

Appendix 1

Thu 02/07/2020 11:51

Sir Ron Watson SirRon.Watson@sefton.gov.uk

Cabinet Meeting - 30 July 2020

To: Ian Maher Ian.Maher@sefton.gov.uk

CC: David McCullough David.McCullough@sefton.gov.uk

Dear Ian,

I very much hope that you and your family are well and the same comment applies in respect of your Cabinet colleagues who I know are having to deal with a range of issues in what are difficult circumstances at the best of times.

The purpose of this email is that I wish to submit a request under Rule 82 in Chapter 5 of the Constitution relating to the Cabinet.

I quote this below:-

“82 Any Member of the Council may ask the Leader to put an item on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting for consideration, and if the Leader agrees the item will be considered at the next available meeting of the Cabinet. The notice of the meeting will give the name of the Councillor who asked for the item to be considered. [This Councillor will be invited to attend the meeting, whether or not it is a public meeting]. However, the Leader has discretion to limit the number of such items to be considered per Cabinet meeting”.

The request is for a report to be prepared by the relevant Officers to include the following information:-

1. The final outturn financial position on The Strand for the 2019/2020 financial year.
2. The current number of empty retail units expressed in both numerical terms and as a percentage of the total.
3. The number of units that have been re-opened since we moved to Level 3 of the Covid-19 restrictions.
4. The amount of revenue lost to Sefton Council since the ‘lockdown’ occurred.
5. Any additional financial figures which take into account reduced income from business rates in particular.
6. Whether or not the suggestions that were made that some of the units could be occupied by other Public Sector Bodies which were not named could be released and the extent to which there have been any attempts in the current circumstances to pursue this issue.

7. The current level of rent arrears and any estimates that have been made in terms of rent now being payable following the partial re-opening of retail outlets.
8. Whether or not there is a current monthly ongoing estimate of the losses which will now be involved and whether any additional proposals are being currently worked up to address what is clearly an ongoing and increasing adverse financial position.

I gather that as the Elected Member who has formally submitted the request in the manner in which is specified and as a consequence I would confirm that I would be attending the meeting and exercising the right to ask questions and participate.

I appreciate that there is a degree of discretion given to you in confirming acceptance of the process that the Council has made provision for in respect of Cabinet procedures but I hope you will share my view that it is in the best interests of Sefton to proceed in the manner that is specifically mentioned in the Council's rules for Cabinet procedures.

I would be very grateful for your confirmation in the near future.

Kind regards,

Ron