental health in the Bootle area.

Exhibition programme

Visitor figures for the museum and gallery increased by 9% in the last calendar year, from 106,817 in 2018 to 116,280. The calibre of last year's shows has really made an impact, and special thanks goes to the front of house staff and volunteers for encouraging visitors to explore the whole Centre.

Performing Arts Programming

The Atkinson held its annual *Kidsfest* programme during February half-term. Highlights included *Midnight* – a storytelling show celebrating the night and dreaming; *Hurrah for the Pirate King* – an interactive adventure combining Pantomime, Ballet & Opera; *Spark the Goblin Wizard* – magic rhymes and lyrics from poet Dommy B.

Public Engagement

This month's edition of *Lancashire Life* celebrates the Atkinson's Wellbeing choir under the title Harmonies for Health. The feature focuses on the health benefits of singing and includes several testimonies from participants.

Library and Information Service

Working with Sky Music Hub Southport Library is beginning an early years music project working with a regular story & rhyme time group. 'Birdy Beat' delivers training to staff and volunteers which enables them to facilitate early years sessions with children and carers to increase their understanding of how music and movement helps a child develop.

HOUSING

Liverpool City Region

I represent the Council on the Sub-Regional Housing & Spatial Planning Advisory Group, which feeds into the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority Strategic Agenda. I have been re-appointed as the Vice Chair of this Advisory Group, for 2019-20. There are number of new LA Member representatives on this Group.

I hope to use this position to have greater influence across the LCR.

The role of the CA is having a growing significance, in particular when the Govt allocate resources to the CA for the whole of the LCR. The CA are looking to work with Homes England to secure resources to help bring forward development of brownfield sites across the sub-region. We are supporting this exercise.

The CA have also been consulting on a LCR Spatial Development Plan. Together with Cabinet Member Planning and Building Control (Cllr Daren Veidman), we will be submitting a response on behalf of Sefton.

Rough Sleepers & Homeless services

I have previously reported that our 2019 formal Rough Sleeper Count identified there were 2 rough sleepers in Sefton, which compared to 11 identified in 2018. The reduction in rough sleepers in 2019 compared to 2018 can be largely attributed to the good partnership working by our commissioned services.

Over the last year we have put in place a number of interventions to assist rough sleepers in the borough. However, many of these service interventions have relied on ONE year funding allocations

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from the Government, for 2019-20. I have been concerned about our ability to sustain these service interventions going forward. In addition we submitted a further funding bid under the Government (MHCLG) Homeless Cold Weather initiative for 2019-20 winter period, which was agreed and is providing an enhanced sit up service over the current winter months.

We learnt the outcome of our funding bid for Rough Sleeper Initiative (RSI) funding 2020-21, from MHCLG, at the end of January.

The value of our allocation is the FULL value of our Bid. We thought we might receive less than we asked for, and then have to remove some elements or reduce the scope of some elements of our proposals, but this has not proved to be the case.

This funding will allow us to maintain the additional homeless rough sleeper services we put into place using the 2019-20 funds, make some adjustments to these and introduce some new elements.

The RSI funding will help fund the following service interventions.

Existing service interventions and adjustments to these

- Retain the 8 complex needs beds and support services in our 2 hostels (SSHG Leyland Rd and Bosco Lodge), but enhance the level of support service by funding greater weekend staff cover
- Maintain the Clinical Outreach Post (Nurse) provided by Merseycare.
- Retaining the existing 2 Supported Lettings workers provided by Sefton Supported Housing Group (SSHG)
- Provide three full time Navigator posts delivered by Light for Life, where currently 2 FTE and 1 Part time post has been funded.

New service interventions

- A new 'Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub' provided by SSHG- Intention is to continue using the 'Hub' at the rear of Leyland Road hostel in Southport we have used (for the Winter cold weather service) as a Somewhere Safe to Stay Hub throughout the year. The idea is that individuals can access immediately and will have a rapid assessment of needs and prioritised for resettlement. Multi-agency services could also work from the Hub in the day including Housing Options (new post), treatment services, Navigators, Rough Sleeper Outreach and DWP. The creation of this Hub will be the first of it's kind in the Liverpool City Region.
- An Additional Housing Options Officer post within the Councils Housing Options team, who would work with individuals accessing the emergency 'Hub' and those in the complex needs beds, to ensure that individuals are being assessed under the Homeless Reduction Act requirements and are having homelessness applications / Personal Housing Plan's undertaken in their community setting
- A New Psychologist Support service. Sefton's Public Health team will work with the Clinical Commissioning Groups and the current Provider of mental health services, Merseycare, to ensure that this post was incorporated into the existing management/governance structures whilst ensuring that this was a specialist provision just for the homeless services and clients – Total value £80,000.

The LCR CA are leading on the development of a **Housing First homeless initiative**. This is a Housing and Support service model for homeless people with multiple and complex needs, that existing services are unable to effectively support. Unlike a traditional homeless service approach, clients will be assisted to move directly into their own home and receive adequate support for as long as they require. This service is being rolled out on a 'test and learn' basis from July, with a full roll out of the service later this year.

The CA have recruited staff teams to deliver the test and learn phase of the service.

During the Test and Learn Phase, Sefton have utilised our Complex Needs Panel (chaired by Sefton Housing Options) to consider suitable cases and make referrals to the Housing First Service.

We submitted 19 potential cases, and to date attempts to engage with 13 are in the process; 3 are engaging with their existing support providers in order to present them with a Housing First offer; 2 are on the watch & wait list. To date 1 client has been rehoused in Sefton.

The CA originally indicated that in the Test & Learn phase they would have capacity to take 60 clients from across the Liverpool City Region. However, they are in the process of recruiting two additional support teams during the test and learn phase which will increase service capacity to 100, when we will be asked to provide additional referrals.

The CA have established a Charter with housing associations which will act as a protocol for sourcing properties for the Housing First clients.

The CA have also commissioned an outreach service, to engage with people who would be suitable for the Housing First initiative. Staff from this service spend at least one day a week with our housing options service to pick up some case load.

We have commissioned a 'pilot' temporary accommodation and support service with Riverside housing association, for homeless families who face difficulties accessing their own independent housing. This service went live from 2nd December 2019.

Housing Development Company - Sandway Homes

The Company has been operational since January 2019, with the Council's Head of Commercial acting as Managing Director. As originally planned, now that the Company is established, a recruitment process has started to find a full time Managing Director to whom the Head of Commercial can hand-over in due course.

The status of the 3 sites in Phase 1 of the Company's Business Plan (approved by Cabinet 25 July 2019) is as follows:

1. Land bordering Barton's Close, Southport: 30 houses for sale (10 Affordable Houses and 20 for open market sale):
 - a. Awaiting confirmation from HE of grant that will ensure viability – due early April
 - b. Builder selected and contract terms agreed although an exercise to identify any final opportunities for cost savings is being undertaken
 - c. Pre-commencement planning conditions discharge has commenced by the Council as land owner (with support from an independent Planning Consultant);
 - d. A license to build is now being prepared by the Council to allow the Company access to commence building work immediately on confirmation of the HE grant and scheme viability.
 - e. Works on site are scheduled to commence April 2020.
2. Land bordering Meadow Lane, Ainsdale: 48 houses for sale (16 Affordable Houses and 32 for open market sale):
 - a. Awaiting confirmation from HE of grant that will ensure viability – due early April
 - b. Builder selected and contract terms agreed although an exercise to identify any final opportunities for cost savings is being undertaken
 - c. Pre-commencement planning conditions discharge has commenced by the Council as land owner (with support from an independent Planning Consultant);
 - d. A license to build is now being prepared by the Council to allow the Company access to commence building work immediately on confirmation of the HE grant and scheme viability.
 - e. Works on site are scheduled to commence April 2020.
3. Land bordering Buckley Hill Lane in Netherton:
 - a. Initial outline designs are being reviewed following pre-planning feedback from the Planning Authority resulting in the original scheme being unviable.
 - b. Support from the Planning Authority for an increase in density and changes to housing type mix has allowed 2 new options to be brought forward. The preferred scheme design will be considered by Company Board in February
 - c. Planning application due to be submitted end April 2020
 - d. Works on site are scheduled to start September 2020.

