

**COUNCIL**

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY, 2025**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor June Burns) in the Chair  
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Carragher) Vice Chair

Councillors Atkinson, Bradshaw, Brough,  
Danny Burns, Carlin, Cavanagh, Jim Conalty,  
Corcoran, Desmond, Dodd, Doolin, Dowd, Doyle,  
Evans, Garner, Grace, Halsall, Hansen, Hardman,  
Harrison Kelly, Hart, Harvey, Hinde, Howard,  
John Kelly, Sonya Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lloyd-  
Johnson, Lunn-Bates, Maher, McGinnity, McKee,  
Moncur, Morris, Murphy, Neary, Catie Page,  
Christopher Page, Parker, Porter, Prendergast,  
Pugh, Roscoe, Sammon, Shaw, Spring, Thomas,  
Thompson, Veidman, Sir Ron Watson and Webster

**73. WELCOME**

The Mayor welcomed Members and members of the public to the Council meeting.

The Mayor reminded Members and visitors in the public gallery that if they wished to film or record proceedings, out of courtesy to those present, it would be appreciated if they would indicate.

The Mayor also reminded members of the public that although it was a public meeting and the Council welcomed members of the public attending the meeting to observe proceedings, they could not contribute to the meeting. The Mayor observed that elected Members of the Council and Council officers should be treated with respect, and disturbances would not be tolerated, and that any disturbances might result in the meeting being adjourned and the public gallery being cleared.

**74. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brodie-Browne, Byrom, Duerden, Johnson, Keith, McNabb, Myers, O'Brien, Richards, Robinson, Roche and Williams.

**75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In accordance with Paragraph 9 of the Council's Code of Conduct, the following declarations of personal interest were made and the Members concerned took the action indicated during the consideration of the item:

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<b>Member</b>	<b>Minute No.</b>	<b>Nature of Interest</b>
Councillor Danny Burns	Minute No. 91 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Halsall - Call for Government- Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff	He is employed in the public sector – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor June Burns	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	She falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – stayed in the room, took no part in the consideration of the item and did not vote thereon;
Councillor Corcoran	Minute No. 91 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Halsall - Call for Government- Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff	She is employed in the public sector – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Desmond	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	His wife falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Grace	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	She falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor	Minute No. 93 -	She falls within the definition of a

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Hardman	Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	WASPI pensioner – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Lappin	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	She falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Maher	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	His wife falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Murphy	Minute No. 91 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Halsall - Call for Government-Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff	She is employed in the public sector – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Catie Page	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	She falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Sammon	Minute No. 92 - Renewable Energy Generation on New Council	He owns a business specialising in the installation of heat pumps - left the room, took no part in the consideration of the item and did not vote thereon;

Developments

Councillor Shaw	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	His late wife falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – left the room, took no part in the consideration of the item and did not vote thereon;
Councillor Spring	Minute No. 91 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Halsall - Call for Government-Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff	He is employed in the public sector – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon;
Councillor Thompson	Minute No. 93 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Doolin – Government’s Betrayal of WASPI Women	She falls within the definition of a WASPI pensioner – left the room, took no part in the consideration of the item and did not vote thereon; and
Councillor Sir Ron Watson	Minute No. 91 - Motion Submitted by Councillor Halsall - Call for Government-Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff	His son is employed in the public sector – stayed in the room, took part in the consideration of the item and voted thereon.

**76. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 14 November be approved as a correct record.

**77. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

Election of New Councillor

Following the recent by-election held in Litherland Ward, the Mayor extended a warm welcome to the new Councillor elected to office, namely Councillor Julia Garner.

#### Mayors Toy Appeal 2024

The Mayor thanked her fellow Members who contributed to the Annual Mayor's Toy Appeal. Once again, the appeal was a fantastic success and it helped 1,297 children in Sefton to have a wonderful Christmas. The Mayor had even received a video from one family of their children opening their presents. This made the appeal all worthwhile, so the Mayor thanked contributors once again for their support.

