

## COUNCIL – 27 JUNE 2013

### QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

**1. Question submitted by Councillor Robertson to the Cabinet Member - Corporate Services and Performance (Councillor Tweed)**

“Please advise what procurement processes are used by the Council to try to ensure that contractors gaining work from Sefton are as far as is possible recruiting employees from the local/Merseyside workforce?”

**Response:**

“The Council’s procurement strategy is currently under review. The lead officer for the review has already met with the Economies and Tourism Service because the Council have a particular local strength in encouraging supply chain companies to become fit to bid for local contracts and strength in placing local people into employment opportunities that arise from procurement and commissioning. The direction of the review is very much about learning from best practice, replicating some of the leading local authorities in this field and about using the procurement levers to generate local employment opportunities. We are already embarked upon a particular piece of work on development of social care markets.”

**2. Question submitted by Councillor Robertson to the Council’s Spokesperson on the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority (Councillor Byrom)**

“Please advise what procurement processes are used by the Fire Authority to try to ensure that contractors gaining work from it are as far as is possible recruiting employees from the local/Merseyside workforce?”

**Response:**

“Merseyfire has a procurement process highlighted as an exemplar by our recent Peer Review.

We comply with all European legislation, share professional procurement staff with other North West Fire Authorities, encourage suppliers to employ local people and to use local businesses in the supply chain.

We have been particularly successful in encouraging contractors to create and employ local apprentices.”

**3. Question submitted by Councillor McKinley to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Peter Dowd)**

“Would the Leader of the Council explain why there is an apparent disproportionality in the allocation/distribution of preferred sites which impact on green belt land across Sefton which have been identified as suitable for inclusion in the Local Plan, with particular emphasis on the land identified in Maghull for house building and industrial use?”

**Response:**

“The National Planning Policy Framework does not require the issue of proportionality to be addressed in the Local Plan. However, where possible when need is identified in the various areas of the borough, an attempt has been made to allocate any development proportionally to the need. However, in all cases this has not proven to be possible. Given the constraints of land and site availability, some areas of the borough will have a higher proportion of development. The development in Maghull will not be industrial but will be a high quality business park.”

**4. Question submitted by Councillor Gatherer to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Peter Dowd)**

“Can the Council Leader give details of the improvements that would need to be made to the infrastructure in Maghull to cope with a 20% + increase in the population.”

**Response:**

“Over the coming months discussions will continue between the Council and infrastructure service providers as a part of the preparation for taking the Local Plan forward. An infrastructure delivery plan is required by the government as part of the Local Plan development regardless of the increase in population.”

**5. Question submitted by Councillor Hands to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Peter Dowd)**

“Would the Leader of the Council give assurance that the Council will not be selling off the allotments, known as the Birkdale Irrigation Allotments, to developers for house building.”

**Response:**

“Yes”

**6. Question submitted by Councillor Page to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Peter Dowd)**

“Can the Leader of the Council reassure me that the Green Space sites identified within the Local Plan’s preferred option consultation document, which are actively used by Community Groups, for example at the Professional Development Centre in Formby, and where there aren’t alternatives available to meet their needs, will be safeguarded for ongoing and future community use?”

**Response:**

“At this stage I can give Councillor Page the assurance that discussions will take place with any community groups affected by any potential development where land has been identified as part of the Local Plan.”

**7. Question submitted by Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member for Children, Schools, Families and Leisure (Councillor Moncur)**

“To ask Cllr Moncur if he will publish tables of the number of children in each year in each Southport and Formby school and the best estimate projection the Council has for the reception entry cohort for the coming four years.”

**Response:**

“In September each year the Local Authority publishes a “School Organisation Data Book” which contains the information the Councillor mentions. This document is publicly available on the Council’s website.”