Private Rented Sector Licencing

Our 3 private landlord licensing schemes went live on the 1st of March 2018- focusing on the licensing of all private landlords in Bootle, but developing stronger 'Additional HMO' licensing schemes to cover more types of HMO properties for Southport and Page 37.

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We have been actively promoting these schemes to ensure as many landlords as possible apply for Licenses. We have been writing to landlords who have not applied for licenses to inform them to do so, as we uncover unlicensed properties. Final warning letters have been sent out in relation to unlicensed premises. The majority of these have or are now in the process of making an application. Further investigative work is being undertaken on those that have not submitted applications and these will then be considered for enforcement action (Prosecution or Civil Penalty).

As at early January, the numbers of full applications is 2550 (previous report 2370) received and partially completed applications of 489 takes the total application figures up to 3039 (previous 2743), which is a greater number of premises than the 3,000 we anticipated would require a licence; mainly due to a greater number of additional HMO properties than anticipated..

We have had some staff turnover over recent months, reducing the capacity within the Housing Standards Team. We have recently carried out Licensing Compliance officer recruitment to 3 vacant posts. Staff began to start in post during October.

Officers have carried out and planned 755 compliance visits (previous report was 550). 45% of properties inspected have been fully compliant on 1st inspection. This figure continues to drop from an initial 49%, as the properties that we are now inspecting are not just those requesting/achieving accreditation, so there are more issues/deficiencies being identified. Where we uncover non-compliance, informal action is taken to give the landlord opportunity to remedy the issues identified. There is a requirement to revisit these properties to ensure compliance, resulting in a higher number of property visits staff have to undertake. Of the 55% non-compliant on first inspection, over 90% were fully compliant on 2nd visit.

We have worked with the Anti-social behaviour team and police who have identified some problematic properties in relation to ASB. These properties will be a priority for enforcement for either not having a licence or not complying with the ASB licensing condition.

Over 300 final warning letters have been sent out in relation to unlicensed premises. The majority of these have or are now in the process of making an application. We are finding that it is often the case that if we identify one unlicensed property we uncover that the landlord has more. Several properties are at the "Intention to serve" status for Civil Penalty action and Compliance officers are working through the policy to determine level of fines for each. It is anticipated that the numbers of enforcement action in the form of Civil Penalties or prosecution will steadily increase.

Any properties that are identified as having poor housing conditions, from the receipt of a complaint and do not have a licence application will be prioritised for enforcement action.

We have recently been successful in securing a Rent Repayment Order. The total monies we will recover is £13,293 in Housing Benefit paid to the landlord whilst the properties were unlicensed. Recovered funds will come to the Service to be spent on housing enforcement activities. An annual report on our Licensing schemes will be submitted to this Committee in due course.

Extra Care Housing

At its meeting in March 2019, Cabinet considered a report about the future provision of extra care housing for older residents. Together with Councillor Cummins, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, I will seek to oversee the work required on the Council's approach to Extra Care Housing. Extra Care Housing has been identified as a model which helps people to live independently at home for longer, thereby either delaying or preventing the need for long-term residential care and helps people to remain well, therefore avoiding Hospital admissions.

We have agreed to fund an additional staff post to lead on this piece of work. Recruitment has been undertaken and we have someone in post since January.

I have recently reviewed information about social housing allocations and lettings. The total number of applicants on the Housing Register is currently 5963, and by Priority Band the largest numbers of applicants are in Band B (30%) and Band E (31%). Looking at bedroom requirements, the largest numbers require 1 bedroom accommodation (57%) and 2 bedrooms (29%).

For comparison purposes, the Total numbers of applicants from the Housing Register at June 2015 was 3929; hence we have seen a significant increase (52%) in the total numbers of applicants since then. However, the distribution of bedroom size needs has broadly remained the same.

In terms of Number of properties becoming available, the number of properties becoming available to let and advertised via the Property Pool Plus (PPP) Allocations service, over Quarter 1 (April to June) 2019, shows the average number of applicants making bids for properties which become available is; 45 bidding for 1 bedroom properties, 59 for 2 bedroom, 109 for 3 bedroom, and 78 for 4 bedroom properties.

Sefton participates in the Property Pool Plus scheme along with Liverpool, Wirral, Knowsley and Halton Councils, as well as the participating housing associations. The Local Authorities have collectively agreed to review the current Policy and associated service arrangements. An external consultant (Neil Morland & Co) has been appointed to undertake this exercise, which began in August and will take place over the following 9 to 12 months. The consultant attended this Committees meeting in January, to share results of the review and some of the recommendations being considered. The consultant is sharing these recommendations with all of the participating LAs to gauge reaction to them. Consultations will also be carried out with participating housing associations.

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

Green Sefton

Green Sefton provide Cabinet Member a monthly update on each area of the service in turn, and have been sharing these wider since January. These have been developed into a simple newsletter format and have been shared initially with all ward Councillors, and then subsequently with Friends and other volunteer groups, sports and recreation groups, and other partner organisations.

Feedback has been positive on this improved, and open, style of communication, and these are attached as an update for this committee also.

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 Management 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)

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- 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
- 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)
- The Good Business festival (incl coast themed focus for conference)

More detail on all of the above can be found on the attached newsletters, and officers are more than happy to discuss any of the issues further as requested.

Hello, and welcome to our first Green Sefton newsletter!

Green Sefton provides 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.

The service manages circa 6,500ha of the landscape of the borough (32% of the borough, equivalent to 7,800 football pitches!) – its beautiful coast with protected sites, to a range of parks, greenspaces, outdoor sports and recreational sites, allotments, street trees etc.

This landscape defines Sefton, and is treasured by our communities and visitors alike – as the 2030 vision highlights

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](#)

We hope you enjoy reading about this months focussed service area: our Development Team, and would be happy to get comments for future editions...

Mark Shaw
Service Manager – Green Sefton



Agenda Item 7

THE DEVELOPMENT TEAM

The Development team is made of: the Flood and Coastal Risk Management team (who monitor and manage inland and coastal flooding, coastal defences etc), and the Development team, (who lead on innovation within the service, seeking new funding mechanisms, and developing capital improvement projects):

September flooding

Prolonged heavy rainfall led to widespread flooding across the borough. Areas affected worst affected were Sefton Lane and Drive, (Maghull), Hall Road East (Crosby) and several roads around Botanic Gardens (Churchtown).

