

# Overview & Scrutiny



## SEFTON COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Sefton Council 



# Overview & Scrutiny

**‘Valuing  
Improvement’**

[www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)  
[scrutiny@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:scrutiny@sefton.gov.uk)

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 2012/13



**Councillor Steve McGinnity**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board*

**It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2012/13.**

Five meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board took place during 2012/13.

At the beginning of the Municipal Year 2012/13, the Board agreed to hold a training session for all Overview and Scrutiny Members with an invitation being extended to all Cabinet Members.

At the event, Members were grouped into their respective Committees and scoped a topic for a review. This gave Members an insight into the criteria used for selecting topics to review and the journey a review takes from start to finish.

The event was well attended and feedback from Members confirmed that the session had been very beneficial, particularly for newly-elected Members. It is envisaged that the Board will give consideration to an annual training session being held in the same way each year.

As promised in my Annual Report 2011/12, the Board kept a close eye on Health Inequalities across the Borough. The Board recognised the link between health and general wellbeing, with other areas of strategic importance, such as employment, education, housing and environment. With this in mind and after receiving an update on Engagement of the Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment and Development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Members requested that an annual report be provided to the Board identifying the various health issues dealt with by G.P.'s, to include an audit trail of those then referred on to specialists and subsequently requiring treatment, to be analysed by ward profile. We look forward to receiving that update in the forthcoming Municipal Year.

The Board has also requested to scrutinise data information regarding the perceived differences in health care between the North and South of the Borough. This has been and will continue to remain, on the Management Board's radar.



Communication has always been a key consideration for the Management Board and the Board has previously agreed that Cabinet Member reports would be submitted, if the Chair of the Committee deemed it necessary, to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to contribute towards the relationship between the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Members.

Members have welcomed the Cabinet Member update reports and attendance of relevant Cabinet Members at Overview and Scrutiny Committees. This process will remain in place despite Cabinet Member decisions being managed electronically.

During 2011/12, the Board agreed to establish a cross-cutting review investigating the Port Master Plan. The Final Report, along with its recommendations, was considered by the Board, who commended the report to Cabinet for approval.

The Board was consulted on the development of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the review of the calendar of meetings.

Due to the emerging Welfare Rights Reform, Board Members welcomed a presentation in relation to the Housing Benefit/Council Tax/Bailiff processes and procedures.

All Overview and Scrutiny Committees have embraced the proposal to adopt an alternative approach to business. The Management Board has offered support and guidance where necessary, in the promotion of mini- reviews/single item meetings with a view to being more productive and adding value with reduced resources. This has been welcomed by all Committees and we hope to build on the successes from the previous year to ensure we continually improve.

I think the forthcoming year will be extremely busy for Overview and Scrutiny and the Board, particularly the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services), who will keep abreast of the implications emerging in relation to the Welfare Rights Reform, Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Universal Credit. The Board will continue to be updated on the prioritisation of Council services, ensuring we continue to deliver services that meet the needs and expectations of our residents, partners and clients, within the set budget available.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers of the Democratic Services Team for all their hard work during the year and I look forward to working with the team again this year.

**Councillor Steve McGinnity**  
**May 2013**



# Performance and Corporate Services



**Councillor Steve McGinnity**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*  
**Performance and Corporate Services**

**On behalf of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services), it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2012/13 Annual Report.**

During the year, the Committee has met 6 times and considered issues such as the Transformation Programme and Revenue Budget, Public Consultation and Engagement on Budget Options, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, Sefton's Emergency Planning Arrangements, Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment, Welfare Reform/Food Bank System and the Review of the Calendar of Meetings. The Committee has focused its attention, in the main, on scrutiny of the Transformation Programme and Revenue Budget.

## **Transformation Programme and Revenue Budget**

This year the Committee continued to receive regular updates on the progress of the Transformation Programme. The Transformation Programme is about:-

- Putting the customer at the heart of what we do, aiming to protect our most vulnerable and delivering quality local services;
- Delivering value for money services through efficiency and improved procurement; and
- Maximising the potential of all staff, ensuring that staff are consulted and fully informed of proposals in order that they may embrace the challenging times ahead by working together.