#### Charity Burns Night

The Mayor reported that tickets were still available for the Charity Burns Night on Saturday, 25 January at Waterloo Rugby Club. The cost of tickets was £25.00 which included a two course Burns Night supper. The Mayor indicated that if Members would like to purchase a ticket, they should contact her office by 3.00 p.m. the following day, as final numbers were required for submission by 4.00 p.m. on 17th January.

#### Thank You from the Mayor

The Mayor thanked those Members who had attended her husband's funeral and expressed her appreciation of the support offered to her.

### **78. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

The Mayor reported that no matters had been raised by members of the public.

### **79. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

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

1.	Councillor Brough to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health (Councillor Moncur)
2.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
3.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
4.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
5.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)

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6.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
7.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
8.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
9.	Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
10.	Councillor Hinde to the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families (Councillor Roscoe)
11.	Councillor Lunn-Bates to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health (Councillor Moncur)
12.	Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families (Councillor Roscoe)
13.	Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families (Councillor Roscoe)
14.	Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families (Councillor Roscoe)
15.	Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families (Councillor Roscoe)
16.	Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
17.	Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Street Scene (Councillor Harvey)
18.	Councillor Pugh to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)
19.	Councillor Shaw to the Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Street Scene (Councillor Harvey)
20.	Councillor Lloyd-Johnson to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways (Councillor Veidman)
21.	Councillor Lloyd-Johnson to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways (Councillor Veidman)
22.	Councillor Lloyd-Johnson to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways (Councillor Veidman)

23.	Councillor Evans to the Cabinet Member for Corporate Services (Councillor Howard)
24.	Councillor Sammon to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills (Councillor Lappin)
25.	Councillor Sammon to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)?”
26.	Councillor Sammon, do you wish to put a supplementary question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)?”
27.	“Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Representative of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee (Councillor Carragher)
28.	Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Representative of the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee (Councillor Carragher)
29.	Councillor Sir Ron Watson, do you wish to put a supplementary question to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)?”
30.	Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)
31.	Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)
32.	Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)
33.	Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)
34.	Councillor Sir Ron Watson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson)

together with responses given. Supplementary questions to questions 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 15, 17, 19, 22, 24, 27, 28, and 29-34 were responded to by the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health; the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills; the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families; the Cabinet Member for Cleansing and Street Scene; the Leader of the Council; the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways; and the Spokesperson for the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Transport Committee.

**80. MAKING SPACE FOR WATER CROSSENS SUDS SCHEME**

Further to Minute No. 76 of the meeting of the Cabinet of 5 December 2024, the Council considered the report of the Assistant Director - Operational In-House Services that sought approval to authorise the pre-procurement contract award, as described within the report, for the Making Space for Water scheme to manage flooding in the Crossens area; and seeking approval by the Council to a supplementary capital estimate of £1.75m funded from £1.6m Environment Agency Grant funding, subject to a funding award, and £0.15m from the Highways capital programme.

It was moved by Councillor Doyle, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

RESOLVED:

That a supplementary capital estimate of £1.75m, funded from an Environment Agency grant of £1.6m, be approved, subject to funding being allocated by the Environment Agency, and £0.15m from the Highways capital programme, as outlined in the report.

#### **81. PAY POLICY 1 APRIL 2025 - 31 MARCH 2026**

Further to Minute No. 16 of the meeting of the Pay and Grading Committee of 15 January 2025, the Council considered the report of the Head of HR and Workforce that recommended a Pay Policy for the Council, as required by the Localism Act 2011.

Annex A to the report set out consideration of severance packages which amounted to 100,000 or above, and statutory guidance entitled "Making and disclosure of Special Severance Payments by local authorities in England".

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed Pay Policy in the report be approved; and
- (2) any changes to the Pay Policy, as required because of legislation, be delegated to the Pay and Grading Committee.