Sefton Council led the coordination of works, at Sefton Lane, with 15t of sandbags delivered to reinforce a bank that was being overtopped. Sefton Council's emergency planning team also sourced alternative accommodation for residents as the flood water threatened their properties. Flooding on Hall Road East and around Botanic Gardens was dealt with by United Utilities.

Parks Concessions

We are looking for new ideas that will benefit the local community and visitors on our land, and in our empty buildings. Following a call for expression of interest in October for concessions across parks and green spaces in Sefton we received 9 new responses that we are currently exploring.

Improvements to the Planning Process for flood risk assessments

We have led on the development of a 'sustainable drainage' proforma for developers that sets out all the information required by the Council to undertake its flood risk assessment of major developments; [view here](#). This proforma is now being promoted by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee for all areas in the north west as best practice.



Sandbags diverting flows away from properties

Green Sefton supporting the Council's Climate Emergency

The Council declared a climate emergency this summer and has made a commitment to reduce the Council's impact on the climate [View details here](#). The strategy is being developed to address the challenges raised in the motion with staff from Green Sefton on the project team to deliver this.

Sites within the Green Sefton portfolio already play an important role in absorbing carbon, and options are being explored to see if this can be increased along with wider environmental benefits. Sefton's street trees, managed by Green Sefton, also support carbon storage as well as absorbing some pollutants.

Buckley Hill playing field overflow car park

The overflow car park has experienced significant damage over the last few weeks due to the ground churning up following the prolonged wet weather. Options are being developed to repair the damage.

Crosby Flood and Coast Protection Scheme

Work continues to progress this major scheme with the main focus being the development of the business case to secure funding. There have been uncertainties in the cost estimates of the construction phase of the scheme, given this we have engaged with a contractor through an Environment Agency framework to undertake a price review, the outputs from this are due in mid December.

The inland flood reduction element will look at separating combined drainage systems and exploring using park and school grounds for temporary flood storage. These elements are still to undergo detailed design, along side this there will be extensive consultation.



Hall Road, Crosby Coastal Park

The Pool, Crossens

Work continues to progress the scheme with the main focus being the development of the business case to secure funding. Options for deculverting piped watercourses, separating combined systems and attenuation are being investigated.

Another Place, Crosby Beach

The service facilitated the works to repair the foundation piles of the statues on the valuable, protected coastline. Roughly half of the statues have been repaired with the rest to be completed in the next working window between April and June 2020.



New play equipment in rainbow park

Rainbow Park

Design work has taken place to update the outline masterplan for the park, including changes requested by community. Jayne Foat, Community Ranger, has subsequently met with the friends group and will report back on developments. Mersey Forest has agreed to include the park within their tree planting programme for next year to allow the creation of a new community woodland within the site.

Works to refurbish the play area by replacing most of the existing equipment along with replacing most of the safer surfacing as phase 1, are almost complete.



Assessing the piles prior to the work

STAR AWARDS 2019

The Special Thanks and Recognition (STAR) awards celebrate council staff's achievements during the year. The staff who attended this year's ceremony on behalf of Green Sefton all said it was a great way to see and hear positive stories from across the wider council, and were delighted to have been nominated.

The nominations for Green Sefton were:

Apprentice of the Year:

Josh Laidler
Joe Kennedy

Locality and Community award:

Andrew Martin and Michelle Barnes (for flooding response at Dovers Brook)

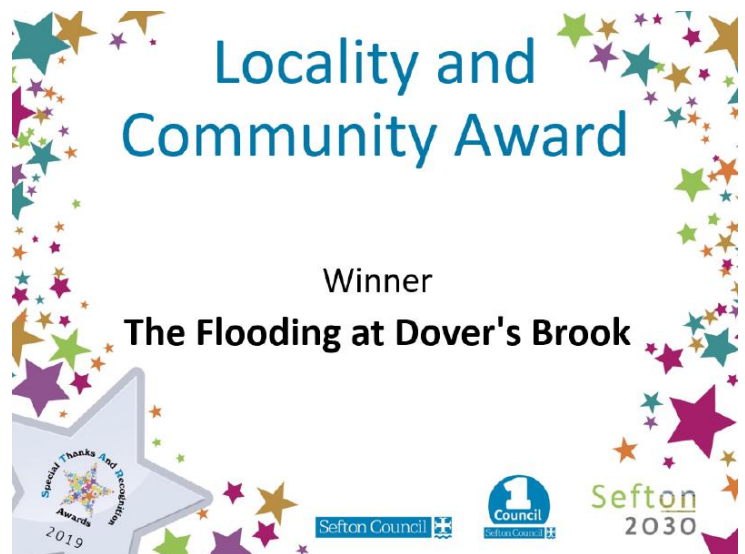
Mayors award:

Andrew Martin
Mark Shaw

New Realities award (as nominated by the public and external partners)

John Dempsey (nominated by Nick Thompson)
Suzanne McCumiskey (nominated by Friends of Merrilocks Park)
Green Sefton Team, and Crosby Rangers (nominated by Hightown Beach Clean Group)
Green Sefton team (nominated by CVS)

The above are a great list of acknowledging some of the amazing work done by all across the year. The nominations from external partners are especially encouraging.



Well done to all for the nominations, but I am delighted to say a particular **congratulations to Andy and Michelle who won the Locality and Community award!** The One Council team had prepared a short film to outline the story behind this nomination. [view the video here.](#)

Mark



Contact details:

greensefton@sefton.gov

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0151 934 2961

green
Sefton

Sefton Council

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Hello, and welcome to our first Green Sefton newsletter of 2020. We hope you had a great festive break and are looking forward to a happy and healthy New Year out and about with us in Green Sefton.

We hope you enjoy reading about this month's focussed service area, our **Community & Resources Team**, and would be happy to get comments for future editions...

Mark Shaw
Service Manager – Green Sefton



Bulb planting at Botanic Gardens -
Churchtown Primary School

Green Sefton Community & Resources Team.....

Community Engagement Team – engagement with our communities and visitors, led by Suzanne McCumiskey;

Facilities and Resources Team – managing and maintaining our recreational and built facilities, led by Dave Thompson;

Tree and Woodland Team – managing and maintaining Council trees across the Borough, led by Judith Burgess;

Information & Technical Team – data, technical and communications support for the whole of Green Sefton, led by Louise Wilson

The Community Engagement

Team aim to encourage, support, develop and celebrate community involvement in all areas of Green Sefton's work:

Volunteering and Green Sefton

We record the number of volunteer hours contributed by groups and individuals and this is a good indicator of the community activity in our green spaces.

We really appreciate any information and feedback from volunteers and groups as this helps inform and prioritise operational activities and support / engagement.

Last year over 44,000 hours were contributed by our wonderful groups (not including sports leagues and clubs), individually and working with the Community Rangers and Natural Alternatives on a vast range of events and projects, from beach cleans to bedding out, counting livestock to supporting food growing.

Corporate supporters this autumn, including Santander and Sefton Council's own volunteers, have helped clear invasive scrub from our precious dune habitat, tidy ponds and winter gardening tasks in our parks.

Green Sefton 'Friends' Forum'

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.

Supporting Funding Applications

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. Wow!

Celebrating Success

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.