A lot of the transformation work has focused on saving money which gave us a real opportunity to examine and change, where required, the way in which we deliver services. This year a number of reviews around Key Services were identified and agreed. The objective is to further improve services to the citizens of Sefton and to ensure that the most is made of the valuable assets in our communities by delivering 21st Century services which meet the needs of our Communities within the available budget. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) will play a key role in scrutinising proposals and in reviewing the targets and timetable of the Programme.



Along with scrutinising the transformation programme, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) was also responsible for scrutinising the proposed budget for 2013/15. The budget represents a third year of significant reduction in spend. In scrutinising the 2 year financial plan and budget, Committee Members were required to:-

- Consider if Cabinet had met the initial proposals;
- Feed comments back to Cabinet;
- Determine that adequate opportunity had been provided for the public and service users to be consulted and contribute their views.

The Committee was also briefed on the public consultation and engagement approaches to the setting of the Council budget.

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) will continue to scrutinise the Revenue Budget in the forthcoming year.

### **The Council Tax Reduction Scheme**

The Committee welcomed an update on the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which is one of the many changes falling under the umbrella of Welfare Reform. Members were briefed on the impact and risks associated with the Council Tax Reduction Scheme. In a nut shell, Council Tax Benefit no longer exists and individuals are required to apply instead for Council Tax Reduction.

### **Sefton's Emergency Planning Arrangements**

Following flooding incidents at the following sites in Sefton:-

- Fouracres, Maghull;
- Sefton Meadows, Maghull;
- Water Street, Thornton; and
- Moss Lane, Lydiate,

the Committee was keen to scrutinise Sefton's Emergency Planning Arrangements. Following a presentation by Officers, Members were re-assured that the arrangements in place were adequate and welcomed further work being undertaken to develop best practice and explore mutual aid with Merseyside colleagues. Members also acknowledged that further work was necessary to audit the Council's capabilities and resources following transformational change.

### **Welfare Reform/Food Bank**

As a result of emerging legislation, namely "The Welfare Reform Act 2012", the Committee received a presentation in relation to all aspects of Welfare Reform, including the impact and possible consequences for the residents of Sefton. The presentation also briefed Members on the actions so far in relation to a Sefton Food Bank System and the importance of available food banks for our vulnerable residents who are most in need. The Committee will continue to keep a close eye on the impact of all elements of Welfare Reform, including progress on a Food Bank System for Sefton.

### **Port Master Plan Working Group**

I reported in last year's Annual Report on the progress of the Port Master Plan Working Group. Due to the heavy work load of that Working Group, agreement was sought to continue the review into the Municipal Year 2012/13. The Working Group completed the review and submitted its Final Report to Cabinet in September 2012. Cabinet welcomed the report and the Cabinet Member for Transportation, in particular, welcomed the report as one which could be used as a reference document in the future.

### **Cabinet Member Reports**

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs for them to determine what items should be reported to Committee. The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) covers the portfolios of the following two Cabinet Members:-

- Cabinet Member – Corporate Services and Performance; and
- Cabinet Member – Communities and Environment.

### **The Year Ahead**

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities over the coming year:

- Monitoring the impact of the Transformation Programme upon the delivery of services to the people of Sefton and those who work for Sefton;
- Input and monitoring of budget saving exercises in this financial year.

I envisage the forthcoming year to be extremely busy and challenging for the Committee, given the difficult times that are currently being experienced by local government.

On behalf of the Committee I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Democratic Services Team for their support to me over the past year.

**Councillor Steve McGinnity**  
**May 2013**



# Children's Services



**Councillor Robert Brennan**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*  
**(Children's Services)**

**It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) Annual Report 2012/13 to the Council.**

## **Agenda Items**

During 2012/13, the Committee met on 5 occasions and received a number of reports on the Children and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) provided by Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust. This largely provided follow-up information in relation to the implementation of recommendations produced by the CAMHS Working Group established by this Committee some two years ago and the Committee was also apprised of the restructure of the service and appointments to key posts.

