

Overview & Scrutiny



SEFTON COUNCIL OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY ANNUAL REPORT 2013/14

Sefton Council 



Overview & Scrutiny

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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board 2013/14



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 2013/14.

Four meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board took place during 2013/14.

As promised in my Annual Report 2012/13, 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, Members requested that a 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 onto specialists and subsequently requiring treatment, to be analysed by ward profile. The Board received a number of presentations from representatives of the South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and the Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group and it became apparent that due to data protection and the fact that individuals could be easily identified, this information was unable to be shared in the way requested. The Board referred the matter to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) to monitor on a regular basis and the Director of Public Health, Dr. Janet Atherton, undertook to include a breakdown of neurology treatments in the updated Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment.

Communication has always been a key consideration for the Management Board and some time ago the Board 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 established a cross-cutting review investigating the Port Master Plan. The Final Report, along with its recommendations, was considered by the Board which commended the report to the Cabinet for approval. The Board has continued to monitor the progress made in relation to the implementation of recommendations.

The Board was consulted on the proposal to publish Service Standards which would provide the public with information on what they could expect from the Council. The Board referred the reviewing of Service Standards on an annual basis (September) to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services).

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.

The Board welcomed receiving a report in relation to a Motion that had been referred to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) and to the Board from the Council concerning Accident and Emergency Services. The Board agreed with the sentiments of the Motion that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) should continue to monitor local Accident and Emergency Services as part of the Committee's Work Programme.

The Board received a report from the Director of Public Health, Dr. Janet Atherton in relation to the respiratory health of Sefton residents living near the docks. This is an issue that is on the radar of the Management Board and will be monitored closely.

I think the forthcoming year will be extremely busy for Overview and Scrutiny and the Board, along with the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) will keep abreast of the implications emerging in relation to Welfare Rights Reform, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and Universal Credit. The Board will continue to be updated on the prioritisation of Council services thereby ensuring that 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
June 2014

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's (Children's Services) Annual Report 2013/14 to the Council.

Agenda Items

During 2013/14 the Committee met on 6 occasions, including a special meeting on 12 May 2014 to consider the draft Quality Accounts for the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and the Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust. Quality Accounts are annual reports from NHS healthcare providers about the quality of services provided and available to the public. Such providers have a legal duty to invite comments from relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committees, prior to publication of the Quality Accounts.

In June 2013, the Committee considered a progress update on the Council's decision to re-design the Youth Service as a result of the budget-setting process for 2011, together with a report on the performance of the Sefton Adoption Agency.

The Committee considered a report on school organisation and school places and raised concerns about pupil places and projections, particularly in relation to the Local Plan. Officers agreed to monitor the position and submit proposals, if required, to ensure sufficient places in Sefton's schools. An update on this situation is due to be considered in January 2015.

An update report was presented to the Committee on the progress of the recommendations of the Joint Working Group which investigated the situation in respect of young people who were not in education, employment or training (NEET). The Committee has asked for update reports at six monthly intervals.

The Committee also considered a progress report on the recommendations resulting from the Corporate Parenting review which was undertaken in 2010. It has been agreed that future annual reports of the Corporate Parenting Board would be submitted to the Committee.



A report on the Council's Troubled Families Programme was considered by the Committee in September 2013. The Government has extended the Programme for a further five years from 2015 and a further report is due to be considered in September 2014.

Other agenda items included the following:-

- 2013 Safeguarding Diagnostic One Year On;
- Quality Accounts of the Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and the Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust; and
- N.S.P.C.C. Underwear Rule Campaign, 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 2013/14 I have again 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 Children's Social Care Re-design; outcome of safeguarding diagnostic; and review of child protection process
- Early intervention and prevention, including staffing re-structure
- Learning support, including the Hawthornes Free School; academies; industrial action; and inspections of the Authority's arrangements for supporting school improvement
- Capital schemes approval
- School performance, including details of Ofsted inspections; and the Ofsted Annual Report.

New Committee Members

Mrs. Sandra Cain was appointed as a non-voting Advisory Member for 2013/14 and she has now been re-appointed for 2014/15. Following the resignation of Mrs. M. Bradley as a parent governor representative on the Committee, two new parent governor representatives (Mr. David McCaughrean and Mrs. Carrie Ryan-Palmer) have been appointed to the Committee. Their term of office will expire in May 2016.



Working Groups

At its meeting on 28 January 2014, following consideration of the latest Cabinet Member report, which included details of the 2012/13 Ofsted report on Education, Children's Services and Skills, the Committee decided to undertake a review into the disparity between the performance of Sefton schools in the primary and secondary sectors which had been identified in the Ofsted report. Accordingly, a School Performance Working Group was established, comprising myself, Councillors Hands, Hartill, Keith, Preece and Webster, together with Advisory Member Mrs. S. Cain and parent governor representatives Mr. D. McCaughrean and Mrs. C. Ryan-Palmer. The Working Group initially met on 17 March 2014 and the Review is ongoing.

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 2013/14, Mike Morris, for his assistance.

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
June 2014



Health and Social Care



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

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2013/14 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care).

Introduction

This is my second Annual Report as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care). I believe that the Committee has built on the existing good working relationships with many of our health partners. The trust that has been established has meant that we are recognised in our role of “critical friend”, that we are listened to and have been able to have a positive influence on the development of health services within Sefton.