This year's full list of winners can be found via the links above but here's a summary:

31 'It's Your Neighbourhood' Entries, 13 of which were classed as 'outstanding'

4 NWIB Town Entries

- Ainsdale in Bloom - Gold Medal
- Bootle in Bloom - Bronze Medal (fantastic result for their first year)
- Crosby and Waterloo in Bloom- Silver Gilt Medal
- Southport in Bloom- Gold Medal

6 Discretionary Awards

- Chairman's Award for 'Lifetime Achievement' went to Brenda Porter
- St Luke's Church,
- Boyer Court Garden Club, Maghull - Outstanding Neighbourhood Award
- Friends of Rotten Row, Southport - *National Certificate of Distinction Best Small Neighbourhood Award *Community Champion Award
- Botanic Gardens Community Association, Southport - *City of Liverpool Silver Trophy for The Best Large Neighbourhood Entry *The Helena Homes Best Overall Neighbourhood Entry Award Silver Trophy, *RHS Parks Award
- Waterloo Forest Garden - Gardening in a Changing Climate Award



Borough of Culture 2020

We are proud to be doing our bit across Greens Sefton to promote Sefton as the LCR [Borough of Culture](#) in 2020. The year kicked off with the Constellations event in November at Crosby Coastal Park.

Sefton Council staff spent a chilly but fruitful few hours clearing invasive Sea Buckthorn from the dunes at Ainsdale, a positive contribution to conserving our coastal culture. Baked potatoes were a well deserved reward.

The Community Rangers have also been busy planting bulbs with school children across the Borough as part of our 'Spring Bulb for Every Child' legacy project. 17 schools and 3 community groups have taken part over 19 sites. We look forward to seeing the colourful results of their hard work this and future spring months.



St Edmund & St Thomas
Primary pupils planting bulbs at
Victoria Park

Other Green Sefton BoC events to look out for:

- **Ainsdale Coast Mosaic Art Project with Friends of Ainsdale Beach**
- **Allotment Food Festival**
- **Bootle Heritage Trail**
- **Derby Park 125th Anniversary Celebration with Friends of Derby Park**
- **Green Blitz**
- **Heritage walks and talks**

A Fitting End to the Year of the Environment

During the Year of the Environment, over 125 partners contributed, organising over 500 events and engaging more than 28,500 people from communities across the Liverpool City Region in a range of activities and events. These involved countless volunteers and professional colleagues – healthy walks and cycling, clean-ups of parks, green spaces and beaches, wildlife observation and conservation, conferences, listening events, workshops, meetings, debates, competitions and academic publications.

One of the high points in Sefton was the Green Sefton YOE day at Southport Eco Centre, which saw over 800 people pass through to take in a variety of stands and attractions. <http://yoe2019lcr.org.uk/>

Keep up with us on Social Media

Green Sefton have over 3000 followers reaching 16,000 people on Facebook and 632 followers and over 60,000 impressions on Twitter.

Still want more? You can catch John Dempsey's weekly column in 'The Visitor' and Chris Tynan on Radio Merseyside as well as through the Council's media outlets

Natural Alternatives Going from Strength to Strength

Green Sefton's long running inclusion programme, for adults and young people with additional needs, offers a safe, secure and challenging environment for participants.

The Natural Alternatives Team undertake conservation, access, horticulture and small maintenance works across Green Sefton on a project basis.

Since September, they have contributed 5,852 hours helping 'Friends of', 'In Bloom' groups and the wider team tidying leaf litter, edging paths, clearing and burning scrub, making and installing planters and other furniture.

Pictured here, the team receiving an award at the recent volunteer celebration event from Mayor of Sefton, Cllr June Burns.

The Team also raised over £200 for the Mayor's Charity selling homemade natural Christmas Decorations – you may have spotted them out and about.



Natural Alternatives receiving their Award

The Facilities Management & Development Team engage with the community to manage and maintain Green Sefton's recreational facilities and ensure best use of all our assets from golf courses and allotments to buildings, football and other sports pitches, play areas and more.

Managing Land & Premises

Green Sefton is responsible for over 90 buildings and associated land and infrastructure. Many of these are leased or under licenced agreements with community groups and other organisations.

We now have many self management arrangements in place, helping to meet the not inconsiderable upkeep of these premises to ensure they are compliant with all statutory testing, utilities costs and non-routine repair and maintenance.

Green Flags Keep Flying

Sefton's parks and greenspaces will be flying the flag again following success in the GFA and Community Green Flag Awards.

Green Flag Award :

King's Garden - Sefton Council

Green Flag Community Award :

Bridge Inn Community Farm Bridge

Edda Community Arts & Library

Seaforth Green - Emmaus Merseyside

Ainsdale Village Park - Friends of AVP

Rotten Row - Friends of Rotten Row

South Park Community Garden - Friends of South Park

St Luke's Church Grounds - St Luke's Crosby

North Park Community Garden - The Gateway Collective

Allotment Strategy in Preparation

Green Sefton directly manage [Allotments](#) with some under self-management arrangements by Allotment Societies.

The Facilities Team have recently met with Councillors and Cabinet Members to begin formulating a new Allotment Strategy to tackle the various issues facing our allotments; from day to day maintenance to the impacts of climate change as part of our 2030 Vision. One of the biggest challenges this autumn has been the level of rain, leading to localised flooding on a number of sites. This has highlighted potential projects with our FCERM and Land Management teams.

Engagement with tenants is key, to ensure allotments are safe, secure and contribute to improving the health and well-being of our residents and communities.

Focus on Play & Repairs Team

Green Sefton's four strong Play and Repairs Team undertake a range of jobs from unblocking toilets to repairing gates to refurbishing playground equipment, to installing seats.



The talented team are responsible for undertaking routine safety checks on all 106 play facilities across the Borough (and are able to inspect playgrounds for other organisations at a cost).



The team are also closely involved in the design, procurement and installation of new items of equipment.

Seen here, keeping play surfaces hazard free.

Using appropriate software to record the inspections, they are able to make decisions on whether items can be repaired and undertake the works as required. In some instances, items have to be removed as they only have a limited lifespan. Working with the Development Team to draw down capital funding, seven playgrounds have been fully or partially upgraded in 2019/20.

An annual independent survey is underway which will provide information on the condition and projected lifespan allowing us to more accurately plan and cost for the future.

Playing Golf

Green Sefton manages the two [Municipal Golf Courses](#) at Southport and Bootle

Day to day management of the course is carried out by the Land Management Team, whilst the Facilities Team is responsible for managing the Golf Shops and developing the golf offer for customers.

Plans for improvements at Bootle Golf, being led by the Development Team, will be informed by the results of the recent consultation exercise.

The Tree & Woodland Team monitor and manage the Council's 90,000 highway, park and coast trees.

Green Sefton's three tree officers undertake a rolling programme of [Council Trees](#) inspections and oversee the Council's arboricultural contract with Id Verde.

Priority is given to health and safety works on highway trees, as these pose the highest risk to people and property. By ensuring all trees are routinely inspected every 3 to 5 years, the risk from dead and decaying trees is reduced greatly.

Winter Planting Programme

The Tree Team are working towards planting around 300 trees this winter across the Borough's highways. This planting more than replaces those lost over time with locations being agreed with highways officers and ward members. In the last three years, around 700 trees have sadly needed to be removed, but over 900 have been replanted

Funding comes from a variety of sources including Area Committee and Parish Councils. Sefton council has also been successful in securing funding from the Urban Tree Challenge Fund (UTC), developed in response to the government's commitment to provide £10 million for planting both large and small trees in and around towns and cities in England, Delivered by the Forestry Commission as part of their work to expand woodlands and tree cover across England, they plan to plant one million urban trees by 2022.

