

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES)

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON TUESDAY 2ND AUGUST, 2011**

**Overview
& Scrutiny**



PRESENT: Councillor Papworth (in the Chair)
Councillor Jones (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Ashton, K. Cluskey, McKinley, Robinson,
Weavers, Welsh and Hubbard.
Also Present: Councillor Shaw – Cabinet Member, Environmental.

11. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Fenton and Hardy. An apology for absence was also received from the Cabinet Member for Street Scene and Transportation, Councillor Fairclough.

12. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were received.

13. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the Minutes of the meeting held on 14 June 2011 be confirmed as a correct record; and
- (2) in relation to Minute No. 5 – Floods and Water Management Act – Actions Update, this Committee welcomes Cabinet's response to the recommendations forwarded from this Committee and looks forward to receiving further update reports on progress.

14. JOINT MERSEYSIDE WASTE DEVELOPMENT PLAN DOCUMENT: REVIEW OF PROGRESS AND NEXT STAGES

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment which reviewed recent progress in relation to the preparation of the joint Merseyside Waste Development Plan (Waste DPD) and set out the final stages of plan preparation and approval. The report also considered the implications for Sefton.

Members raised concern regarding the consultation process and in particular referred to the F0726 site, Acorn Way, Bootle. Members stated that there had been objections raised regarding that site relating to the issue of traffic management and the huge wagons and trucks using the

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main gateway into Bootle along Hawthorne Road. Councillor's Cluskey and Robinson requested that the issue be investigated further.

Councillor Welsh requested further information regarding the F2333 site, Crowland Street, Southport.

Mr Ian Loughlin, Senior Planner, undertook to circulate the criteria used to determine acceptable and unacceptable sites for waste disposal.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be accepted;
- (2) the Director of Built Environment provide both Councillor's Cluskey and Robinson with further information regarding the F0726 site at Acorn Way, Bootle;
- (3) the Director of Built Environment provide Councillor Welsh with further information regarding the F2333 site at Crowland Street, Southport;
- (4) the Director of Built Environment be requested to circulate the criteria used to determine acceptable and unacceptable uses of sites for waste disposal; and
- (5) the Waste Development Plan Document be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee (20.9.11) prior to publication.

15. LOCAL FLOOD RISK STRATEGY - THE WAY FORWARD

The Committee received a presentation from Mr Graham Lymbery, Project Leader, Coastal Defence a representative of the Director of Built Environment.

The presentation detailed the role of Overview and Scrutiny in progressing the Local Flood Risk Strategy as:-

- Receiving an update in relation to the Local Flood Risk Strategy at the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) to include already identified concerns.
- That the Committee receive a formal annual report to Overview and Scrutiny (Regeneration and Environmental Services).

The presentation included the following information:-

Flood Risk:-

- That flood risk was the likelihood of a specified adverse consequence occurring.

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- That it was not possible to predict or prevent all flooding or coastal erosion, but there were actions that could be taken to manage the risks and reduce the impacts on the community.

Vision:-

Sefton Council by working with communities, individuals, voluntary groups and key partners, aim to:-

- Manage the risk to people, property and infrastructure;
- Facilitate decision-making at a local level to develop appropriate plans, actions and responses to flooding events; and
- Achieve environmental, social and economic benefits, consistent with the principles of sustainable development.

Working towards the vision:-

In order to improve risk management in Sefton and work towards the vision Sefton must:-

- Understand risk;
- Adopt a risk based approach;
- Avoid inappropriate development;
- Prepare for emergencies; and
- Communicate the risk to all parties.

Sefton's Duties under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010:-

Sefton Council as the Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA) for Sefton under its new duties from the above act have been tasked with producing, maintaining, applying and monitoring a strategy for flood and coastal erosion risk management in Sefton.

The Strategy will set out how Sefton aim to:-

- Manage risk;
- Achieve Sefton's vision;
- Encourage the use of all available measures in a co-ordinated way that balances the needs of:-
 - Communities;
 - the economy; and
 - the environment of Sefton.

Sefton's Local Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy should include the following sections:-

Section 1. understanding the risk;
Section 2. adopting a risk based approach;
Section 3. roles and responsibilities;
Section 4. legislation;

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Section 5. funding;
Section 6. action plan;
Section 7. review process.

The future plan for the way forward was presented as:-

- Commence developing strategy sections
- Finish draft strategy by June 2012
- Start internal consultation in June 2012
- Public consultation July 2012
- Report back to O&S in October 2012
- Report to Cabinet in November 2012
- Final Strategy document ready by December 2012
- Commence implementing measures
- Annual reporting of progress.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be accepted;
- (2) a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) updating Members and including already identified concerns; and
- (3) a formal annual report be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services).

16. CORE STRATEGY CONSULTATION PROCESS

The Committee received a presentation from Ms Ingrid Berry, Principal Planner which detailed the consultation process in relation to the Core Strategy.

The presentation outlined that the Council were consulting on the following 5 documents:-

- Core Strategy "Options" paper,
- Draft Green Belt Study,
- Draft Green Space Study,
- Draft Infrastructure Study,
- Sustainability Appraisal of Options paper.

