

COUNCIL

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON THURSDAY 14TH JULY, 2022**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Carragher) in the Chair

Councillors Atkinson, Bradshaw, Brodie - Browne, Brough, Burns, Byrom, Cluskey, Corcoran, Cummins, D'Albuquerque, Dowd, Doyle, Evans, Fairclough, Grace, Halsall, Hansen, Hardman, Hardy, Howard, Irving, Jones, John Joseph Kelly, Sonya Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lloyd-Johnson, McGinnity, McKinley, Moncur, Morris, Murphy, Myers, O'Brien, Page, Prendergast, Pugh, Riley, Robinson, Roche, John Sayers, Shaw, Spencer, Anne Thompson, Tweed, Waterfield and Sir Ron Watson

18. WELCOME

The Mayor welcomed all Members to Council meeting.

The Mayor indicated that Members would be aware that Covid rates were again increasing and that here in Sefton rates were over a 12-month high; and that this was resulting in increasing admission numbers to our hospitals and spikes in staff sickness too over recent weeks. The Council was encouraging people over 75 to have the booster vaccine as it was aware that large numbers of people still had not had a booster vaccine; and the Council was also aware that people over 50 would be asked to come forward for a further booster in the coming months.

The Mayor concluded that she had taken advice about this evening's meeting and whilst she was not proposing any current changes to the way the meeting was held, there may be some Members who felt more comfortable wearing a mask. If this was the case then the Mayor encouraged Members to wear a mask.

19. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennet, Brennan, June Burns, Carlin, Dodd, John Kelly, Lunn-Bates, Chris Maher, Ian Maher, Richards, Roscoe, Sathiy, Thomas, Lynne Thompson, Veidman and Webster.

20. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

21. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 19 May 2022 be approved as a correct record.

22. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Death of Councillor Gordon Friel

The Mayor announced that it was her very sad duty to report on the loss of Councillor Gordon Friel who passed away on 11 July 2022.

The Mayor indicated that Councillor Friel was elected to the Linacre Ward on 5 May 1994 and served on the Council for 28 years. During his time on the Council, Councillor Friel served on numerous Committees, Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Cabinet Member portfolio meetings and the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel. Councillor Friel had a particular interest in licensing matters and served on the Licensing/Licensing and Regulatory Committee for 18 years.

Councillor Friel served on the Linacre and Derby Area Committee from 1999/00 to 2012/13 and was Chair of the Committee for a two-year period between 2009/2011; and then served on the South Sefton Area Committee from 2013/14 to 2017/18.

Councillor Friel represented the Council on the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority/LCR Combined Authority Transport Committee from 2012/13 to 2022/23; and held the positions of Vice-Chair of the Transport Committee and Deputy Portfolio Holder for Transport and Air Quality.

On behalf of the Council the Mayor extended her sincere condolences to Gordon's wife Karen, his son and daughter, his grandchildren and the rest of his family.

Councillors Fairclough, Brough, Pugh, Jones, Myers, Hansen and Cluskey paid tribute to Councillor Friel.

The Council then observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect on the sad passing of Councillor Gordon Friel.

Srebrenica Memorial Day 2022

The Mayor reported that this year marked 27 years since the genocide at Srebrenica in Bosnia and Herzegovina in which over 8,000 Bosnian Muslim men and boys were systematically murdered in what was described by the United Nations as 'the worst crime on European soil since the Second World War'.

The Mayor continued that the lessons learned from Srebrenica were that hatred and intolerance could flourish if left unchallenged; that each year during Srebrenica memorial week and on Srebrenica memorial day on the 11 July, communities across the country honoured the victims and survivors of the genocide, and pledged to create a better, stronger and more cohesive society in the United Kingdom; and that by confronting this dark chapter of our collective history, we could reaffirm our commitment to tackling prejudice discrimination and remind ourselves of the need to strengthen our resolve so that “never again” was truly meant.

Councillor Mike Morris MBE

The Mayor took the opportunity to congratulate on behalf of the Council, Councillor Mike Morris for his MBE Award in the Queen’s Birthday Honours List for his dedication and commitment to the Maritime Industry.

The Queen’s Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

The Mayor reported that she had attended several engagements during the Queen’s Jubilee weekend celebrations, including lighting a beacon with the girl guides, to street parties in Derby Park and in Maghull. The Mayor indicated that it was extremely pleasing to see such fantastic community spirit during such a momentous occasion.

Falklands Commemoration Service and Sefton’s Armed Forces Day Event

The Mayor reported that she attended two significant military events, namely:

On Sunday 19th June 2022 she attended a Falklands Commemoration Service in Southport, organised by Southport Royal British Legion; and that it was a very moving service.

On Sunday 26th June 2022 that she attended Sefton’s Armed Forces Day Event held in Southport; that this was a fantastic event and was enjoyed by everyone who attended, specifically the Lord Lieutenant of Merseyside who was looking to use the event as a blueprint for future Merseyside Armed Forces Day events.

Thornton College Prom

The Mayor reported that she would like to thank her fellow members who contributed to the Thornton College Prom and which helped to make the night a great success and a wonderful evening for the students.

Mayor’s Lottery

The Mayor reported that at each Council meeting she would take the opportunity to remind Members to sign up for the Mayor’s Lottery. The Lottery cost £2 per month to enter and would be deducted directly from

Members' allowances. Half of the proceeds from the lottery would go towards the Mayor's Charity Fund.

23. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The Mayor reported that two public petitions had been received as detailed below.