We have been successful in securing £17,565 (out of the £48,572 we applied for) The funding will see a minimum of
 16 trees planted in Victoria Ward Area
 12 trees planted in St Oswald's Ward Area
 12 trees planted in Kew Ward area

Information Sharing

There has been increased interest in the Team's work following the announcement of a climate emergency by Sefton Council. The Tree and Woodland team will be briefing Councillors with regards to current practices in January. We hope this will lead to developing a jointly agreed approach for the management of our tree stock in the future.

Trees for Learning

The 'Trees for Learning' scheme is 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.

Green Sefton is helping to deliver a part of the Trees for Learning scheme, being coordinated by [The Mersey Forest](#) (TMF). The TFL scheme will continue to run January - March 2020 at a number of schools and greenspaces in Sefton. Concentrating more on woodland (whip) planting, this will add further to the total number and cover of trees planted in the Borough this winter.

Contact details:

greensefton@sefton.gov Page 55

0151 934 2961

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Hello, and welcome to our second Green Sefton newsletter of 2020. Spring is fast approaching and we hope you are looking forward to the chance to get out and about with us in Green Sefton.

We hope you enjoy reading about this month's focussed service area, our **Land Management Team**, and would be happy to get comments for future editions...

Mark Shaw
Service Manager – Green Sefton



Rainbow over Ainsdale Beach

Green Sefton - Land Management Team

Maintenance Team – day to day grounds maintenance of: parks & greenspaces, golf courses, sports facilities (football, rugby, bowls), litter, bins and cleansing, horticultural (shrubs, roses & seasonal planting) hands on and logistical support for Friends of Groups and volunteers. All led by Stephen Howe

Countryside Team – managing and maintaining our coastal sites, beaches, and designated nature reserves for habitat and species conservation, beach car parking (seasonal), beach safety, coastal partnerships, hands on and logistical support for Friends of Groups and volunteers. All led by Gordon White



The Land Management Team aims to optimise the use of the available human and natural resources in pursuit of quality maintenance, the safe use of, and the ongoing development and improvement of all the parks, nature reserves, golf courses, beaches and other land under the care of Green Sefton:

Maintenance in Green Sefton

Grounds maintenance in Sefton is a huge undertaking with over 6,500ha of land that requires varying degrees of care, from intensive fine turf maintenance on our golf courses through to sensitive, habitat improvement and conservation work on our Local Nature Reserves & SSSI's (Site of Special Scientific Interest)

Works are undertaken by our core Land Management Team of 39 supported by additional seasonal staff (5 in the Winter & 28 in the Summer)

The Land Management Team have supported the development of the Green Sefton service plan, outlining 46 key work streams that are required to deliver our objectives and to contribute towards the Council's 2030 vision.

All maintenance tasks undertaken are recorded on site inspection record sheets. These provide an essential record of work tasks completed, which help us to evidence our progress and outputs, and to better understand how we can optimise our limited resources.

Winter works – Grounds Maintenance

Winter works are normally carried out once the grass cutting season has finished. Although weather dependant, this is normally between mid-November and mid-March when we will gear up for the following season's core maintenance.

Although we aim to tidy each site, priority is given to areas that are more in focus, either through concerns raised by external bodies (police, councillors etc.) or parks & open spaces that are considered high profile. The main body of work is often shrub reduction that improve sight lines at main entrances and in areas we are aware that ASB (anti-social behaviour) occurs. We work closely with our Communities Team and offer support to the Friends of Groups during their volunteering sessions. Sites that have been highlighted this Winter include Derby Park in Bootle, Victoria & Moorside Park in Crosby, Kings Gardens, Hesketh Park & Bedford Park in Southport.

We also consider extra works to help other council teams (e.g. Tourism) or external customers (e.g. schools & wellbeing centres). This year has seen an increase in external requests which will be essential in building a commercial wing of the Land Management Team. Examples of these works are behind Matalan & Dunelm in Southport, Christ the King High School, also in Southport, and Greenacre Nursery in Bootle.

We also have ongoing core grounds maintenance works to do throughout Winter; leaf & litter clearance, and those that are related to our sports pitches (football & rugby pitch marking and repairs, and bowling green renovations)



Winter Works – HLS Funded (Higher Level Stewardship)

Higher Level Stewardship is an external fund that enables Green Sefton to carry out essential habitat improvement work that Sefton Council is obligated to do in the protected landscapes of the Sefton Coast Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Some areas of the SSSI are in worse condition than others and these are the areas where we concentrate the efforts of a small team of skilled staff (funded through the HLS scheme) to help conserve important species like Sand Lizards and Natterjack Toads.

Assisted by core Ranger staff from the Land Management Team, these are the small team of five people this winter, that you may have seen out in all weathers along the Coast Road with chain saws and brush cutters, selectively clearing areas of undergrowth and scrub on the important sand dune habitats.

Having spent the first half of the Winter working on Falklands Way in Ainsdale, after Christmas, the team moved onto Birkdale Local Nature Reserve at several locations where conservation and habitat improvements will be made. This will involve removing invasive species such as Sea Buckthorn and Grey Willow from the low lying areas or slacks amongst the sand dunes.

The HLS funding expires after next winter (2020-21) and at present there is no substitute for it. When it becomes clearer, we will submit an application for further funds to continue the essential work that we have been able to do during the last 9 years at those areas that are in the most demanding condition in terms of the quality of their environment.



Natterjack Toad

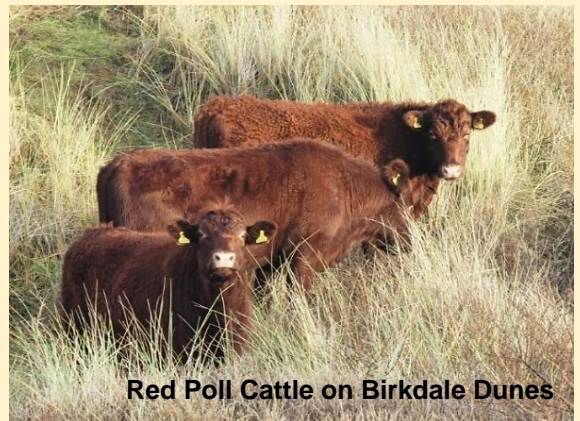
Sand Lizard



Further support for improving the important habitats comes from conservation volunteers like the Buckthorn Bashers and the Sefton Wood Allotment Association. These groups of volunteers work for us in sensitive habitat locations and make an excellent contribution to improving the environmental quality of the protected landscapes within the Sefton Coast SSSI, by removing biomass in line with the conservation objectives set out for the SSSI by central government.

Grazing Animals

The HLS funds also help us to host the grazing animals that we use on the dune habitats and Ainsdale and Birkdale Local Nature Reserves. We have three separate grazing enclosures, one holds 25 Herdwick sheep – these are hardy sheep that are brought to the coast for the winter from the Cumbrian fells and are part of a much larger flock that grazes Natural England's National Nature Reserve next door. The other two enclosures both have Redpoll cattle that are part of a herd based in Cheshire.



Red Poll Cattle on Birkdale Dunes

During checks on animal welfare over the Christmas holidays, we discovered that one of the Redpoll cattle had died. We have had sheep die whilst grazing on our land before but this was the first time a cow had passed away. As it was just one individual, it did not suggest any wider illness that might have affected the rest of the animals within the group. Arrangements were made with Rangers from the Land Management Team to remove the carcass, which in itself was quite a challenge due to the isolated location and rough ground conditions.