The Committee was also mindful of falling school numbers and received information on issues relating to School Organisation and School Places on two occasions. Pupil numbers and places available were considered. At the request of the Committee, Committee Member, Councillor Hands assisted relevant officers with work on this matter and he has been authorised to continue with this role as and when required.

Information on the Troubled Families Programme was also received, including a definition and progress made by partners in this area. The Committee considered that it was important for this information to be made available to all Members and the relevant report was referred by the Committee to all of the Council's Area Committees for information.

A presentation was received on Sefton's Strategic Needs Assessment, with particular emphasis on how it related to children's issues. Another presentation focused on GP Consortia in Sefton. This outlined the arrangements to be made for South Sefton and Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Groups which became the responsible local healthcare commissioners from 1 April 2013.

Information on Children's Complaints and Representations for 2011/12 was received by the Committee, in relation to representations regarding children's social care services and corporate complaints made in relation to the Council's Young People and Families Services and individual schools.





Other agenda items included the following:-

- Fostering Strategy Regarding Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Foster Carers – a proposed targeted recruitment campaign;
- Childcare entitlement for vulnerable two year olds – in relation to free childcare and proposed criteria for entitlement;
- Registered Childcare Places in Church Ward;
- School Service Level Agreements; and
- Sefton’s Timescales for Adoption (an issue raised by Councillor Pat Keith).

### **Pre-Scrutiny – The Key Decision Forward Plan**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also been given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Council’s Key Decision Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

### **Cabinet Member Reports**

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had previously agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports for the Children, Schools, Families and Leisure portfolio to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee Chairs for them to determine what items should be reported to Committee. During 2012/13 I have requested Cabinet Member Update Reports to be included on Committee agendas for general information purposes for Members of the Committee. Items considered within Cabinet Member reports have included issues relating to:-

- Vulnerable children, including safeguarding measures;
- Early intervention and prevention;
- Learning support;
- Health and wellbeing, including the “Active Lifestyles Programme” and other leisure/sports programmes;
- School funding reform; and
- School performance.

### **Site Visit**

During March 2013, Members of the Committee undertook a joint site visit with Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) to Alder Hey Hospital to view services associated with Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), following a review by this Committee two years previously. Committee Members, particularly those who had participated in the former review, found this visit to be extremely useful and thoroughly enjoyed seeing and hearing for themselves how recommendations made by the Working Group had been considered and implemented.

## **Working Groups**

The Joint Cross-Cutting Working Group on the Port Master Plan continued its work into 2012/13 and Councillor Dorgan was the representative from this Committee. The Working Group finished its work during the autumn and the Cabinet agreed all of the recommendations from the Working Group in September 2012.

Following a suggestion at a meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board, to which Members of the Cabinet had been invited, a NEETs Working Group (not in education, employment or training) was jointly established during 2012/13 between this Committee and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services). This Committee was represented by myself, as the Working Group Lead Member, and also Councillors Dorgan, Keith, Killen and McKinley, together with Advisory Member, Mrs. Sandra Cain. Members really enjoyed serving on this Working Group and found it to be a real pleasure and privilege to have the opportunity to meet and talk with young people about the issues they face, particularly those young people who have previously been in the care of the Local Authority. The Committee was delighted with the Working Group Final Report, so much so that it requested the Cabinet to forward it to the Local Government Association as a potential example of best practice. The Cabinet agreed to this and also approved all of the recommendations, which we hope will go some way to contribute to the prevention of young people falling into the NEET category.

## **The Year Ahead**

I look forward to the new Municipal Year as we look forward to working as a critical friend to our Cabinet Member and partners. The Committee will be examining Key Priorities for the Council and examining areas for us to investigate in order that the services we provide are continually improved to benefit all who live and work in the Borough.