Public Petition - Demand a Safe Crossing Solution on Lulworth Road, Southport

The terms of the petition, which contained over 5000 signatures, stated that on the 30th November 2021 Marie Cunningham was sadly killed along with her friend Grace simply trying to cross Lulworth Road. Their deaths have shocked residents in the area who have said that a crossing has been needed for some time and so with this in mind, as a family, we have engaged with Sefton Council and started a process to review the possibility of installing a pedestrian crossing to allow safe passage. As part of this process it was important that this crossing request was supported by like-minded people, so as a family, we are looking for your support. We are asking you to sign this petition so we can forward this as evidence to Sefton Council to show the need for change and protect pedestrians in the area.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Lead Petitioner was advised of his right to make representations to the Council, not lasting more than 5 minutes. Mr. Cunningham addressed the Council for 5 minutes in respect of the terms of the petition.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, Councillor Hardy, responded to the petition and started by thanking Mr. Cunningham for submitting his petition and coming to the Council meeting to speak to Members; and expressed her condolences on behalf of the Council to the families for their sad loss.

Councillor Hardy stated that the request for the pedestrian crossing would be referred to the Cabinet Member - Locality Services for consideration.

In addition to the request for physical improvements to the highway in the area, Councillor Hardy advised that Safer Sefton Together (Sefton's Community Safety Partnership) had also commissioned an independent review into the multi-agency response to serious road traffic accidents; that it was important that we learnt from the response to such tragic events in order to improve our response in the future; and that the review would commence in September and actions for development would then be considered by the Partnership in order for them to be taken back to their respective organisations for implementation. Councillor Hardy concluded that this was an important aspect of community safety to the Council and that the review by the independent reviewer was supported.

Members then debated the petition.

Thereafter, it was moved by Councillor Hardy, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the lead petitioner be thanked for submitting and presenting the petition to the Council; and
- (2) the actions referred to in the response to the petition be supported.

Public Petition – Provide a Secure Home for the Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary

The terms of the petition, which contained over 500 signatures, stated that during October and November 2020 a petition was active regarding the expiration of the lease of the Sefton Council owned land at Buckley Hill Lane which has been occupied by Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary since 1999. The petition was included in a full Council meeting on 19 November 2020 and the motion moved at that meeting to resolve the issue has not been honoured. Sefton Council are ignoring our efforts to achieve a resolution to the lease issue and are thus making it impossible for Shy Lowen to work towards all of our charitable objectives.

The expiration of our lease was in August 2020. Since January 2017 we began to seek a resolution but Sefton Council did not wish to discuss the lease then, although we were assured that a renewal would be possible. In March 2019 we reopened negotiations, and in May 2020 received the renewal offer to provide a 99-year lease although we wanted to own the site - we had asked Sefton Council for the opportunity to purchase the land whilst being aware that under the Community Asset Transfer Laws that it was possible to for a Local Authority to gift a lease or ownership of property with the appropriate covenants attached. We were advised that Sefton Council considers us to be a commercial operation so the lease would be charged at commercial rates, to obtain the best possible outcome for their assets. The figures quoted were to maintain the current rental figure of £1100.00 per year, plus an additional upfront payment of £85000.00. That figure is more than the land purchase value. Alternatively, we could accept a 45% increase in our rent to be reviewed after 14 years.

This came as a shock to us, as the best possible outcome seemed to be measured only in monetary value. We would urge Sefton Council to consider social and environmental outcomes as well as economic ones, especially when gained from a property which was at best a massive liability for the council at the outset of our arrangement. The cost of clearing 800 tons of rubble and ancillary rubbish from this site was estimated at well in excess of £100,000, but we completed this task and it cost the Council nothing. As a registered charity, we were also aware of other charitable organisations in Sefton who have been gifted property for public benefit or given 'peppercorn' lease agreements.

Social media, local press and radio interest led to renegotiation and a hard-fought agreement to remove the upfront fee and hold the rent at £1100.00 was made. We reluctantly accepted these terms as we felt we would have no other option than to leave the site we have occupied and developed over the last 21 years. The terms were finalised in May 2020 but the attempts to obtain a workable agreement have failed as the terms required by Sefton Council incorporating a 5-year development licence prior to the inception of any lease render it impossible to raise the required funds to make the site the community asset it really could be. This in turn means we would not be granted the agreed 99-year lease. Our legal and financial advisors outlined a proposal which effectively removes this problem and so we wrote to Sefton Council in January 2022 outlining how this would work. Sefton Council are not responding to any of our efforts to resolve this matter and are not acknowledging our correspondence. This is at odds with the 19 November 2020 meeting when Councillor Lappin moved a motion stating "What we intend to do is to continue to negotiate with Shy Lowen which I have continually said are an absolutely excellent organisation and we fully support them. We are in negotiations in relation to the lease. The lease has been submitted to them and we hope to actually finalise by the end of this year.' The fact is that there have been no negotiations since that motion was moved and seconded and the format of the lease submitted to us by Sefton MBC is unworkable.

Shy Lowen ponies, who we pay to be licensed by Sefton Council, feature at Council community events in all the parks and gardens, giving pony rides to residents. When there's no budget to donate, we still attend at our own cost because we want to share some joy with communities. We offer volunteer opportunities to all ages from 10 years upwards, and this alone has led to many disadvantaged young people from the Sefton area pursuing career opportunities that would otherwise not have been open to them. For example, several have gone on to achieve university degrees in equine science subjects, three have relocated to Newmarket to progress in the prestigious horse racing industry with one training to be a farrier, another is training to become a qualified veterinary nurse in a local practice, and several more have remained with us to train as Equine Assisted Therapy Practitioners. We offer ethical horse-riding opportunities free of charge or at low cost. Our rescued animals 'pay it forward', and we fervently hope that inspires the people who meet them to do the same and to recognise their own gifts which they can tap into to improve the world.

Our therapeutic interventions have been the subject of national TV documentaries and regional news reports, and are lauded not just in Sefton, but throughout the world, a fact which appears to have been missed by our own local authority. Our work utilises the innate ability of the horse, being a prey animal, to mirror the emotions of the human, being a predator. It is successful with children but it is also successful with adults as our work with the homeless, people in addiction and military veterans has proven many times over.

We are employers, with 7 staff members, all of whom are Sefton Residents. We have 6 sessional workers who include a BACP registered

counsellor and a psychologist. We provide significant support to Sefton based businesses with our current spend of over £55,000.00 per year in feed, bedding, equipment and animal waste removal.

