



SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 OCTOBER 2013 - 31 JANUARY 2014

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public at least 28 days before the beginning of each month.

A Key Decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

1. any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater;
2. any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

As a matter of local choice, the Forward Plan also includes the details of any significant issues to be initially considered by the Executive Cabinet and submitted to the Full Council for approval.

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each Key Decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision may not be taken, unless:

- it is published in the Forward Plan;
- 5 clear days have lapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- if the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, 5 clear days notice of the meeting has been given.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 26 (General Exception) and Rule 28 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle L20 7DA or accessed from the Council's website: www.sefton.gov.uk

- Council Constitution
- Forward Plan
- Reports on the Key Decisions to be taken
- Other documents relating to the proposed decision may be submitted to the decision making meeting and these too will be made available by the contact officer named in the Plan
- The minutes for each Key Decision, which will normally be published within 5 working days after having been made

Some reports to be considered by the Cabinet/Council may contain exempt information and will not be made available to the public. The specific reasons (Paragraph No(s)) why such reports are exempt are detailed in the Plan and the Paragraph No(s) and descriptions are set out below:-

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
8. Information falling within paragraph 3 above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under—
 - (a) the Companies Act 1985;
 - (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
 - (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;
 - (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
 - (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
 - (f) the Charities Act 1993.
9. Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992
10. Information which—
 - (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
 - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Council which are held at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle or the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport. The dates and times of the meetings are published on www.sefton.gov.uk or you may contact the Committee and Member Services Section on telephone number 0151 934 2068.

NOTE:

For ease of identification, items listed within the document for the first time will appear shaded.

Margaret Carney
Chief Executive

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact	Page No
Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and Asset Disposal Policy (ADP)	David Street david.street1@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2751	4
Council Tax Base and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082	5
Revenue Budget Savings	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082	6
Revenue Budget Savings	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082	7
Revenue Budget Savings	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082	8
Revenue Budget Savings	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082	9
Fees and Charges for the Council	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082	10
Council Tax Base and National Non-Domestic Rates	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082	11

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and Asset Disposal Policy (ADP) To agree the Council's SAMP and ADP. The Council's SAMP is a key document that establishes how the Council proposes to align its property assets, both operational and non-operational, to enable the delivery of Council services. The Council's ADP sets out why and how the Council selects property assets for disposal and why a particular disposal method is chosen for any particular asset.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	10 Oct 2013			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Lead Members Strategic Capital Investment Group Asset Management Group			
Method(s) of Consultation	Briefings Through Capital Strategy Governance Structure			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	None			
Contact Officer(s) details	David Street david.street1@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 2751			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	<p>Council Tax Base and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme</p> <p>The Council Tax Base and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme were approved by Council 24 January 2013. The Council at its meeting held on 28 February 2013 agreed a budget proposal for 2014/15 which requires a change to the Council Tax charges for vacant properties (unoccupied and substantially unfurnished). This report will seek approval to progress the Council Tax technical change for Council approval in 2014. The Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been operating since April 2013. The report will review the scheme and consider any options for change and the resulting financial implications.</p>			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	10 Oct 2013			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Head of Corporate Finance and ICT Head of Corporate Legal Service Police and Fire Authorities Council tax owners outside the borough Various stakeholders			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings Direct communication – via letter Stakeholder events including partnership meetings with landlords. Members			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	None			
Contact Officer(s) details	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Revenue Budget Savings To update the position on the achievement of Revenue budget savings for 2013/14, and to determine actions to be taken. It is essential for financial planning that the Council achieves its agreed targets. Where there is an expectation that a saving will not be achieved, it is essential that that compensatory action is taken to ensure the Council is not adversely affected financially.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	10 Oct 2013			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal consultation			
Method(s) of Consultation	Direct Contact with relevant officers			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT on the Council's performance in achieving the agreed saving options for 2013/14			
Contact Officer(s) details	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

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Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Nov 2013			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal consultation			
Method(s) of Consultation	Direct Contact with relevant officers			
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Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Dec 2013			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal consultation			
Method(s) of Consultation	Direct Contact with relevant officers.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT on the Council's performance in achieving the agreed saving options for 2013/14			
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Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	16 Jan 2014			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal consultation			
Method(s) of Consultation	Direct Contact with relevant officers.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT on the Council's performance in achieving the agreed saving options for 2013/14.			
Contact Officer(s) details	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Fees and Charges for the Council To set the 2014/15 Fees and Charges for the Council. This includes fees for the following services – Corporate Services and Learning and Development			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	16 Jan 2014			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal consultation			
Method(s) of Consultation	Direct Contact with relevant officers			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Reports approved by each relevant Cabinet member on fees and charges. All current fees and charges can be accessed on the internet via the attached link: http://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/moderngov/documents/s44810/Updated%20Proposed%20Fees%20Charges%20Booklet%20for%20201314.pdf			
Contact Officer(s) details	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082			

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Council Tax Base and National Non-Domestic Rates Setting the Council Tax Base and National Non-Domestic Rates Return 1 for 2014/15. This is a procedural issue that the Council has to complete and return to the Department of Communities and Local Government. The figures, based on known / expected levels of Council Tax and Non-domestic properties are used to determine estimates of income that the Council will receive in 2014/15.			
Decision Maker	Council			
Decision Expected	27 Jan 2014			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	No			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Performance and Corporate Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Internal consultation			
Method(s) of Consultation	Direct Contact with relevant officers.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Reports derived from the Northgate Council Tax system, and ad hoc reports provided by arvato Government Services. DCLG updates.			
Contact Officer(s) details	Margaret Rawding margaret.rawding@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4082			