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Sports Turf and Pitches

We have a small team of six who (on top of other core duties) are responsible for our sports maintenance;



Football

The Land Management Team continues to maintain sports pitches throughout the borough, and works closely with league representatives and individual clubs with their requirements.

During the season the team maintain 62 adult/junior football pitches facilitating up to 124 fixtures per week - an amazing 4,216 games per year! Not bad considering the Premier league only manage 760...

Football is borough wide, and caters for a number of teams and leagues playing at large sites such as Buckley Hill, Deansgate Lane and Meols Park, to smaller sites such as Duke St Park, Smithy Green, Portland St etc. We are also responsible for the pitches at Litherland Sports Park and Netherton Activity Centre for Sefton's Sport & Rec. team.

Bowls

We maintain 7 bowling greens throughout the borough; Botanic Gardens (x2), Duke St Park, Derby Park, Coronation Park and Hatton Hill Park (x2).

We also offer support to Kings Gardens and Sandbrook Rd bowls clubs when requested.

Bowls maintenance is paid for exclusively by the clubs to either Gold, Silver or Bronze standard. Most clubs opt for Silver standard with occasional additional works depending upon their requirements.

In addition to these, we maintain the rugby pitches at Waterloo Rd, baseball at Bootle stadium, and athletics at the LSP.

Golf

We have a small team of 6 who are responsible for the Greenkeeping and grounds maintenance of our 2 municipal golf courses.

We are pleased to announce that John Peterson has been appointed as our new Assistant Head Greenkeeper, operating between Bootle and Southport Golf Courses. John has come from a sports turf background and will not only be a welcome addition to the Greenkeeping team, but also to the wider Land Management Team..

Both golf courses continue to be maintained to a high standard within the resources available, which is a credit to the greenkeepers and artisan volunteers.



Golfers enjoying a competition at Bootle Golf Course

Recruitment

'Seasonal staffing increases the core workforce in the Land Management Team by 46% each summer'

Seasonal staff 2020

We are now ramping up our efforts in relation to recruiting the 2020 tranche of summer seasonal staff. Adverts went out in mid January and by the time this newsletter is available, we will have done the shortlisting and be close to the interviews/gathering references phase, so that we are able to get people into their summer roles for the 1st April. Anyone who might be interested in working for Green Sefton should keep a close eye on Sefton's vacancies page at [Sefton MBC Vacancies page](#) for further information.

The summer seasonal staff are essential to the teams as they provide support when our sites are busiest: for site presentation, grass cutting, collecting litter and emptying litter bins and also collecting income from the beach car parks. As we all know, the coast can get extremely busy whenever the weather is good. This does not only apply to the summer but also to the Spring, sometimes right through to October and also at winter holiday times like Christmas, Easter and half terms.

Apprenticeships

The Green Sefton Land Management Team has been able to support four apprentices since Green Sefton's inception. One of our first apprentices, Joe Kennedy, has progressed into a full time job with us as a tractor driver working throughout the borough on parks, sports pitches and other areas of amenity grassland, like those at Crosby Coastal Park. After Joe was appointed to his new job, we recruited another apprentice, Mark Purcell, onto the scheme. He starts to study for a Level 2 qualification in Horticulture with support from ourselves and Myerscough College, and alongside the other two apprentices – Craig Halsall and Dave Bartlett.

A new round of apprentices are soon to be appointed to the Land Management Team's operations across all the work areas.

They will spend time and gain experiences with the coast teams, the green keepers at the golf courses and the parks grounds maintenance teams. Again if you know anyone who might be interested in these Apprenticeships, please ask them to keep an eye open on the Council's vacancies page at [Sefton MBC Vacancies page](#) for further information.

Pathway work experience

The Land Management Team took on a Pathway Placement during the early part of winter 2019. This was a short placement, but one with a lot of promise. The young placement worked really well with all the teams. He spent time with the HLS Ranger team and at Ainsdale Discovery Centre as well as with the Ranger team for Hightown, Crosby and Rimrose Valley. The experience that he gained by spending time with us has helped him to gain confidence and expand his skills so that he can look forward to future successes in the world of employment.

We are pleased to announce that the next phase of this programme will see another 6 placements joining the Land Management Team in the spring which has been coordinated to coincide with the seasonal staffing recruitment. It is hoped that a number of these placements may go on to become future team members.

The placements will be across the Borough working from Hesketh Park, Ainsdale Discovery Centre and Cambridge Road and will work alongside the core maintenance team and apprentices on a range of basic maintenance duties.

We are delighted that one of our full time members of staff (who has worked through from being a volunteer, to seasonal employee, to apprenticeship and now full time member of staff), will be acting as a mentor providing valuable insights into his experiences.

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Projects

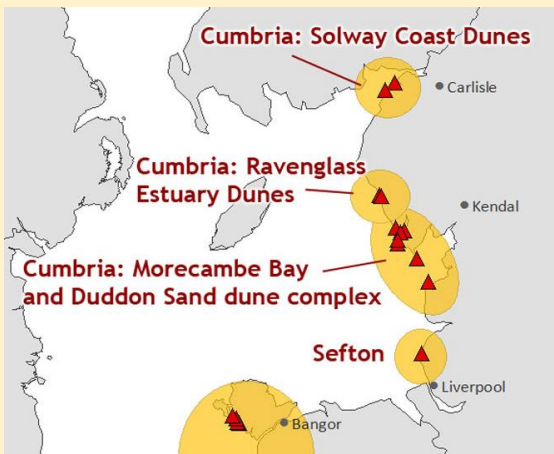
ECP – England Coast Path

The England Coast Path is a new national trail being created by Natural England. For the first time people will have the right of access around all our open coast both along the England Coast Path, and usually, over the associated 'coastal margin'.

Green Sefton's Land Management Team are working in close partnership with Natural England and other departments of Sefton Council to deliver the infrastructure of the England Coast Path in Sefton, the only Authority in the UK to do so!. We hope that this will involve being able to act like a contractor to prepare and install all the way markers and fingerposts associated with the path throughout the Borough. We are well placed to do this with our workshop at Ainsdale, our Apprentices and also the Natural Alternatives team based at Ainsdale.

Dynamic Dunescapes

Dynamic Dunescapes is a fantastic new project to restore sand dunes across England and Wales for the benefit of people, communities and wildlife. The Dynamic Dunescapes project is big and ambitious – targeting some of the most important sand dune systems across England and Wales, including the Sefton Coast. The project will work with schools and local groups, volunteers and visitors of all ages and abilities to create more bare sand which will breathe life into the dunes and allow the threatened wildlife to flourish.



Dynamic Dunescapes key project locations - NW

The project aims to:

- Restore sand dunes by carrying out pioneering conservation actions to create areas of remobilised open sand and to remove invasive non-native species like Japanese Rose and Sea Buckthorn
- Raise awareness that healthy dunes need moving sand
- Encourage more people to explore, enjoy, and help protect the dunes through a programme of innovative public engagement and citizen science events and activities
- Develop skills to manage dunes better, both now and in the future



Dynamic Dunescapes will launch in 2020 and there will be plenty of opportunities to be involved so you can help bring our sand dunes back to health. Follow them on Twitter or sign up to their mailing list to keep updated on progress. There is lots more information at [Dynamic Dunescapes](#)



Site Inspection and Monitoring

Monitoring has always been an integral part of Land Management.