We are multiple award winners providing our region with much needed national and international positive publicity. The use we want to put the 8.5 acre site to includes the current operations with additional community benefits, and is:

- To provide stabling for rescue horses and ponies and for the grazing of said horses and ponies.
- To provide an education centre for teaching children about horses and ponies
- To provide horse and pony rehabilitation, training and rehoming.
- To provide a volunteer program for children, young people and adults.
- To provide mental health therapeutic provision for children, young people and adults,
- To provide accredited equine assisted therapy practitioner training,
- To provide alternative curriculum education provision,
- To provide horse riding lessons,
- To provide community events,
- To provide free access to outdoor space,
- To provide an accessible to all abilities Community Nature Trail supporting the wild environment.

In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Lead Petitioner was advised of her right to make representations to the Council, not lasting more than 5 minutes. Ms. Langfield addressed the Council for 5 minutes in respect of the terms of the petition.

The Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, Councillor Lappin, responded to the petition and made the following points:

- In response to Shy Lowen Horse and Pony Sanctuary Trustees' plans to develop the site and their request for a long-term lease to enable them to do this, Sefton Council sent them a proposed Building Agreement and Lease back in November 2019
- This was fully in line with Council policy and ensured that any developments were carried out to the Council's satisfaction before a long-term lease was issued. Sefton Council had a duty to receive best consideration for their assets and discussions throughout had aligned with this
- Ongoing discussions took place over the Spring and Summer months of 2020 and, in August 2020, Shy Lowen Trustees confirmed that they wished to proceed with the Building Agreement and Lease, subject to review by their legal representatives
- However, in January 2022, further to this confirmation and upon conclusion of their review, Shy Lowen confirmed to Sefton Council that they were unable to proceed on the basis set out

- In addition to Shy Lowen rejecting these terms, they also proposed an alternative approach of which Sefton Council had now considered
- The delay from August 2020 to January 2022 was down to Shy Lowen's legal and funding advisors undertaking "a protracted examination" of the proposed documents (protracted examination being the term Shy Lowen used in correspondence to Sefton Council in January 2022)
- Sefton Council recognised the valuable service the Sanctuary provides to the local community and beyond and had hoped to have concluded this agreement earlier based around the originally discussed terms. The Council do however remain keen to conclude negotiations in a satisfactory and beneficial manner to all involved. Having considered the counter proposal, Sefton Council have responded to Shy Lowen and are awaiting their response
- It must be noted that once an agreement in principle was reached between parties then this would require formal Council approval.

Members then debated the petition.

Thereafter, it was moved by Councillor Lappin, seconded by Councillor Grace and

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the lead petitioner be thanked for submitting and presenting the petition to the Council; and
- (2) the points raised in the petition be considered further by Cabinet.

24. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered a schedule setting out the written questions submitted by:

- (1) Councillor Evans to the Cabinet Member – Children's Social Care (Councillor Doyle)
- (2) Councillor O'Brien to the Cabinet Member – Education (Councillor Roscoe)
- (3) Councillor Grace to the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy)
- (4) Councillor Bradshaw to the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy)
- (5) Councillor Waterfield to the Cabinet Member – Communities and

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Housing (Councillor Hardy)

- (6) Councillor John Joseph Kelly to the Cabinet Member – Education (Councillor Roscoe)
- (7) Councillor Carlin to the Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Moncur)
- (8) Councillor Howard to the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)
- (9) Councillor Lloyd-Johnson to the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)
- (10) Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member – Children’s Social Care (Councillor Doyle)
- (11) Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ian Maher)
- (12) Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ian Maher)
- (13) Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ian Maher)
- (14) Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ian Maher)
- (15) Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Ian Maher)
- (16) Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Spokesperson on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee (Councillor Halsall)
- (17) Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (18) Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy)
- (19) Councillor Sayers to the Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control (Councillor Veidman)

- (20) Councillor Shaw to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services
(Councillor Fairclough)

together with responses given. Supplementary questions to questions 1, 10, 16, 17, 18 and 20 were responded to by the Cabinet Members – Children’s Social Care, Locality Services and Communities and Housing and the Spokesperson on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee.

25. SEFTON YOUTH JUSTICE PARTNERSHIP - ANNUAL PLAN

Further to Minute No. 20 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 June 2022 the Council considered the report of the Head of Communities indicating that each year the Youth Justice Board (YJB) required local Youth Justice Services to produce an Annual Plan to satisfy the grant allocation and to ensure that the YJB was kept abreast of local business and performance. This year, the YJB had recommended that each Youth Justice Service adhere to a template for consistency and that the plan was signed off by the Chair of the Local Youth Justice Partnership (formerly the YOT Management Board).

Sefton’s Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan had been produced in accordance with the YJB requirements and had been shared with the Cabinet Member - Children’s Social Care, Head of Communities, Head of Children’s Social Care, Executive Director - People and the Executive Director of Children’s Services. The Chair of the Youth Justice Service Partnership, Superintendent Local Policing, Merseyside Police, had signed off the Plan.

The Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan was attached to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Hardy, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan be acknowledged and endorsed; and
- (2) the successful work and performance of the Youth Justice Board, Youth Justice Services and their partners, as detailed in the Sefton Youth Justice Partnership Annual Plan, be commended by the Council.

26. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2022/23 TO 2024/25 AND FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE 2020 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE 2022/23 – JUNE UPDATE

Further to Minute No. 23 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 June 2022 the Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services informing of:

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1. The current position relating to the 2022/23 revenue budget.
2. The potential implications on the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 and 2024/25.
3. The proposed scheme relating to the discretionary payments of the Council Tax Energy Rebate.
4. The seeking of approval for Additional supplementary capital estimates to the Council's capital programme.

The Scheme for the discretionary payments of Council Tax Energy Rebate was attached to the report at Appendix 1.