#### **82. FINANCIAL PROCEDURE RULES**

Further to Minute No. 38 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee of 11 December 2024, the Council considered the report of the Executive Director – Corporate Services and Commercial which sought approval for revisions to the Financial Procedure Rules following the most recent review. It was a requirement of the Council's Constitution that there should be a regular review of the Financial Procedure Rules.

The Appendix to the report set out the Revised Financial Procedure Rules.

It was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and



RESOLVED:

That the amended Financial Procedure Rules, as set out at the Appendix to the report, be approved.

**83. COUNCIL TAX REDUCTION SCHEME AND COUNCIL TAX BASE 2025/26**

Further to Minute No. 92 of the meeting of the Cabinet of 9 January 2025, the Council considered the report of the Executive Director – Corporate Services and Commercial that provided details of the review of the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the current year 2024/25 and proposing that there be no change made to the scheme for 2025/26. The report also provided an updated Council Tax Base for Sefton Council and each Parish area for 2025/26.

The following Annexes were attached to the report:

- Annex A: Council Tax Base Report 2025/26
- Annex B: Equality Impact Assessment: Council Tax Reduction Scheme

It was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the outcome of the review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme for the current year 2024/25, be noted;
- (2) the current scheme for 2025/26 be approved; and
- (3) the relevant Council Tax Base for Sefton Council and each Parish Area for 2025/26, as set out in Annex A of the report, be approved.

**84. DBS CHECKS FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**

Further to Minute No. 37 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee of 11 December 2024, the Council considered the report of the Executive Director – Corporate Services and Commercial which outlined proposals for Elected Members to be subject to voluntary DBS checks. It was proposed that all Elected Members and Co-Opted Members should obtain a Basic DBS Check and that those Members and Substitute Members sitting on Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) and Cabinet Members should obtain an Enhanced DBS Check.

The following appendices were attached to the report:

- Appendix 1 – Letter from the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, dated 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Appendix 2 - Risk Assessment of Unspent Convictions or Conditional Cautions

It was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations of the Audit and Governance Committee be endorsed and a scheme be introduced whereby:

- (1) all elected Members are asked to agree to be subject to a Basic DBS check within one month of taking office;
- (2) all elected Members who sit on or are Substitute Members on the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services & Safeguarding) and Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) are asked to agree to be subject to an Enhanced DBS check within one month of being appointed to the committee;
- (3) all Cabinet Members are asked to agree to be subject to an Enhanced DBS check within one month of being appointed to the Cabinet;
- (4) all co-opted Members to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) be asked to agree to be subject to an Enhanced DBS check;
- (5) it be agreed that such checks outlined above be subject to renewal every 3 years;
- (6) the content of the 'Risk Assessment of Unspent Convictions or Conditional Cautions', as attached as Appendix 2 to the report, be approved;
- (7) the Council's Monitoring Officer be authorised to amend Chapter 2 of the Council's Constitution to reflect the above recommendations;
- (8) authority be delegated to the Council's Monitoring Officer to amend the scheme to reflect any subsequent changes to the committee titles; and
- (9) further to the letter from the Minister for Local Government of 18 January 2024, the Leader of the Council be authorised to write to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government requesting that legislation be introduced to make it

mandatory for all elected Members (and co-opted members) to be subject to enhanced DBS checks.

## **85. PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS – 2025/26 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

Further to Minute No. 91 of the meeting of the Cabinet of 9 January 2025, the Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer seeking approval of a Programme of Meetings for the 2025/26 Municipal Year.

The following Appendices were attached to the report:

- Annex A - Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet in 2025/26
- Annex B - Programme of Meetings for the Council, Members' Briefing Sessions and Regulatory Committees in 2025/26
- Annex C - Programme of Meetings for the Overview and Scrutiny Committees in 2025/26
- Annex D - Programme of Meetings for the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Sefton Safer Communities Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing Board in 2025/26
- Calendar of meetings 2025/26

It was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Atkinson and

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the Programme of Meetings for the Council, Member Briefing Sessions; Regulatory Committees; and Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2025/26, as set out in Annexes B and C of the report, be approved; and
- (2) the Programme of Meetings for the Cabinet, Public Engagement and Consultation Panel, Safer Sefton Together and the Health and Wellbeing Board for 2025/26 as set out in Annexes A and D of the report be noted.