We do not have the capacity to return to how we monitored previously, the intention is to site visit a number of parks every other month. Any concerns resulting from these visits are then forwarded to the respective teams, and work requests issued. At the same time, a basic scoring method is used, and quality can be gauged from this. This will also help with any claim mitigation that is presented to us, as it would also detail any notable defects to non-Land Management Team work areas.

Parks identified at present to be monitored are those higher profile/ most visited sites across the borough:

- Southport - Botanic Gardens, Hesketh Park, Lord St Gardens, Kings Gardens and Promenade, Crossens Community Park, Bedford Park and Ainsdale Village Park
- Formby – Duke St Park and Deansgate Lane
- Crosby & Waterloo – Moorside Park, Victoria Park, Coronation Park, Seafront Gardens and Potters Barn
- Litherland, Seaforth and Netherton – Hatton Hill Park, Marian Gardens and Bowersdale Park
- Bootle – Derby Park, North Park & South Park

In addition to this, we will continue to monitor sites as and when possible, as well as responding to specific issues raised.

The coastal teams have adopted a similar task / site inspection recording systems used by the grounds maintenance teams, generating very useful monitoring data about what, how and where our teams carry out their work.



Incident reporting

In 2019, the coast teams within the Land Management section of Green Sefton recorded over 750 incidents. From fly tipping to missing persons, medical incidents and wildlife disturbance, visitors giving abuse to staff, other antisocial behaviour and fires, to name just a few of the categories. We are expanding the incident reporting system to include the wider green spaces throughout the borough during 2020. Incident reports are not only used to record unfortunate events, accidents or other occasions that might be described as negative, they also record important positive events, for example: helping to talk someone out of committing suicide, reuniting people with lost children or dogs, or other lost property like keys and phones.



Health & Safety

In 2019, Green Sefton recorded over 250 separate actions relating to health and safety. The entries in this task record are many and varied and include: writing and reviewing risk assessments, developing incident reporting procedures, undertaking training and coaching for staff or volunteers, carrying out urgent repairs as preventative actions, recording first aid training, auditing, altering systems of work and communicating changes to staff.

In November 2019, several Rangers in the Land Management Team attended training sessions on carrying out risk assessments for work and projects that they are involved with. As a result of this, these key staff have been contributing to reviewing the on file risk assessments that we hold for all our generic tasks and work activities. In addition, two members of the LMT management team also successfully completed the Institute of Safety and Occupational Health training course 'Managing Safely'.

Next LMT Edition.....

Update on core work activity
Cemeteries Insourcing
Beach car parking 2020
Recruitment update



Contact details:

greensefton@sefton.gov

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0151 934 2961

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Sefton

Sefton Council



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CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)		
Councillor	Portfolio	Period of Report
John Fairclough	Cabinet Member Locality Services	March 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 has carried out public information sessions about their proposals in October 2019. Notice was served on the Council to facilitate access to the Council's land and Highways England commenced further site investigations and data collection in January 2020. It is now expected that the formal consultation will take place later in 2020, which will affect the potential date for Highways England to submit their application to the Planning Inspectorate.

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 works focussing on the formation and surfacing of the slip roads and the first phase of the Maghull – Kirkby cycle track has been completed. At present, the scheme is expected to be completed on programme and the slip roads should be operational in spring 2020. A handover process has been agreed with Highways England and the slip roads and associated land will be transferred to Highways England. The Contractor, John Sisk and Sons, are committed to leaving a positive legacy and have undertaken projects at a local school and in Lunt Meadows wildlife reserve. They have also achieved a 'very good' score under the Considerate Constructors scheme.
- Works are progressing on the North Liverpool Key Corridor scheme. The new signals at the junction of Millers Bridge/Derby Road junction have been commissioned and the junction is fully operational. The carriageway to the south of the junction is currently being widened and surfaced and works are scheduled to be completed in spring 2020. The works on Regent Road within the Sefton section have largely been completed.

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- Work is continuing 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. The scheme on Buckley Hill Lane (to relieve Edge Lane) is due for completion in February 2020, although delays have been encountered as a result of stats diversions. Planning approval for the Maghull to Kirkby cycle route has been granted and the first phase of the works has been completed in conjunction with the M58J1 scheme, and the plans have been completed for the Southport scheme, which is due to start work in spring 2020. 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 is being carried out early in 2020.
- 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 2019. Atkins were appointed under the Council's transport services framework to undertake development of the business cases. Some further traffic count surveys have been commissioned to support the modelling work.
- Works at the major junction improvement at the Dover Road junction on the A59 Northway are continuing and are aimed for completion for the end of March 2020. The Council is working with the contractor to minimise the extent of delay and disruption as much as possible.

Local Transport Schemes

- The Transportation Capital Programme for 2019/20 was agreed with Cabinet Member in June 2019 and an update report was presented 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. Work on the Coastal Road cycle route is being delivered in conjunction with the Southport East West Cycle Links scheme and this is planned to start in summer 2020.

Highway Development and Design

Planning Applications

- In October, November and December 2019, the team processed 198 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.
-

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 taking in to account new and adopted sites.
 - No of stalled or no activity (on the part of a developer) – 7 and developers continue to be followed up on these
 - Number of development sites adopted within the last 3 months - 1
 - No of submissions awaiting technical approval - 10
 - Number of new and recent submissions awaiting administrative set up - 3

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 more than 60 live s278 HA 1980 highway works schemes in various stages of development on behalf of the Council. The successful delivery of these schemes is dependent on close liaison with the Legal, Finance and Planning Departments.
- In terms of Minor Works agreements, a revised Minor Works process has been approved by Cabinet Member. There are seven current Minor Works schemes on going, with a further five awaiting payment from the developer before it can be delivered.

Public Rights of Way (PROW)

- England 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 March 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.
- Six Definitive Map Modification Orders have been made to update the Definitive Map and Statement.
- One Dedication Agreement for a new Bridleway at Netherton Lane has been completed.

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Strategic Highways Development and Future Planning

- The team is continuing to work closely with the Planning Department to provide a 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 with technical approvals and the design and delivery of some Highways Act s278 schemes and the delivery of strategic transport investment schemes, including potential major schemes and the STEP programme.
- The main current schemes include:
 - A59 Northway/Dover Road junction improvements – design, procurement and supervision of the scheme to improve capacity and improve accessibility along the A59 through Maghull, at the Dover Road/Liverpool Road South junction.
 - 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 with completion in early 2020 following delays associated with stats diversions.

Street Lighting

- New faults continue to be received daily from the public which are recorded and processed accordingly. The Contractor is currently performing well against their target KPI's.
- The Street Lighting team have been assessing a number of new LED lanterns / manufacturers. The plan is to trail a number of lanterns before considering a suite of standard lanterns moving forward.
- The 2020 Street Lighting programme is currently being developed.
- A new Street Lighting Life Cycle Plan is also being developed.

Traffic Signals

- The LCR joint Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract continues to function well across the city region.

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- The LCRCA UTC Communications upgrade project remains ongoing and forecast completion still remains as the end of March 2020. A number of sites are now live with the new Broadband connections.
- A new Traffic Signals Life Cycle Plan is currently being developed.