It was moved by Councillor Fairclough, seconded by Councillor Hardy and

RESOLVED: That in respect of:

Revenue Budget

- (1) the current position relating to the 2022/23 revenue budget be noted;
- (2) the actions included in the Remedial Action Plan to offset the budget pressures being faced in 2022/23 and the funding of a Social Work Academy in 2022/23 be approved;
- (3) the financial risks associated with the delivery of the 2022/23 revenue budget be recognised and it be acknowledged that the forecast outturn position will continue to be reviewed to ensure a balanced forecast outturn position and financial sustainability can be achieved; and
- (4) the potential implications on the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 and 2024/25 be noted; and

Capital Programme

- (5) a supplementary capital estimate of £1.033m for the Sandway Homes Phase 2 Pre-Development Works in 2022/23, subject to approval of the grant applications be approved;
- (6) a supplementary capital estimate of £4.971m for the High Needs Provision Capital Allocations 2022/23 and 2023/24 be approved;
- (7) a supplementary capital estimate of £0.270m for essential maintenance and refurbishment works at Dunes Splashworld funded by borrowing be approved; and
- (8) a supplementary capital estimate of £0.557m for the Bootle Canalside Business Case capital works funded from the Economic Recovery Earmarked Reserve be approved.

27. ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT CLIMATE EMERGENCY

Further to Minute No. 22 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 23 June 2022 the Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services indicating that the Council had declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following the declaration, work had progressed within the Council and a climate emergency strategy and associated action plan had been created.

Annual reporting on progress made was required as part of the governance approach to the programme. Members were asked to note the progress made on achieving net zero carbon by 2030 and the programme of works supporting the Council's transition to low carbon working.

The Climate Emergency Annual Report 2021/22, and the Climate Emergency Annual Report Appendix 1 Action Plan progress, were attached to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Lappin, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That the progress made on the targets in the Sefton climate emergency strategy and action plan be noted.

28. COAST AND VISITOR AREAS PUBLIC SPACE PROTECTION ORDER (PSPO)

Further to Minute No. 12 of the meeting of the Licensing and Regulatory (Urgent Referrals) Committee held on 27 June 2022 the Council considered the joint report of the Head of Operational In-House Services and the Head of Communities relating to a draft Public Spaces Protection Order – Coast and Visitor Areas (PSPO) under the Anti-Social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014.

The report provided information concerning Coast and Visitor Area behaviours and an overview of the public consultation on proposed additional measures through a proposed new Public Space Protection Order (PSPO).

A copy of the consultation results and the proposed draft PSPO were attached as appendices to the report.

It was moved by Councillor Lappin, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the following requirements/restrictions summarised below be included within the proposed PSPO – Coast and Visitor Areas, where clear support has been demonstrated through the consultation (over 60% in support):

- 1.1 Authorised Officers able to confiscate alcohol (*where they feel it is contributing to Anti-Social Behaviour only – this is not a complete ban*);
- 1.2 Fires and Barbeques not allowed (*not allowed to light or fuel any open fire nor to use, light or discard any barbecue. This refers to all types of barbeques – disposable, gas powered, standard charcoal*);
- 1.3 Fireworks, balloons, and lantern releases not allowed;
- 1.4 Certain events only with written permission.
(*Events such as lectures, speeches, sermons, busking, live music, bootcamps, sport events, use of generators and other types of entertainment performances/shows are not allowed without prior permission granted by the Council as per our events policy*);
- 1.5 No overnight stays in tents, motorhomes, or caravans without written permission.
(*including but not limited to, pitching or occupying tents, motorhomes, caravans; sunshades and windbreaks excepted if there for a maximum of 12 hours*).

The consultation material originally suggested this relate to 'groups' overnight stays, but following discussion, is proposed to be amended to propose no unauthorized camping etc at all, without written permission).

- 1.6 No collecting money or selling (for any reason) without written permission.
(*This includes:*
 - *Begging or soliciting for money**
 - *Advertising any article verbally or by the distribution of leaflets and flyers, circulars, or advertisements of any kind*
 - *Flyposting and other fixed notices on railings, posts or other street furniture without prior permission, and a fee may be chargeable for this. Notices must be taken down within an agreed period.*
 - *Selling goods, products, or services without prior permission of the Council.*

**Begging or soliciting for money. The act of begging is deemed as either approaching people for money, or being stationary and asking for money, or positioned on the floor to invite the offer of money or goods);*

- 1.7 Cycling on cycle paths and routes, following road rules, and not cycling dangerously.
(*No riding any cycle within the restricted area unless on a*

designated cycle route or the beach. No riding any cycle where localised signage requires you to dismount. No riding any cycle without due care and attention or without due care and consideration for other users of that area. A cycle means a bicycle, a tricycle or a cycle having four or more wheels, including one power-assisted by electrical, or other means not being in any case a motorcycle or motor vehicle);

- 1.8 No climbing on structures such as Southport Pier and outfall pipes on the beach;
- 1.9 No swimming in lakes, ponds, or pools unless rules say it is allowed.

(For example, swimming is not generally allowed in Crosby Marine Lake except for specific times/events which are advertised locally. This does not apply to swimming/bathing in the sea. It should be noted though that Sefton's coast can be hazardous; visitors are advised to take full note of the safety signage at the coast and keep to designated lifeguarded bathing areas at Formby, Ainsdale, and Southport)

- 1.10 Dogs not allowed in dog free zones on the beach or in fenced off areas or in pools or ponds. *(This is in addition to the separate boroughwide PSPO for dog control);*
- 1.11 Vehicles – No unauthorised motorized vehicles in the area. Not including mobility scooters, wheelchairs, or electric bikes on the cycle paths;
- 1.12 On-beach parking to be used for parking only and within the 10mph speed limit. *(No driving outside of the delineated parking area onto the foreshore or into the dunes. Speeding, racing, handbrake turns, and other dangerous manoeuvres, unlicensed drivers, etc are prohibited. This does not apply to emergency vehicles and other authorised access);*
- 1.13 No glass bottles or containers allowed in the restricted areas;
- 1.14 No throwing of objects *such as stones, pebbles, or anything else in a manner likely to cause alarm, injury, or damage to property;*
- 1.15 No Golf allowed;
- 1.16 Actions such as weeing, spitting, pooing not allowed outdoors in these areas *(Urinate, spit, or defecate)*