I am particularly appreciative of our Democratic Services Officers for their commitment, advice and support and especially to the responsible officer during 2012/13, Debbie Campbell, for her hard work and dedication.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee Members for their support, hard work and contributions to our work throughout the year.

**Councillor Robert Brennan**  
**May 2013**

# Health and Social Care



**Councillor Catie Page**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*  
**(Health and Social Care)**

**It is my pleasure to introduce the 2012/13 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care).**

## **Introduction**

This is my first Annual Report as Chair of the Committee. I believe that the Committee has built on the existing good working relationships with all our health partners. The trust that has been built up has meant that we are recognised as a “critical friend” and that we are listened to and have been able to have a positive influence on the development of health services in Sefton.

The Committee met on five occasions and this Report is presented to the Council and a wider audience beyond, in the hope that the information it contains will contribute to the debate and discussion about the provision of health and adult social care services for Sefton residents and their development, improvement and accessibility.

## **Agenda Items**

As usual, the Committee commenced 2012/13 with consideration of draft Quality Accounts from local healthcare providers. This provides Committee Members with an opportunity to comment on the performance of local NHS Trusts during the preceding twelve months, particularly in relation to patient experience, safety and clinical effectiveness. Eight local NHS Trusts submitted their draft Quality Accounts for consideration and comment in May 2012 and it is always a challenge to provide adequate time to consider all of them in sufficient detail.

Throughout 2012/13 the Committee received regular update reports from NHS Sefton during its final year in operation, on a range of activities from developments with the local Clinical Commissioning Groups, which operated in “shadow form” during 2012/13, to events held throughout the Borough for the promotion of wellbeing amongst residents.



Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust also reported to the Committee on a regular basis during 2012/13 on a range of issues affecting the Trust, including its response to the Care Quality Commission (CQC) warning notice in respect of its medicines management.

Regular Update Reports were also received from Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust on a range of issues affecting the Trust, including winter pressures, and Committee Members were able to raise concerns regarding the cancellation and prolonged waiting times for appointments at clinics held by the Trust.

Following the return of Public Health to the local authority remit, the Committee received the usual Public Health Annual Report. The 2012 Public Health Annual Report focused on health protection and identified key priorities for future work. With recent concerns regarding the threat of measles in certain areas of the country, I hope work around immunisation and other forms of health protection remain a key priority for our Public Health colleagues in the months to come.

Following a presentation by the Centre for Public Scrutiny, way back in January 2012, the Committee received two reports throughout the year via Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens (SPOC), reporting back on developments with addressing issues raised by Members on the ageing population. With the demographics of the Borough being what they are, obviously the ageing population, together with the impact this has on social care offered by the Council, remains an on-going concern to this Committee.

Other agenda items received included an update of progress on the former Health Inequalities Working Group, a joint working group led by the previous Chair of this Committee; a Department of Health Consultation on Local Authority Health Scrutiny, where our views were sought following changes brought about by the Health and Social Care Act 2012; and a recommendation concerning the Denunciation of Tobacco Industry Social Responsibility Funding, which was endorsed by the Council.

### **Presentations**

Throughout 2012/13 the Committee received a number of presentations on the work undertaken by various Trusts, particularly by the following:-

- Liverpool Community Health Trust;
- Mersey Care NHS Trust; and
- North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.

In addition, the Committee received a presentation on the Sefton Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, with particular regard to health and wellbeing objectives.



## **Working Groups**

2012/13 saw the continuation of the Joint Cross-Cutting Working Group on the Port Master Plan. Both myself and Councillor Roberts represented the Committee until the Working Group completed its work during the autumn of 2012 and the Cabinet agreed to all of the recommendations made.

No specific Working Group reviews were undertaken by the Committee during 2012/13 but the Committee did request information on the podiatry service and concerns held by Members were acted upon by the Trusts concerned.

### **Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Vascular Services)**

One meeting of the above joint body took place during 2012/13, to consider the development of two arterial centres for vascular services across Cheshire and Merseyside. This has been a joint Committee between Sefton and Knowsley Councils and Sefton was represented by myself and Councillors McGuire, Roberts and Robinson.