## **86. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2024/25**

The Mayor reported that the Labour Group wished to make changes to the membership of the following Committees:

### Licensing and Regulatory Committee

Councillor Garner to replace Councillor Williams as a Member of the Committee.

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)

Councillor Conalty to replace Councillor Porter as the Substitute Member for Councillor McNabb.

Planning Committee

Councillor Porter to replace Councillor Conalty as the Substitute Member for Councillor Desmond.

Councillor Garner to fill the vacancy as the Substitute Member for Councillor McGinnity.

The Mayor reported that the Liberal Democrat Group wished to make changes to the membership of the following Committees:

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)

Councillor Evans to replace Councillor Brodie-Browne as a Member of the Committee

Councillor Pugh to replace Councillor Evans as the Substitute Member

RESOLVED:

That the changes as detailed above be approved.

**87. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SAMMON - THE FUTURE OF RESPITE CARE**

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

The Future of Respite Care

The closure of Revitalise Sandpipers in Southport is a huge loss to the community and a devastating blow to people living with disabilities and their carers who relied on it. The highly skilled staff and dedicated volunteers who kept Sandpipers running for decades will be greatly missed. It was one of two such facilities in the UK run by Revitalise, the closure of the charity now puts into question the future of respite care in the UK.

The Council notes that:

Respite care is an essential service. It is vital that people living with disabilities and their carers can enjoy a holiday in a safe and relaxing environment to help take the pressure off everyday life.

Respite care cannot end with the closure of the Revitalise charity.

It is regrettable that the closure of Sandpipers and Revitalise happened so suddenly and was unable to be prevented.

The Council resolves to:

Write to the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care requesting that the Government preserves the future of respite care by looking to establish a new respite care holiday centre in Southport.

Publicly thank everyone who worked and volunteered at the Revitalise Sandpipers venue and offer them support to find new jobs and volunteering opportunities, if required.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Moncur, seconded by Councillor Lunn-Bates that the Motion be revised as follows:

#### The Future of Respite Care

The closure of Revitalise Sandpipers in Southport is a huge loss to the community and a devastating blow to people living with disabilities and their carers who relied on it. The highly skilled staff and dedicated volunteers who kept Sandpipers running for decades will be greatly missed.

The Council notes that:

Respite care is an essential service. It is vital that people living with disabilities and their carers can enjoy a holiday in a safe and relaxing environment to help take the pressure off everyday life.

It is regrettable that the closure of Sandpipers and Revitalise happened so suddenly and was unable to be prevented.

The Council resolves to:

Support the ongoing development of a Respite Strategy for Sefton Residents.

Publicly thank everyone who worked and volunteered at the Revitalise Sandpipers venue and offer them support to find new jobs and volunteering opportunities, if required.

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

Thereafter, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote on the **Substantive Motion** and the Mayor declared that the **Substantive Motion was carried unanimously** and it was

RESOLVED:

The Future of Respite Care

The closure of Revitalise Sandpipers in Southport is a huge loss to the community and a devastating blow to people living with disabilities and their carers who relied on it. The highly skilled staff and dedicated volunteers who kept Sandpipers running for decades will be greatly missed.

The Council notes that:

Respite care is an essential service. It is vital that people living with disabilities and their carers can enjoy a holiday in a safe and relaxing environment to help take the pressure off everyday life.

It is regrettable that the closure of Sandpipers and Revitalise happened so suddenly and was unable to be prevented.

The Council resolves to:

Support the ongoing development of a Respite Strategy for Sefton Residents.

Publicly thank everyone who worked and volunteered at the Revitalise Sandpipers venue and offer them support to find new jobs and volunteering opportunities, if required.