It was reported that the consultation period had been ongoing from 23 May 2011 and would finish on 12 August 2011 (12 weeks).

Ms. Ingrid Berry explained that 15 drop in events had taken place across Sefton with presentations and discussions being held at the Council's Area Committee's, 10 Parish Council Meetings and to interested groups.

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Officers had also conducted a lesson in 4 schools and held meetings with local residents to discuss options for specific sites.

It was reported that the Council had initially received complaints that residents knew nothing about the consultation process despite adverts in the local press, posters and on the Council's website. The notification process was reviewed and letters sent direct to more than 7000 residents.

It was reported that the consultation process had included:-

- More than 1300 people attending drop in events
- 210 people attended Area Committee presentations
- 200 members of the business community attended the Sefton Economic Forum.

Ms. Ingrid Berry outlined the following next steps following consultation:-

- May – August: 12 week consultation on “Options” paper
- Report back to Planning Committee & Cabinet in late 2011
- Early 2012: consult on “preferred” option
- Summer 2012: publish draft plan
- Early 2013; examination by independent inspector
- Mid 2013 “adoption”.

The Chair, Councillor Peter Papworth requested that the Director of Built Environment should report back to this Committee before reporting back to the Planning Committee and Cabinet in late 2011. The Chair reported that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could reflect an independent assessment of the public's view in relation to the outcome of the consultation process.

RESOLVED:That

- (1) the report be accepted; and
- (2) a further report be submitted to this Committee in relation to the outcome of the consultation process prior to submission to the Planning Committee and Cabinet.

17. CROSBY VILLAGE REGENERATION

The Chair, Councillor Peter Papworth, introduced Mr Jamie Scott who had been invited to attend the meeting as a representative of “ABetterCrosby”.

Mr Jamie Scott thanked the Committee for the invitation to attend the meeting and highlighted that he had already had positive communications with representatives from Sefton Council.

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It was reported that “ABetterCrosby” had been established to attempt to address the issues regarding the declining state of Crosby Village. It was further reported that there were two main issues:-

1. The vacant shop units; and
2. the site earmarked for the supermarket.

It was highlighted that the group had already carried out an immense amount of work in setting up a public consultation event and responding to the Core Strategy document.

Mr Jamie Scott stated that he looked forward to working with Sefton Council on the issue in the future.

RESOLVED:

That the verbal update from Mr Jamie Scott be accepted.

18. OUTCOME OF THE TRIAL LICENSING ACT NOTIFICATION SCHEME

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Built Environment, which detailed the outcomes of the trial Licensing Act Notification Scheme.

Members were reminded that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) had set up a Working Group to investigate the Licensing Act back in 2009. It was reported that the trial notification scheme was a recommendation from the Licensing Act Working Group

Members welcomed the report.

RESOLVED:

That the report be accepted.

19. SEFTON LOCAL ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Build Environment, which updated members on the Local Economic Assessment (LEA) for Sefton and detailed the way in which partners were to be consulted.

It was reported that the LEA document had been prepared by SQW consultants who had worked closely with a Steering Group at Sefton MBC. It was deemed to be a detailed, mature and reflective analysis, which provided a solid evidence base for future policy and practice.

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RESOLVED: That:

1. the Local Economic Assessment for Sefton be supported;
2. the consultation responses and the Economic Strategy be reported to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) in due course; and
3. Officers proceed with the preparation of an Economic Strategy for Sefton.

20. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning submitting the most recent Cabinet Member reports for May – June 2011 for the following portfolio's which fall within the remit of this Committee:-

Cabinet Member – Environmental;
Cabinet Member – Leisure, Culture and Tourism;
Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Housing; and
Cabinet Member – Street Scene and Transportation.

RESOLVED: That:

1. the Director of Street Scene be requested to provide additional information in relation to the Procurement of Highway Maintenance Contracts which was referred to within the Cabinet Member Report for Street Scene and Transportation; and
2. the most recent Cabinet Member reports for the above portfolio's be accepted.

21. WORK PROGRAMME KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN - 1 AUGUST TO 30 NOVEMBER 2011

The Committee considered the report of the Director of Corporate Commissioning in relation to the Committee's programme of work. A number of Key Decision's within the latest Key Decision Forward Plan fell under this Committee's remit

The Scrutiny Support Officer advised Members that the Rimrose Valley Working Group at it's meeting held on 16 March 2011 would propose to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) that the Working Group would continue the review during 2011/12. Following on from that Members were advised that Councillor Cluskey (Lead Member) and Councillor Papworth were Members of the Working Group and further nominations were requested. Councillor Welsh requested to sit on the Working Group.

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RESOLVED: That:

1. the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for period 1 July – 31 October 2011 be accepted; and
2. the Rimrose Valley Working Group be re-instated and the following Members be appointed to sit on the Working Group:-
 - Councillor Cluskey (Lead Member)
 - Councillor Papworth; and
 - Councillor Welsh.