Through discussion during the consultation period, and in response to some comments received, this 'other hazards' item is proposed to be extended to include:

- ingest, inhale, inject, smoke, or otherwise use drugs or substances reasonably believed to be psychoactive substances.
- Possess or release any canister containing compressed gas
- Act in a disorderly manner so as to cause harassment, alarm, nuisance, or distress to other in the locality);

1.7 No activities that cause pollution allowed
(Bring in or permit to happen anything which pollutes or is likely to pollute the environment or cause harm to flora and fauna or people. This can include:

- *Chemicals getting into water bodies (detergent, fuel, chemicals)*
- *Plastic waste anywhere, but particularly the foreshore where it can be washed out to sea*
- *Biosecurity*
- *Littering*
- *Noise pollution*
- *Dog fouling*
- *Human waste; and*

1.18 No weapons of any kind to be brought into the area
(Bring or be in possession of any catapult, firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, knife, or other article likely to cause harm to persons or wildlife);

(2) it be acknowledged that the Licencing and Regulatory (Urgent Referrals) Committee noted that the following items, although receiving general support, were not as strongly supported (with approval being in the 40-60% margin, but still a higher percentage than those that didn't support the item) be approved for inclusion in the PSPO namely:

2.1 Not to congregate in a group of 40 or more, after being told by an Authorised Officer or a Police Constable in order to prevent anti-social behaviour;

2.2 Boat launching only from certain parts of the coast and lakes with permission
(including Paddleboards, canoes not allowed other than at designated launching locations and with the necessary permissions);

2.3 Watercrafts and power kiting only in set areas and with written permission
(Being in charge of any pleasure boat, windsurfer, kite

board, paddleboard, jet ski or any other vessel and causing or permitting same to be used in a dangerous manner, without due care or attention or without reasonable consideration for any other persons OR failing to comply with instructions from an Authorised Person in respect of said vessel. Bring, ride, beach or launch any jet ski other than at the marine lakes and in compliance with the operators at these locations. Undertake kite surfing, parakiting or other powered kite activity anywhere on the coast other than the designated Kite beach. Take part in these activities without the necessary permit and insurance);

- 2.4 Horses not allowed to be ridden in bathing areas on the beach in summer. Horses must not be ridden dangerously or within 2 hours of high tide.
*(Horses not allowed to be ridden or brought into the designated bathing areas between 1st May and 30th September each year.
Horses must not be ridden on the beach 2 hours either side of high tide.
Horses not allowed to be ridden on the coast other than on designated bridleways.
Horses not allowed to be ridden on the coast other than on designated bridleways and those beaches with access via an authorised route.
For the avoidance of doubt, horses are not allowed to enter vegetated areas on or adjacent to the beach or to ride through flocks of roosting/feeding birds at any time.
Gallop is not permitted)*
- 2.5 Powered flight is not allowed in any area of the Order including taking off and landing without the express written permission of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council.
(paraglider, parascender, hang glider or other similar craft)
- 2.6 Remote-controlled vehicles not allowed without written permission
(Bring or permit to be used any remote-controlled vehicle including model aircraft without permission)
- 2.7 Drones can only be flown with written permission

- (3) it be noted that none of the items were 'unsupported' in the consultation (a disagreement with the proposal being more than 50%), and so none are proposed for immediate removal in the PSPO;
- (4) approval be granted for an additional requirement/restriction to be included within the proposed PSPO in response to a consultation response to cover interference with life-saving equipment (including

life rings, life belts and defibrillator equipment etc) and associated safety and PSPO signage; and

- (5) the geographic locations of the PSPO as detailed in the report be agreed, and no omissions be made to these areas; but the following additional locations suggested by the Lancashire Wildlife Trust are recommended for agreement – namely, Freshfield Dune Heath and Lunt Meadows.

29. CONSTITUTION AMENDMENTS

Further to Minute No. 9 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 22 June 2022 the Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services that recommended updates to the Council's Constitution. The updates related to the Executive / Scrutiny Protocol, the Protocol for Relationships Between Members and Officers and paragraph 26 of Chapter 5 of the Constitution.

It was moved by Councillor Lappin, seconded by Councillor Fairclough

That

- (1) the Executive / Scrutiny Protocol be included in the Constitution;
- (2) the revised Protocol for Relationships Between Members and Officers be approved; and
- (3) paragraph 26 of Chapter 5 of the Constitution be deleted.

An amendment was moved by Councillor Sir Ron Watson, seconded by Councillor Prendergast that the Motion be amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

- (4) Chapter 5, paragraph 82 of the Constitution be amended to remove the power of the Leader to refuse a request from any elected member for an item to be placed on the agenda for the next available meeting of the Cabinet and to remove the discretion of the Leader to limit the number of such items to be considered per Cabinet meeting.
 - (i) a criteria for submission be established to enable elected members to have items placed on the Cabinet agenda provided they fulfil the requirements set out in the criteria; and
 - (ii) subject to approval of (i) above, the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services be requested to submit a report to the Audit and Governance

Committee setting out the proposed required criteria for approval of elected member submission of items on Cabinet agendas.

Following a debate on the **amendment** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **amendment was lost** by 13 votes to 30.

A further amendment was moved by Councillor Wilson, seconded by Councillor Sayers that the Motion be amended by the addition of the following:

- (4) that paragraph 4.4 of the Executive/Scrutiny Protocol be highlighted in bold within the document.

Following a debate on the **further amendment** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **amendment was lost** by 15 votes to 30.

Following a debate on the **Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was carried** unanimously and it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Executive / Scrutiny Protocol be included in the Constitution;
- (2) the revised Protocol for Relationships Between Members and Officers be approved; and
- (3) paragraph 26 of Chapter 5 of the Constitution be deleted.

30. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 8.05 p.m. for a comfort break for a period of 15 minutes.

31. OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22

The Council considered the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2021/22 and Councillors Myers, Sayers, Spencer and Bradshaw highlighted the key areas of work undertaken by the respective Committees and thanked Members and Officers for their support and assistance during 2021/22.

It was moved by Councillor Bradshaw, seconded by Councillor Myers and

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22 be noted.

32. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2022/23

The Mayor advised that at the last Council meeting held on 19 May 2022, the Lydiate, Aintree, Maghull and Lunt Independent Group indicated that it did not wish to take their allocated seats on the Audit and Governance Committee, the Licensing and Regulatory Committee, the Planning Committee, the Local Joint Consultative Committee for Teaching Staffs and the Local Joint Consultative Committee; and that at this meeting, the Council would seek nominations from other Groups on the Council to appoint Members and Substitute Members to fill such vacancies. The Mayor reported that nominations had been received as follows:

Audit and Governance Committee

Councillor Page (Substitute Member – Councillor Hardman) nominated by the Labour Group; and

Councillor Pugh nominated by the Liberal Democrat and Progressive Alliance Group

In accordance with Rule 98 of Chapter 4 of the Constitution (Full Council) a vote was taken when there appeared:

For Councillor Page (Substitute Member – Councillor Hardman)	• 35
For Councillor Pugh	• 10

and it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Page (Substitute Member – Councillor Hardman) be appointed as a member of the Audit and Governance Committee.

Licensing Committee

Councillor June Burns nominated by the Labour Group

In the absence of other nominations it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor June Burns be appointed as a member of the Licensing and Regulatory Committee.

Planning Committee

Councillor McGinnity nominated by the Labour Group

In the absence of other nominations it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor McGinnity be appointed as a member of the Planning Committee.

Local Joint Consultative Committee for Teaching Staff)

Councillor Richards (Substitute Member – Councillor Hardman) nominated by the Labour Group

In the absence of other nominations it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor Richards (Substitute Member – Councillor Hardman) be appointed as a member of the Local Joint Consultative Committee for Teaching Staff.

Local Joint Consultative Committee

Councillor O'Brien (Substitute Member – Councillor Murphy) nominated by the Labour Group

In the absence of other nominations it was

RESOLVED:

That Councillor O'Brien (Substitute Member – Councillor Murphy) be appointed as a member of the Local Joint Consultative Committee.

Merseyside Police and Crime Panel

RESOLVED

That Councillor Robinson replace Councillor Spencer as a representative on the Merseyside Police and Crime Panel.

Health and Wellbeing Board

RESOLVED:

That the following changes be made to the membership of the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Deborah Butcher is now the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health and Place Director;
- the Representative of NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Peter Chamberlain, be replaced with the Clinical Director for South Sefton PCN, Dr Craig Gillespie;

- the Representative of the NHS Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group, Dr Rob Caudwell, to now represent the Clinical Director for Southport and Formby PCN;
- Clare Morgan to replace Sir David Dalton as the representative of the NHS Acute Provider Sector and Anne-Marie Stretch to be an additional representative of the NHS Acute Provider Sector;
- Sue Potts to replace Lorraine Webb as the representative from the Every Child Matters Forum;
- Superintendent Dawn McNally to replace Graeme Robson as the representative from Merseyside Police;
- Anita Marsland, Independent Chair of the Programme Delivery Group (part of the Sefton Partnership Governance), to be an additional representative.”

The following additional changes were notified by political groups:

Labour Group

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) - Councillor Christine Maher to replace Councillor Killen as a Member
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) - Councillor Killen to replace Councillor Christine Maher as a Member
- Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) - Councillor Halsall to replace Councillor Danny Burns as the substitute Member for Councillor Corcoran
- Planning Committee - Councillor Danny Burns to replace Councillor Halsall as the substitute Member for Councillor Tweed
- Public Engagement and Consultation Panel – Councillor Dowd to replace Councillor Grace as a Member

RESOLVED:

That the additional changes as detailed above, be approved.

33. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PRENDERGAST - CHILDREN'S SOCIAL SERVICES

It was moved by Councillor Prendergast, seconded by Councillor Brough:

That this Council:

- (1) Notes and fully accepts the contents of the independent Ofsted report, published on 9 May 2022;
- (2) Acknowledges the continued failings in management, supervision and leadership (including at a political and executive level) identified

by Ofsted that have left some of the most vulnerable children in the borough at an unacceptable level of risk;

- (3) Welcomes the involvement of the Children's Commissioner to review the service and bring about rapid and meaningful change;
- (4) Resolves to:
 - (i) adopt and publish a meaningful set of benchmarks and key performance indicators to measure the improvement in service (such step to be taken as soon as possible);
 - (ii) once the Children's Commissioner has completed their review of the service, to agree to all recommendations made by them and involve all members of the Council in implementing their recommendations;
 - (iii) request that the Cabinet Member with responsibility for the service, should provide a detailed update to Full Council at each meeting (in the form of a written report) with details of performance against benchmarks/key performance indicators

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Lappin that:

- (1) Paragraph (4) of the Motion be amended to read:

“Resolves to take all required steps, as identified by Ofsted and the Commissioner, to ensure our Children's Services Department reaches not only an acceptable standard, but a high-quality service for the children of our Borough”; and
- (2) The Motion be amended by the addition of the following paragraphs:
 - (5) Recognise that our journey for Children's Services will take time and regular reporting will take place as required, demonstrating milestone improvements. There is a wide range of report mechanisms that exist within the Council to monitor and share our improvement journey. This includes, but is not exclusive to, Cabinet Member, Cabinet, Council, Scrutiny and Review, Corporate Parenting Board and the Improvement Board; and
 - (6) Recognises the significant work undertaken to-date on our improvement journey, underpinned by significant financial support to our Children's Services budget.