**88. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PRENDERGAST - NATIONAL INSURANCE INCREASES WILL DAMAGE LOCAL BUSINESSES AND VITAL SERVICES**

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

National Insurance Increases Will Damage Local Businesses & Vital Services

On taking office, the current Labour government inherited the fastest growing economy in the G7, inflation back at the Bank of England target of 2% and employment levels at record highs.

During the election campaign, the Labour Party repeatedly stated they would not increase taxes on working people. Despite this, in the Labour Budget, National Insurance contributions for employers will be increased from April 2025, increasing from 13.8% to 15%, this equates to a tax increase for employers of almost 9%.

The threshold which employers must contribute to National Insurance will also be reduced, from £9,100 to £5,000 per year.

The Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) has stated that “*policy changes leave nominal and real earnings growth lower of the remainder of the forecast as employers pass on the National Insurance contribution rise.*”

The OBR further notes that “*in 2025/26 firms will pass on 60% of the higher costs to workers and consumers, via lower wages and higher prices.*”

Businesses, large and small, have criticised the plans confirming that job losses, price hikes and reduced wage increases will follow.

Many vital services, such as nurseries, hospices and charities will also be hit by the huge increases in National Insurance.

There are around 8,000 businesses across Sefton, large, medium and small, who will be directly affected by the changes.

It is untenable to suggest that all of this does not amount to a tax on working people.

Council believes:

- That raising revenue through excessive increases on employer’s National Insurance contributions is wrong and will lead to job losses, fewer jobs being created, increased prices and reduced wage increases.
- That increasing employer’s National Insurance contributions does amount to a tax on working people that will be detrimental to the people of Sefton.

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 11 votes for to 42 against.

#### **89. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HALSALL - IN-DEPTH NEURODIVERSITY TRAINING FOR STAFF AND CONTRACTORS WORKING WITH CHILDREN IN CARE**

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

##### In-Depth Neurodiversity Training for Staff and Contractors Working With Children In Care

This Council recognises the critical importance of understanding and supporting neurodiverse children in our care. We believe that a thorough foundation in neurodiversity awareness will enable our staff and contracted service providers to better meet the unique needs of each child, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment.

To this end, the Council commits to ensuring that all directly employed staff and contracted individuals who work with or interact with children in our care undertake in-depth neurodiversity training. This training must be delivered in person by qualified professionals with expertise in neurodiversity, ensuring a comprehensive, interactive learning experience. We further commit to involving neurodiverse individuals who have left care, as well as parents of neurodiverse children, in guiding and shaping the training content to ensure it reflects real-life experiences and needs.

Sefton Council will:

- Ensure that all directly employed staff and contracted personnel who work with children in care complete neurodiversity training.
- Require that the training is delivered in person by qualified neurodiversity professionals, ensuring an in-depth and interactive experience.
- Involve neurodiverse individuals who have left care and parents of neurodiverse children in the development of training content to reflect lived experiences and practical insights.
- Include practical strategies and skills in the training for understanding and supporting neurodiverse children in care.
- Conduct an annual review and update of training programs to reflect current best practices, research, and feedback from neurodiverse individuals and families.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Roscoe, seconded by Councillor Dowd that the Motion be revised as follows:

In-Depth Neurodiversity Training for Staff and Contractors Working With Children In Care

This Council recognises the critical importance of understanding and supporting neurodiverse children in our care.

We believe that a thorough foundation in neurodiversity awareness will enable our staff and contracted service providers to better meet the unique needs of each child, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment and recognise the requirement for different levels of training ranging from those who work intensively in this field to those who work anywhere in the council. In addition, every child or young person who enters care undergoes a thorough health assessment, including the identification and/or recognition of any neurodiverse needs.

To this end, the Council continues to commit to ensuring that all directly employed staff and contracted individuals who work with or interact with children in our care undertake the Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism which is the government's preferred and recommended training for health and social care staff.

Further, this Council commits to the delivery of a package of training that is currently being developed and co-produced with our partners in the Sefton



Safeguarding Children Partnership, including Health, the Virtual School, Sefton Parent Carers Forum and Education Excellence, aimed at neurodiversity awareness to all those across the Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership to support and strengthen confidence when carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities whilst considering the unique needs and vulnerabilities of each child.