### **Pre-Scrutiny and the Key Decision Forward Plan**

As ever, the Key Decision Forward Plan provides the Committee with an opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decision items from the Council's Forward Plans. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Committee as part of its Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made. During 2012/13 the Committee did take the opportunity to request additional information on a Key Decision, namely the Section 75 Partnership Agreement Between Sefton Council and Mersey Care NHS Trust, which set out an agreement as to how both organisations contributed towards the delivery of mental health services within the Borough. This provided a valuable opportunity for Members of the Committee to ask questions and seek additional information on this important Key Decision, prior to approval by the Cabinet to enter into a new formal agreement.

### **Site Visits**

During 2012/13 Members of the Committee visited Aintree University Hospital, to visit the trauma pathway there; the Walton Centre to see the developments underway at Trust premises; Southport and Ormskirk NHS Hospital Trust to view a range of services; and also undertook a joint site visit with Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) to Alder Hey Hospital to view services associated with Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS), following a review by that Committee two years previously.

## Cabinet Member Reports

The regular attendance of the Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care, Councillor Cummins, has been particularly appreciated when Cabinet Member reports have been considered and the presence of senior officers from the People Directorate has been very useful. The update reports and presentations have included the following issues:-

- The judicial review of the Council's decision not to increase fees in 2011/12 for residential care placements;
- Winter pressures provided to support adult social care services during the winter period;
- The Supporting People Review, as to how the services can be re-modelled in line with the savings required;
- The Public Health transition at national and local levels;
- The transition from Local Involvement Networks (LINKs) to local Healthwatch;
- Day Support and the remodelling of the provision in Sefton to reflect the changing needs and aspirations of current and future users;
  
- Leisure centre pilot projects;
- Welfare reform;
- Sefton New Directions;
- Integrated Adults System, a replacement social care database;
- Active Lifestyles developments;
- Consultation on the Care Quality Commission Strategy 2013 to 2016;
- Towards Excellence in Adult Social Care (TEASC): Progress with Adult Social Care priorities England 2011/12;
- The appointment of an independent Chair of the Adult Safeguarding Board and the Local Safeguarding Children's Board (LSCB) for Sefton;
- The draft Health and Well-Being Strategy for the Borough;
- Parkhaven Trust – The Willow Centre;
- Sefton Dementia Action Alliance;
- The Strategy for Adults with Autism in England;
- Church Ward – Older People Pilot; and
- Substance Misuse Treatment Service.

## Contributions Made During 2012/13

During 2012/13, the Committee was fortunate in having a co-opted member from Sefton LINK who was able to bring experience and expertise to the table. The regular attendance of representatives of organisations and partners, including senior officers and members of NHS Trusts, has been much appreciated and I would like to thank our partners for their openness and their responses to our requests and suggestions. I would also like to express my gratitude to members of the public who attended the Committee during 2012/13 together with my appreciation of the advice and support of Dr. Janet Atherton, Sefton's Director of Public Health, and Fiona Clark, Chief Officer for both the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs). Fiona has been a regular attendee, keeping the Committee apprised of developments with the emerging CCGs.

I am also grateful to all the Members of the Committee for their support and for the enthusiastic way that they have contributed to our work. My special appreciation goes to our Democratic Services Officers for their commitment, advice and support and particularly to the current officer, Debbie Campbell, for her enthusiasm and hard work.

### **The Year Ahead**

With the impact of the Health and Social Care Act and emergence of the GP consortia in both South Sefton and Southport and Formby, from April 2013, together with continuing pressures on health and social care services, I am conscious that the Committee faces fresh challenges during 2013/14, and I am confident that the Committee will continue to rise to the challenges it faces.