Highway Maintenance

- The delivery of the Highway Maintenance programme remains ongoing with the remaining schemes which are on the KRN to be completed in March.
- Due to the recent excessive wet weather there have been a large number of carriageway ponding enquiries. Many of which have turned out to be capacity related and not due to defective infrastructure.
- The 2020 Highway Maintenance programme is nearing completion and again this year will be made up of a combination of preventative treatments and conventional resurfacing.

Permit Scheme

- Cadent Gas have now started their mains replacement programme which involves upgrading 120 km of their low-pressure network in the borough. We are also currently waiting for a programme from BT Openreach on their future fibrecities upgrade plans. We are aware that they are about to start works on the Maghull exchange and we believe that this will be followed by Formby and possibly Ainsdale, Birkdale and Southport. We are managing this increased workload, with the resources that we have, to ensure that work is undertaken to the agreed conditions and specification.
- We are currently waiting on a test system from our software supplier for integration with the new national street manager permitting system. The deadline for implementation is 1st April 2020.

Winter Service

- Financial updates are now being provided on a regular basis to monitor expenditure.
- To date (25/02/20) we have gritted the carriageways on 29 occasions and the footways on 8 occasions.
- Verbal agreement has been given by the 5 authorities in the current Merseyside consortium to extend the winter forecasting and bureau services contract by the final 12 months available. Preliminary discussions have begun for the new contract to include all the LCRCA's, including Warrington.

Cleansing Services

New Software - Plotbox

- Plotbox go-live is due Monday 02 March 2020. The new software is only the service area's second application for registering and booking burials and cremations. The old system was in service for over 20 years and this is a big

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change for staff and an important change for the Council and customers. To enable a smooth transition, non-burial and cremation work has been suspended for the first week. Earlier this month we discovered that our existing software provider was in difficulties and the company was rescued by one of its subsidiary partners.

CABINET MEMBER UPDATE REPORT		
Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) - 10 March 2020		
COUNCILLOR	PORTFOLIO	DATE
Daren Veidman	Cabinet Member Planning and Building Control	10 March 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. This review will result in a new Design SPD and amendments to other SPDs to reflect updated design principles. Other SPDs will be scoped in the early part of 2020.
- 1.4 A number of SPDs will also be refreshed in 2020 including ‘Flats and HMOs’, ‘New Housing’ and ‘House Extensions’.

Housing Delivery

- 1.5 The government published the Housing Delivery Test figures for 2019 on 13 February 2020. The results for Sefton are:

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Year	Homes required	Homes Delivered
2016-17	501	644
2017-18	563	532
2018-19	645	564
Total	1,709	1,740

- 1.6 This means that Sefton have achieved over 100% of the homes required over the reported period (i.e. past three years). As a result the Council are no longer required to produce a Housing Delivery Action Plan are only need to add a 5% buffer to its future supply of housing land (as opposed to 20%).

Liverpool City Region work

- 1.7 The Combined Authority has commenced early engagement with the public on the Spatial Development Strategy for the Liverpool City Region. 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.
- 1.8 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

- 1.9 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

- 1.10 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.
- 1.11 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. Slight changes to how we apply the Council's affordable housing planning policy will now be enacted.

- 1.12 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.
- 1.13 Last year, for the first time for many years, the Council has been able to demonstrate a 5-year supply of housing land. 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.
- 1.14 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.
- 1.15 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.
- 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.

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- 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 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 72 detailed consultation responses from November - January 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 3rd January. Comments are being reviewed and collated with consideration being given to inclusion within the document.

3. Development Management

- 3.1 Between November to January we have approved 80 units of residential accommodation (taking account of the numbers in full or 'reserved matters' applications only, and not 'outline').

The following 6 major developments were considered and approved:

Reference	Address	Proposal
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 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 surrounded by security fencing, height restriction gantry and new gates.
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.
DC/2017/00434	Land North Of Lydiate Lane Thornton	Outline planning application for up to 268 no. dwelling houses with some matters reserved in respect of: (Appearance, Landscaping, Layout and Scale) with Access applied for at this stage
DC/2019/00880	95 Linaker Street Southport PR8 5DQ	Erection of 11 two-storey dwellinghouses following demolition of the existing buildings.
DC/2019/01830	Land Adjacent To Capricorn Way Bootle L20 4TR	Erection of 28 dwelling houses (100% affordable), with associated access, landscaping, parking and services.

- 3.2 We have received a total of 484 applications in this time scale, including 56 pre-application enquiries.
- 3.3 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.
- 3.4 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.
- 3.5 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.
- 3.6 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

3.7 Review of the quarter from 1st November 2019 to 31st January 2020

- Number of complaints received: 171
- Number of complaints closed: 200
- Retrospective application fees from 19 schemes (including enforcement notice compliance checks, ground A enforcement appeal fees): £4202

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 74% - 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 may 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 by the end of February 2020. Building Control Officers are currently undertaking inspections of the temporary grandstand / hospitality structures being erected for the April 2020 Grand National meeting at Aintree Racecourse.

Staffing

- 4.4 Approval has recently been obtained to fill a vacant Building Control Officer post. The post has now been advertised and following the interview process, it is hoped that an appointment will be made by the end of March 2020.

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 have been made to re-advertise for the Council's emergency contractor – following the end of the current contract period with Sovini. It is envisaged the successful company will be appointed at the beginning of March 2020.

5. Technical Support

- 5.1 Performance against targets for the period of November 2019 to January 2020 is detailed below.

	Target	Oct-Dec	Nov-Jan
Planning Applications Validated			
Majors (within 8 days)	80%	100%	83%
Others (within 5 days)	80%	74%	71%
Pre-Application Enquiries			
Registered within 3 days	93%	95%	87%
Land Charge Searches			
Completed within 10 days	100%	99%	95%
Completed within 7 days	80%	96%	93%
Building Regulation Applications			
Registered within 3 days	96%	96%	90%

Planning Applications Validated

5 of 6 major applications validated within target but the 1 application that was over target was received late on 23rd December therefore did not meet the 8 day target as it was not validated until January. The average turnaround for validated major applications stands at 6 days.

There has been a significant increase in the time taken to validate minor applications as a direct result of staff absence and delays in the recruitment process. Authorisation has been given to fill 2 posts, although recruitment will not take place until April. The team's performance levels, although 9% below target, are unlikely to improve significantly until additional resources are in place despite existing staff working flexibly to endeavour to maintain service levels. The average turnaround for validation stands at 5 days.

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Pre-Application Enquiries

52 of 60 applications were validated within target. The average turnaround time is 2 days.

Land Charge Searches

Reduction in service levels is due to an increase in the time taken for other departments to respond to their part of the enquiries and to the sickness absence of the land charges officer. Other officers within the team have been working flexibly to maintain the service. Average turnaround time per search stands at 8 days.

Building Regulation Applications

Targets were met in November and December but there is a reduction in January due to Christmas shutdown and staff shortages. The average turnaround time is 2 days.

5.2 Service Development

A new Planning Agent Accreditation Scheme was launched in January. The scheme is open to frequent users of the Planning Service who meet departmental standards for submission of valid applications, agree to the terms and conditions and provide proof of professional insurance. To date there are 5 newly accredited agents.

The Service Improvement Group are working on the new edition of The Planning Guide that provides information and guidance to applicants for planning and building regulations approval. The Group are also working to provide a planning procedure manual to provide a consistent guided approach to dealing with planning and related applications.