This Council also commits to continue to support all our schools, families and young people to develop inclusive spaces and foster understanding for all neurodiverse people.

Sefton Council will:

- Continue to ensure that all directly employed staff and contracted personnel who work with children in care complete our mandatory neurodiversity training.
- Continue to co-produce training with a range of agencies and neurodiverse individuals who have left care and parents of neurodiverse children in the development of training content to reflect lived experiences and practical insights.
- Agree the Implementation of the SSCP package of training that is currently being developed aimed at neurodiversity awareness for all our partners when working with children, young people and families with regards to safeguarding.
- Ensure that as in all SSCP learning opportunities, we ensure the package of training is rigorously reviewed and quality assured.

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

Thereafter, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote on the **Substantive Motion** and the Mayor declared that the **Substantive Motion was carried unanimously** and it was

RESOLVED:

In-Depth Neurodiversity Training for Staff and Contractors Working With Children In Care

This Council recognises the critical importance of understanding and supporting neurodiverse children in our care.

We believe that a thorough foundation in neurodiversity awareness will enable our staff and contracted service providers to better meet the unique needs of each child, fostering a supportive and inclusive environment and recognise the requirement for different levels of training ranging from those

who work intensively in this field to those who work anywhere in the council. In addition, every child or young person who enters care undergoes a thorough health assessment, including the identification and/or recognition of any neurodiverse needs.

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Further, this Council commits to the delivery of a package of training that is currently being developed and co-produced with our partners in the Sefton Safeguarding Children Partnership, including Health, the Virtual School, Sefton Parent Carers Forum and Education Excellence, aimed at neurodiversity awareness to all those across the Multi Agency Safeguarding Partnership to support and strengthen confidence when carrying out their safeguarding responsibilities whilst considering the unique needs and vulnerabilities of each child.

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- Continue to co-produce training with a range of agencies and neurodiverse individuals who have left care and parents of neurodiverse children in the development of training content to reflect lived experiences and practical insights.
- Agree the Implementation of the SSCP package of training that is currently being developed aimed at neurodiversity awareness for all our partners when working with children, young people and families with regards to safeguarding.
- Ensure that as in all SSCP learning opportunities, we ensure the package of training is rigorously reviewed and quality assured.

**90. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HALSALL - CALL FOR CEASEFIRE IN GAZA AND SANCTIONS ON ISRAEL**

It was moved by Councillor Halsall, seconded by Councillor Carlin:

Call for Ceasefire in Gaza and Sanctions on Israel

This Council is deeply concerned by the ongoing violence in Gaza and the immense suffering of civilians caught in the conflict. We recognise the importance of immediate action to protect human life and uphold international law.

This Council therefore resolves to write to the UK Government, urging it to:

- Call for an immediate, comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza, ensuring the protection of civilians and the provision of humanitarian aid.
- Impose sanctions on Israel if a ceasefire is not implemented and maintained, demonstrating a commitment to international law and accountability.
- End all arms sales to states that are currently under investigation by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for war crimes and crimes against humanity, ensuring that the UK is not complicit in actions that violate human rights.
- Offer support to residents affected by the conflict and work with groups already engaged in supporting those who its impacted.

Sefton Council stands firmly in support of peace, human rights, and justice, and calls on the UK Government to take decisive action toward ending the violence and holding all parties accountable.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Pugh, seconded by Councillor Lloyd-Johnson that the Motion be revised as follows:

Adding the following bullet point after the first bullet point:

- Call for the immediate release of all hostages taken during the atrocities of October 7th, 2023.

Deleting the following word from the third point after 'Impose sanctions':

Israel

Adding the following words at the end of the last paragraph:

for their actions.

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 7 votes for to 41 against with 4 abstentions.

Thereafter, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote on the **Motion** and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was lost** by 3 votes for to 41 against.