**Councillor Catie Page**  
**May 2013**



## Regeneration and Environmental Services



**Councillor Patrick McKinley**  
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee*  
**Regeneration and Environmental Services**

**It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) Annual Report 2012/13.**

As a newly appointed Chair of the above Committee, it has been a pleasure and privilege to chair the Committee during the year. The Committee met on five occasions during the year, and we were grateful to all those who were invited to attend and the various Council Officers who presented reports and offered guidance, advice and support to the Committee.

As Chair, I have built strong relationships with the four Cabinet Members whose portfolios are within our Terms of Reference. As part of that process we have continued to welcome update reports from Cabinet Members into our agenda. This ensures that the Committee are briefed upon current Cabinet Member activities. It also allows Committee to make judgements and offer assistance to the Cabinet Members where they agree it's required. Cabinet Members have regularly attended the Committee Meetings and Members have appreciated the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarifications on certain aspects of their work.

### **Call-In of Executive Decisions**

The Committee dealt with four decisions that had been "called in" during the year 2012/13. The call-in mechanism allows at least three Members, who are not Members of the Cabinet, to call in a decision for further review. There are certain stipulations associated with what constitutes a valid call-in and the Committee must, in the first instance, determine if the call in is a valid one. When considering a call-in at Committee, there is a set procedure to be followed and this assists the Committee in ensuring that they receive all the evidence required to determine if the original decision was a sound one.

The following decisions were subject to call in:-

- Receipt of Petitions - Rufford Road/Bankfield Lane, Southport;
- Implementation of Permitting Building Materials on the Highway;
- Review of Library Service and Options for Consideration; and
- Housing in Multiple Occupation and Flats Supplementary Planning Document.





Members of the public attended for three of the listed items above and were invited to make representations to the Committee.

Detailed information in relation to the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules and the call in process can be accessed in the Council's Constitution and by following the link at:-

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s46670/Chapter%206%20-%20Overview%20and%20Scrutiny%20Committees.pdf>

The Committee continues to actively monitor the progress of the 29 recommendations from the Watercourse Maintenance and Flooding Working Group. The Floods and Water Management Act 2010 has placed a number of duties on Local Authorities, in particular those that are Lead Local Flooding Authorities (LLFA). I note that in previous years this Committee has been instrumental in ensuring that the Council complies with the sentiments of the Act by working with Cabinet to ensure that the Council is fulfilling its duty as an LLFA. This year being no exception, the Committee received an Annual Report on Flood and Coastal Risk Management. The Committee will continue to monitor compliance with the Act.

### **Local Plan Update**

The Committee received an update with regard to the Local Plan. The Committee also received a petition and listened to representations made by a representative of the Formby Residents Action Group in relation to "implementing a local plan as a matter of urgency which would protect the green belt, farm land, countryside and residents in Sefton from any development on such land."

The Committee will be updated on the outcome of the "consequences study" and consideration of a preferred options document which will lead into a 12 week consultation and submission of the plan for examination later in 2014.

### **Review of Progress Made Against the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy**

The Committee welcomed the Waste Strategy Manager from the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority who made a presentation on progress on delivery of the Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy. The Committee also received an update from a Senior Officer of the Council detailing the progress Sefton had made against the delivery of the objectives of the Strategy.

The Committee agreed that it would be most appropriate to continue to scrutinise the progress of the Merseyside Waste Partnership in delivering the key objectives of the Strategy on an annual basis. This Committee will scrutinise the Strategy at the time the Annual Report which details performance is published. We look forward to working with the partnership to ensure that the targets are met.

### **Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment**

A presentation was received by all four Overview and Scrutiny Committees detailing the outcomes of the consultation on the Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment.

The Committee welcomed the fact that the presentation highlighted the concerns residents raised in relation to the Regeneration and Environmental issues. The



consultation also recognised that each area across the Borough has significantly different concerns. Members welcomed the fact that the issues were identified and highlighted by area.

### **Sefton Home Energy Conservation Act (HECA) Plan**

The Committee welcomed a report setting out details of a HECA Plan - Green Deal that should give homes and businesses the opportunity to make energy saving improvements and pay for some or all of the work done over time from expected savings from their energy bills.