Following a debate on the **Amendment** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Amendment was carried** by 30 votes to 16 and on being put as the **Substantive Motion** it **was carried** unanimously and it was:

RESOLVED: That this Council:

- (1) Notes and fully accepts the contents of the independent Ofsted report, published on 9 May 2022;
- (2) Acknowledges the continued failings in management, supervision and leadership (including at a political and executive level) identified by Ofsted that have left some of the most vulnerable children in the borough at an unacceptable level of risk;
- (3) Welcomes the involvement of the Children's Commissioner to review the service and bring about rapid and meaningful change;
- (4) Resolves to take all required steps, as identified by Ofsted and the Commissioner, to ensure our Children's Services Department reaches not only an acceptable standard, but a high-quality service for the children of our Borough;
- (5) Recognise that our journey for Children's Services will take time and regular reporting will take place as required, demonstrating milestone improvements. There is a wide range of report mechanisms that exist within the Council to monitor and share our improvement journey. This includes, but is not exclusive to, Cabinet Member, Cabinet, Council, Scrutiny and Review, Corporate Parenting Board and the Improvement Board; and
- (6) Recognises the significant work undertaken to-date on our improvement journey, underpinned by significant financial support to our Children's Services budget.

34. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON - SEFTON ART COLLECTION

It was moved by Councillor Sir Ron Watson, seconded by Councillor Prendergast:

That:

The Chairman of the Audit and Governance Committee will know that Sefton owns a significant collection of artworks, most of which are stored on a permanent basis at The Atkinson.

Whilst attempts are made to display some of the artwork in various locations the public actually have very little opportunity to view the collection.

The Chairman will recall that Members had been advised that it is not possible to put a value on the collection for insurance purposes because it is considered that the costs involved in determining a figure by professionals would be excessive.

The Council therefore now decides to make it known that they would welcome the involvement of anyone in the borough who could assist on a voluntary basis with at least what is known as a 'ballpark' figure.

In addition, by way of a pilot scheme, the Council should approach the Trustees of the very impressive Birkdale Community Hub and Library and offer them artworks to display on their premises which hopefully will be considered as a way in which the public can enjoy and appreciate what is currently an unavailable asset.

In the event of this proving successful the Council would then extend the scheme to other similar organisations that have public access.

Following a debate on the **Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was lost** by 4 votes to 37 with 5 abstentions.

35. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON - SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Sir Ron Watson, seconded by Councillor Prendergast:

That:

The Council recognises the need to continually seek ways of engaging the public in Council affairs.

On this basis experience has now shown that the decision to abolish the Southport Area Committee against the majority view of the public who were consulted needs to be reviewed as it is now clear that it was a mistake.

Whilst the situation varies in various parts of Sefton the Southport Area Committee was a success and enabled the public who often attended, in not insignificant numbers, the opportunity to directly question their Councillors, make observations on local issues, present petitions, but also hear from other organisations, such as the Police, who came and gave regular updates.

Members of the public could also listen to the decision making that took place by Councillors in respect of a range of local issues.

The case therefore for the re-establishment of the SAC has therefore been made many times and is backed up with significant public support.

As a consequence the Council now agrees to reinstate this important democratic body at the earliest opportunity.

Following a debate on the **Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was lost** by 9 votes to 35.

36. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HARDY - SEXUAL VIOLENCE

It was moved by Councillor Hardy, seconded by Councillor Killen:

That Council notes:

- It is a great sadness and injustice that sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse remain endemic in modern society.
- According to national crime statistics in the UK, on average one woman is killed by a man every three days.
- A 2021 YouGov national survey on behalf of UN Women UK found that among women aged 18-24, 97% said they had been sexually harassed, while 80% of women of all ages said they had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces.
- The ONS reported that last year alone 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man
- A recent OFSTED review into sexual harassment in schools has found that sexual harassment, including online sexual abuse, has become 'normalised' for children and young people.

Council recognises:

- *The work of SWACA, Sefton IDVA and RASA Merseyside in its work to support women and families in dealing with domestic abuse and sexual violence.*
- White Ribbon is a leading charity in the UK with a mission to end male violence against women and is part of the global White Ribbon movement which arose from a campaign started by men in Canada in 2004.

Council believes:

- Male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.
- More focus should be placed on changing some men's behaviour rather than on promoting actions to women to make themselves safer.

Council resolves to:

- Encourage all councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge, never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women.

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- As part of this, continue to mark White Ribbon Day on 25 November each year and encourage participation among councillors, council staff and local organisations.
- Build on the work of the recent Safer Together partnership Board and Domestic Abuse board to develop a clear strategic approach to look into how the council can support campaigns for the end of violence against women and the promotion of healthy relationships.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to request further work be done in support of all elements of this motion.
- Call out all forms of sexual objectification and all its negative outcomes and encourage others to do the same

Following a debate on the Motion the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the Motion was carried unanimously and it was resolved:

That Council notes:

- It is a great sadness and injustice that sexual violence, sexual harassment, and domestic abuse remain endemic in modern society.
- According to national crime statistics in the UK, on average one woman is killed by a man every three days.
- A 2021 YouGov national survey on behalf of UN Women UK found that among women aged 18-24, 97% said they had been sexually harassed, while 80% of women of all ages said they had experienced sexual harassment in public spaces.
- The ONS reported that last year alone 618,000 women were victims of a sexual assault or an attempted sexual assault by a man
- A recent OFSTED review into sexual harassment in schools has found that sexual harassment, including online sexual abuse, has become 'normalised' for children and young people.

Council recognises:

- *The work of SWACA, Sefton IDVA and RASA Merseyside in its work to support women and families in dealing with domestic abuse and sexual violence.*

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- White Ribbon is a leading charity in the UK with a mission to end male violence against women and is part of the global White Ribbon movement which arose from a campaign started by men in Canada in 2004.

Council believes:

- Male violence against women and girls is part of a broader culture of misogyny in society.
- More focus should be placed on changing some men's behaviour rather than on promoting actions to women to make themselves safer.