#### **91. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR HALSALL - CALL FOR GOVERNMENT-FUNDED PAY RISE FOR COUNCIL STAFF**

It was moved by Councillor Halsall, seconded by Councillor Doolin:

Call for Government-Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff

This Council recognises the hard work and dedication of our council staff, who provide essential services that support our community every day. With rising living costs, it is crucial that these workers receive fair compensation to reflect their invaluable contributions.

This Council therefore calls on the UK Government to fund a 10% pay rise for all council staff. This increase should be funded with new government money, ensuring that the financial burden does not fall on local council taxpayers.

Sefton Council also commits to ensuring that any improvements in pay will not result in an erosion of working conditions or negatively impact staff work-life balance.

Sefton Council will:

- Write to the Government to request new funding for a 10% pay rise for all council staff.
- Insist that this pay rise is fully funded by the Government, not through increased council tax or reallocation of existing council funds.
- Ensure that any pay increase does not lead to a reduction in existing working conditions or a compromise of work-life balance for council staff.
- Continue to support fair compensation, strong working conditions, and a healthy work-life balance for all employees.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Howard, seconded by Councillor Hart that the Motion be revised as follows:

Call for Government-Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff

This Council recognises the hard work and dedication of our council staff, who provide essential services that support our community every day. With rising living costs, it is crucial that these workers receive fair compensation to reflect their invaluable contributions.

Sefton Council will continue to commit to ensuring that any improvements in pay will not result in an erosion of working conditions or negatively impact staff work-life balance.

Sefton Council will:

- Continue its regular dialogue with MHCLG around meeting the cost of future pay increases for council staff.
- Continue to highlight to MHCLG the need for financial support from Government in order to meet the increasing cost of council services, including future pay increases for council staff.

- Continue to ensure that any pay increase does not lead to a reduction in existing working conditions or a compromise of work-life balance for council staff.
- Continue to support fair compensation, strong working conditions, and a healthy work-life balance for all employees.

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 38 votes for to 14 against.

Thereafter, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote on the **Substantive Motion** and the Mayor declared that the **Substantive Motion was carried** by 39 votes for to 14 against and it was

RESOLVED:

Call for Government-Funded Pay Rise for Council Staff

This Council recognises the hard work and dedication of our council staff, who provide essential services that support our community every day. With rising living costs, it is crucial that these workers receive fair compensation to reflect their invaluable contributions.

Sefton Council will continue to commit to ensuring that any improvements in pay will not result in an erosion of working conditions or negatively impact staff work-life balance.

Sefton Council will:

- Continue its regular dialogue with MHCLG around meeting the cost of future pay increases for council staff.
- Continue to highlight to MHCLG the need for financial support from Government in order to meet the increasing cost of council services, including future pay increases for council staff.
- Continue to ensure that any pay increase does not lead to a reduction in existing working conditions or a compromise of work-life balance for council staff.
- Continue to support fair compensation, strong working conditions, and a healthy work-life balance for all employees.

**92. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DOOLIN -  
RENEWABLE ENERGY GENERATION ON NEW COUNCIL  
DEVELOPMENTS**

It was moved by Councillor Doolin, seconded by Councillor Halsall:

Renewable Energy Generation on New Council Developments

In July 2019, Sefton Council passed a motion declaring a climate emergency and committed us to reducing carbon emissions in line with

expert scientific understanding and for Sefton Council's activities to be carbon neutral by 2030.

As part of the subsequent report (a), Sefton MBC committed to:

- Municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate
- Ensure that all strategic decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.
- Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Sefton area Zero Carbon within the same timescale.
- Achieve 100% clean energy across Sefton Council's full range of functions by 2030.

We also note that, at the current time, Sefton has significant plans in relation to infrastructure developments at Bootle Strand and Southport Marine Lake Events Centre and for the total refurbishment of Southport Pier. We additionally note Sefton Council's ownership of Sandway Homes Ltd.