This is a good opportunity for Sefton to gain first mover advantage in attracting external investment in to Sefton.

### **NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training) Working Group**

In September 2012 the Committee embarked on a Joint Review with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services) to investigate NEET. The review took a focused approach to the investigation, involving interviewing various organisations and their honesty in answering the Group's questions was welcomed.

The full report may be accessed via the following link:-

<http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD1453&ID=1453&RPID=7314964&sch=doc&cat=13388&path=13383%2c13388>

The Committee will be briefed upon the latest position with regard to NEET and the implementation of recommendations, on a six monthly basis.

### **Employment Development and Development of Local Town Centres and Economies Working Group**

The Committee established a Working Group to investigate Employment Development and Development of Local Town Centres and Economies. The Terms of Reference and Objectives of the review were rather detailed and with this in mind, the Working Group agreed to split the review into two parts for investigation purposes with one final report being prepared.

The Committee was keen to examine Employment Development with a view to formalising recommendations to maximise job opportunities for local people. As part of the brief, Members interviewed many key witnesses and are currently formalising the findings of that part of the review. It is envisaged that the Working Group will start the Town Centres part of the review at the beginning of June 2013.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all Members, Officers and those organisations who have given up their time to come and speak with the Group. The Working Group will keep up the good work and it is anticipated that the final report will be completed by September 2013.

### **Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan**

The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan is reviewed each Summer to ensure that it remains "fit for purpose". The Committee scrutinised the plan and was satisfied that the plan was "fit for purpose" and all roads across Sefton were deemed to be safe during the winter months.



## **The Year Ahead**

The Committee will continue to keep abreast of the various matters as listed above.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Committee Members, Officers, Partner Organisations and the Democratic Services Team for all their hard work and support throughout the year.

**Councillor Patrick McKinley**  
**May 2013**



During 2012/13, the following Members served on the Committees indicated:-

### Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor McGinnity (Chair)  
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Bradshaw  
Councillor Brennan  
Councillor J. Kelly  
Councillor McKinley  
Councillor Page  
Councillor Robinson

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services)

Councillor Brennan (Chair)  
Councillor Bradshaw (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Bennett  
Councillor Dorgan  
Councillor Hands  
Councillor Hubbard  
Councillor Keith  
Councillor Killen  
Councillor McKinley  
Councillor Webster  
Canon R. Driver – Church Diocesan Representative  
Father D. Seddon - Church Diocesan Representative  
Ms. M. Bradley - Parent Governor Representative  
Mrs. S. Cain - Parent Governor Representative / Advisory Member

### Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Health & Social Care)

Councillor Page (Chair)  
Councillor Robinson (Vice-Chair)  
Councillor Dawson  
Councillor Gatherer  
Councillor Hartill  
Councillor Hubbard  
Councillor J.J.Kelly  
Councillor Killen – changed to Councillor Murphy later in the year  
Councillor McGuire  
Councillor Roberts  
Ms. A. Bisbrown-Lee – Co-opted Member, Sefton LINK



## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Performance & Corporate Services)

- Councillor McGinnity (Chair)
- Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Ashton
- Councillor Dawson
- Councillor Kermode
- Councillor Lappin
- Councillor Maguire
- Councillor McIvor
- Councillor Robertson - changed to Councillor McGuire later in the year
- Councillor Robinson

## Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Environmental Services)

- Councillor McKinley (Chair)
- Councillor J. Kelly (Vice-Chair)
- Councillor Bennett
- Councillor Booth
- Councillor Gatherer
- Councillor Jones
- Councillor Lappin
- Councillor Maguire
- Councillor Weavers
- Councillor Welsh



Nigel Smith © 2006

*Sefton Town Hall*

## Overview & Scrutiny



### Contact Details

Town Hall  
Trinity Road  
Bootle  
L20 7AE

Tel: 0151 934 2042 / 2254

Further information can also be found at:

[www.sefton.gov.uk](http://www.sefton.gov.uk)

