
Report to: Council

Date of Meeting: 17th May 2011

Subject: Sefton Borough Partnership

Report of: Assistant Chief Executive

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan?
No

Exempt/Confidential

No

Purpose/Summary

To request the Council to appoint representatives to the Sefton Borough Partnership Board Strategic Board, the Children's Trust Board, Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership and South Sefton and Southport Area Partnerships, but to defer consideration of the other appointments referred to in the Annex pending a further report.

Recommendation(s)

That the Council make the appointments referred to in the Annex to this report

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	√		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
3	Environmental Sustainability	√		
4	Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Children and Young People	√		
6	Creating Safe Communities	√		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The Council is requested annually to make appointments in accordance with its Constitution.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs – None directly arising from this decision

(B) Capital Costs – None directly arising from this decision

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal		
None applicable		
Human Resources		
None applicable		
Equality		
1.	No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2.	Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3.	Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery: None

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance (FD772) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD132/11) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

Not to make any appointments

Implementation Date for the Decision

With immediate effect

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1. Introduction/Background

A review of the Sefton Borough Partnership took place in 2008/09 for implementation in the 2009/10 Municipal Year, as part of the Governance Review. This culminated in the Council agreeing a new Membership and more defined role for the Strategic Board and its Operations Group. Thereafter, a review of the Thematic Groups of the Strategic Board took place and it was agreed that the Thematic Groups should transition to a new format or cease to exist, given the more focused role of the Strategic Board and due to the agreement of Council to create Area Partnerships within the Borough.

The refreshed Strategic Board started to meet in the 2010/11 Municipal Year as planned, but as a result of the Emergency Budget and Comprehensive Spending Review, and the ensuing prioritisation of resources, the meetings due to be held towards the end of the Municipal Year were cancelled. All Thematic Groups agreed a transition plan, and continued to meet in 2010/11.

2. Proposal

The national policy context in which the Council and its partners operates is and will continue to change. Locally there is a need to translate the outcome of the prioritisation process undertaken by the Council arising from the Comprehensive Spending Review into a replacement for the Sustainable Community Strategy (SCS) and Corporate Plan. The replacement for the SCS will need to be undertaken in collaboration with Partners to ensure it articulates the ambition for the Borough of Sefton. The Strategic Board will need to determine the impact of the national policy context on its vision and strategy for the borough, and how this will be delivered, bearing in mind the budget reductions which the Council and its partners will need to make in the current and future financial years. There is no longer a requirement on Councils to produce such a strategy. However, there needs to be some form of document which articulates the ambition and vision for the Borough, whilst the statutory requirement to have a Strategy, ceases.

This work needs to be undertaken over the coming months, and for this reason, the Council is requested to make appointments to the Strategic Board, Safer and Stronger Communities Partnership, the Children's Trust Board, South Sefton Area Partnership and Southport Partnership, but to defer consideration of appointments to other Groups/Boards as set out in the Annex to the report. With regards to the Area Partnerships, work is under way, and some are more developed than others. The South Sefton Area Partnership has been established and membership from partners including the community, voluntary and faith sector has been agreed in 2011/2012. This Area Partnership has set a forward work programme with some local priorities and to slow down the impetus of this group at this point would be detrimental to partnership working. Similarly, the Southport Partnership has been working on its transition into an Area Partnership and is keen to progress.

With regards to the Area Partnerships for the Central area of the Borough, these are at varying stages of development with membership still to be determined. It is proposed that they meet in shadow form and the formal membership will be agreed at the Council meeting in July 2011.

With this in mind, it is proposed that appointments to the following be deferred until a future meeting of the Council to enable the Director of Corporate Commissioning to review the position relative to the Thematic Groups and several Partnerships, as follows:-

- Economic Development & Sustainability Thematic Group - defer
- Healthier Communities & Older People Thematic Group - defer
- Neighbourhood Regeneration Thematic Group (this group no longer exists as it is now the South Sefton Area Partnership)
- Sefton Compact Working Group - defer
- Area Partnerships – defer membership in the Central area and operate shadow arrangements