Since the passing of the original motion, although some progress has been made in pursuit of the aims in that report, the damaging effects of climate breakdown have also become more frequent, more destructive and economically more expensive.

Council therefore commits to:

- 1) Ensuring the use of appropriate renewable energy solutions such as solar PV, air-source and wind technologies to help power all new Council developments including those at Bootle Strand and Southport Marine Lake Events Centre.
- 2) Incorporating similar fossil fuel-free technologies and live educational displays when Southport Pier is rebuilt - such that it might be marketed as not only the country's first iron pleasure pier but also its first 'eco-pier'.
- 3) All new Sandway Homes Ltd developments to be fitted with air source heat pumps in lieu of a domestic gas boiler along with solar PV generation capacity to provide clean, low-cost electricity to householders and to reduce demand on the local electricity distribution grid.
- 4) The setting up of a joint council/community-owned limited company with the aim of retrofitting appropriate renewable energy technologies to schools and other publicly-owned buildings.

Reference:

- (a) <https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/documents/s97052/Climate%20Emergency-%20Strategy%20final.pdf>

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 for to 40 against.

**93. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DOOLIN -  
GOVERNMENT'S BETRAYAL OF WASPI WOMEN**

It was moved by Councillor Doolin, seconded by Councillor Halsall:

Government's Betrayal of WASPI Women

This council deplores the decision of the Government to withdraw all proposed support, as recommended by the Parliamentary Ombudsman report on this topic, to the estimated 3.5 million affected women across the UK. This will directly impact up to 10,000 WASPI women across Sefton.

This council notes the WASPI campaign sought compensation for each affected woman and that the campaign has strongly condemned this decision.

This council condemns in the strongest possible terms the Government's decision to refuse to implement the recommendations of the Parliamentary Ombudsman who proposed compensation of between £1,000 and £2,950 be paid to affected women who missed out on pension entitlement.

This council agrees that it is time for the Labour party at all levels, local, national and in government to deliver on the promises they have been making to the WASPI campaign for so many years.

Council therefore commits to:

The Leader of the Council writing to the Work and Pensions Secretary, Liz Kendall expressing our shock and opposition to the Government's decision to deny compensation in line with the Ombudsman's recommendation and ask them to reconsider in the interest of fairness and justice.

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 12 votes for to 37 against.

**94. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUGH - SOUTHPORT  
AS A SEASIDE RESORT**

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

Southport as a Seaside Resort

This Council:

## COUNCIL - THURSDAY 16TH JANUARY, 2025

- (1) recognises that, notwithstanding important current commitments to regeneration and coastal management, Southport faces significant challenges to its traditional status as a seaside resort
- (2) notes that there exists no financial provision within its current budget for the complete restoration and opening of the Pier and no strategy to ensure the preservation of a Leisure Beach
- (3) calls upon the Sefton Cabinet to review its policy in this area and to clarify both its policy for the Southport shoreline and whether it remains council policy as agreed on 16th November 2023 to request "a firm commitment" from government "to cover the capital and maintenance costs" of the Pier.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Lappin, seconded by Councillor Atkinson that the Motion be revised as follows:

### Southport as a Seaside Resort

This Council:

- (1) recognises that, notwithstanding important current commitments to regeneration and coastal management, Southport faces significant challenges.
- (2) notes the extensive financial provision in previous budgets and the committed £3 million for work on the pier.
- (3) calls upon Sefton Cabinet to continue to work with stakeholders and investors to get the pier open.

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 37 votes for to 14 against.

Thereafter, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote on the **Substantive Motion** and the Mayor declared that the **Substantive Motion was carried** by 37 votes for to 14 against and it was

RESOLVED:

### Southport as a Seaside Resort

This Council:

- (1) recognises that, notwithstanding important current commitments to regeneration and coastal management, Southport faces significant challenges.
- (2) notes the extensive financial provision in previous budgets and the committed £3 million for work on the pier.



- (3) calls upon Sefton Cabinet to continue to work with stakeholders and investors to get the pier open.