Council resolves to:

- Encourage all councillors to take the White Ribbon pledge, never to take part in, condone or stay silent about violence against women.
- As part of this, continue to mark White Ribbon Day on 25 November each year and encourage participation among councillors, council staff and local organisations.
- Build on the work of the recent Safer Together partnership Board and Domestic Abuse board to develop a clear strategic approach to look into how the council can support campaigns for the end of violence against women and the promotion of healthy relationships.
- Instruct the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education and the Secretary of State for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport to request further work be done in support of all elements of this motion.
- Call out all forms of sexual objectification and all its negative outcomes and encourage others to do the same

37. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR JONES - AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION, FULL COUNCIL DEBATES, RULE 220 OF CHAPTER 11 (OFFICERS AND MEMBERS)

It was moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor D'Albuquerque:

That Council notes that:

At its meeting held on Thursday, 21 April 2022, it considered a petition regarding "Save the Promenade in Crosby Coastal Park"; and that in accordance with Rule 220 of Chapter 11 of the Constitution the lead

petitioner addressed the Council for a period of 5 minutes in support of the terms of the petition.

Again, and in accordance with Rule 220, the petition was discussed by Councillors for a period of 15 minutes. However, the first 13 minutes of the discussion was taken up by the Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing responding to the terms of the petition which left only 2 minutes for other Members of the Council to take part in the debate.

Council considers that it is essential that Cabinet Members or Chairs of Committees should respond, setting out their views, to petitioners and full Council. However, it is considered that this raises concerns about stifling debate as referred to above.

Council resolves that in order to allow a full debate to take place at Council meetings on petitions presented to it that Rule 220 of Chapter 11 (Officers and Members) of the Council's Constitution be amended by:

- (1) continuing to allow a representative of the petitioners a period of five minutes to present their petition;
- (2) allowing a period of ten minutes for Councillors to ask questions of the petitioner;
- (3) allowing a period of ten minutes for the Cabinet Member/Chair of Committee to present the Council's response to the terms of the petition; and
- (4) allowing a period of 15 minutes for all Councillors to debate the petition.

Background:

Rule 220 of Chapter 11 (Officers and Members) of the Council's Constitution states:

"FULL COUNCIL DEBATES

220. If a petition contains more than 500 signatures it will be debated by the full Council unless it is a petition asking for a senior council officer to give evidence at a public meeting. This means that the issue raised in the petition will be discussed at a meeting which all councillors can attend. The Council will endeavour to consider the petition at its next meeting, although on some occasions this may not be possible and consideration will then take place at the following meeting. The petition organiser will be given five minutes to present the petition at the meeting and the petition will then be discussed by Councillors for a maximum of 15 minutes. The council will decide how to respond to the petition at this meeting. They may decide to take the action the petition requests, not to take the action requested for reasons put forward in the debate, or refer the matter to another decision-making body of the Council. Where the issue is one on

which another Council body or Officer are required to make the final decision, the council will decide whether to make recommendations to inform that decision. The petition organiser will receive written confirmation of this decision”.

Following a debate on the **Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was lost** by 13 votes to 28.

38. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR EVANS - SOUTHPORT DRIVING THEORY TEST CENTRE

It was moved by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Pugh:

This Council Notes that:

- Learning to drive can have a significant impact on mobility and access for younger people and those in isolated communities.
- Taking a theory test is a required step before you are able to take your full driver's test. It also required for motorbikes, lorries, buses and coaches, including the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) part 1a and 1b (theory) and part 2 (case studies).
- Learning to drive is an expensive process, cost on average £1,350 per person.
- Southport Theory Test Centre was based on the corner of Leicester Street and Gordon Street, Southport and closed in 2021 along with Test Centres in St. Helen's and Wigan.
- Accessing a theory test slot has become more difficult coming out of the pandemic as centres cope with the backlog.
- Following their closure, the two closest test centres are in Liverpool or Preston, over 45 minutes away by public transport, longer than the DVSA's claimed 40 minutes for urban residents.

This Council condemns the decision of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and the Department for Transport in closing Southport Theory Test Centre, along with other nearby test centres.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the re-instatement and re-opening of a Theory Test Centre based in Southport.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, requesting the re-opening of a Theory Test Centre in Southport.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Prendergast, seconded by Councillor Brough that the Motion be amended by the deletion of the word “condemns” in the first line of the second paragraph of the Motion and its replacement with the word “regrets”.

Following a debate on the **Amendment** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Amendment was lost** by 4 votes to 37.

Following a debate on the **Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was carried** unanimously and it was resolved:

This Council Notes that:

- Learning to drive can have a significant impact on mobility and access for younger people and those in isolated communities.
- Taking a theory test is a required step before you are able to take your full driver's test. It also required for motorbikes, lorries, buses and coaches, including the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC) part 1a and 1b (theory) and part 2 (case studies).
- Learning to drive is an expensive process, cost on average £1,350 per person.
- Southport Theory Test Centre was based on the corner of Leicester Street and Gordon Street, Southport and closed in 2021 along with Test Centres in St. Helen's and Wigan.
- Accessing a theory test slot has become more difficult coming out of the pandemic as centres cope with the backlog.
- Following their closure, the two closest test centres are in Liverpool or Preston, over 45 minutes away by public transport, longer than the DVSA's claimed 40 minutes for urban residents.

This Council condemns the decision of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency and the Department for Transport in closing Southport Theory Test Centre, along with other nearby test centres.

This Council resolves to:

- Support the re-instatement and re-opening of a Theory Test Centre based in Southport.
- Write to the Secretary of State for Transport and the Chief Executive of the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency, requesting the re-opening of a Theory Test Centre in Southport.

39. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUGH - PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK

Councillor Pugh advised that he wished to withdraw his Motion from the agenda and that he would re-submit it to the next meeting of Council and it was:

RESOLVED:

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That the Motion in respect of the Public Health Outcomes Framework be withdrawn from the agenda and it be noted that Councillor Pugh would re-submit it to the next meeting of Council.