The Committee met on seven occasions during 2013/14 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 access.

NHS Trust Quality Accounts

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 2013. It is always a challenge to provide adequate time to consider all the draft Quality Accounts in sufficient detail and the Committee requested that consideration be given towards revising the arrangements for their consideration during May 2014. The outcome was that two additional meetings were held during May 2014, dedicated to considering nine draft Quality Accounts, and this proved to be a much more effective method of scrutiny.

With the impact of the Health and Social Care Act, the GP consortia emerged in both South Sefton and Southport and Formby from April 2013. Throughout 2013/14 the Committee received regular update reports from the two **Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)** within Sefton during its first year of full operation on a range of



activities, including events held throughout the Borough for the promotion of wellbeing amongst residents. I believe that excellent relationships have been established between the Committee and officers of the CCGs, particularly the Chief Officer who attends every Committee meeting and has always been willing to take up issues raised by Members and explain aspects of the services provided. Updates submitted by the CCGs included details of CCG Board meetings to which members of the public were invited; strategic planning for the CCGs; plus details of the following:-

- Big Chat events on health services and seeking views of residents to shape future plans;
- Extra support to help the most vulnerable to stay well;
- Government proposals to set up an Integration Transformation Fund;
- Better and earlier detection for eye conditions;
- New GP out of hours service;
- Improving Access to Psychological Therapies;
- Care at the Chemist for minor ailments;
- Invitation to Clinical Commissioning Groups Governing Body meetings;
- Preparing for winter services and updates;
- Stoma service pilot in Bootle;
- Be wise to antibiotics;
- Enhancing primary care;
- Formby GP care home pilot;
- New annual medicines review for care home patients;
- New lay member appointment;
- Mini Chats focus debates about long term health plans;
- Extension of Commissioning Policy Review;
- Liverpool Community Health NHS Trust;
- Pharmacy at Litherland; and
- Southport and Formby practices go to vote.

Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust also reported to the Committee on a regular basis during 2013/14 on a range of issues affecting the Trust, particularly issues raised regarding Accident and Emergency Services during the winter period and the Care Closer to Home Programme. Other items considered included:-

- the Care Closer to Home Programme;
- in-patient experience of the Trust;
- staff engagement to improve the service at the Trust and reduce bureaucracy;
- arrangements to obtain Foundation Trust status;
- appointments made by the Trust;
- the response to an issue raised at the last meeting of this Committee in relation to referrals of children to Alder Hey Children's NHS Trust for specialist treatment;
- quality;
- public engagement;
- pathology; and



- nurse staffing.

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 the redevelopment of both A&E and Urgent Care Services. Other issues considered included:-

- Referral To Treatment Performance and quality and safety of services;
- Shadow Health Secretary views Aintree's new lifesaving knife crime trauma partnership with the StreetDoctors Project;
- National Care and Compassion Conference 2013;
- Aintree's pioneering cancer checklist system implemented across UK;
- Aintree wins Heart of Mersey smokefree accreditation ;
- Aintree haematologist helps to promote NHS TA Reservists;
- Mersey School of Anaesthesia donation;
- Focus on Support for Carers event;
- Annual Members' Meeting;
- Quality Strategy to support improvements;
- Aintree to launch pioneering specialist unit for elderly patients;
- New cancer research lab announced at Aintree;
- Open and honest care;
- Focus on mortality improvements;
- Urgent care and trauma centre update;
- Aintree named as top 100 apprenticeship employer;
- North west alcohol conference 2013;
- Aintree staff flu vaccination - record levels of uptake;
- Quality Strategy;
- Emergency surgery to be showcased;
- National regulator praises quality of Aintree medical training;
- Aintree consultant selected for nationwide leadership programme;
- New tinnitus research project;
- Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection visit to Aintree; and
- NHS Change Day.

Following the return of **Public Health** to the local authority remit, the Committee received a report on the measles and MMR vaccination catch-up campaign; and the study of links between health, regeneration and economy in Linacre and Derby Wards, in conjunction with the Director of Built Environment.

Presentations

Throughout 2013/14 the Committee received a number of presentations on the work undertaken by various Trusts, particularly by the following:-

- Mersey Care NHS Trust;
- North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust; and
- Clatterbridge Cancer Centre NHS Foundation Trust.



A representative of the Cheshire and Merseyside Commissioning Support Unit also attended a meeting to present on a commissioning policies review.

Site Visits

During 2013/14 Members of the Committee visited the call centre at Anfield for the North West Ambulance Service and Southport and Formby District General Hospital. Both these site visits provided opportunities for Members to ask questions and to view the range of services provided.

Working Groups

No specific Working Group reviews were undertaken by the Committee during 2013/14 but the Committee did request additional information on a number of issues and concerns held by Members and these were acted upon by the Trusts concerned. One such example was the organisation of a presentation for Members of the Committee and also local Ward Councillors on the future of the Maghull ambulance station which representatives of North West Ambulance station attended to address concerns on the matter.

Pre-Scrutiny and the Key Decision Forward Plan

As ever, the Key Decision Forward Plan provided the Committee with an opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decision items from the Council's Forward Plans as each of the latest Forward Plans are 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.

Cabinet Member Reports

The regular attendance of the Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care, Councillor Cummins, has been particularly appreciated by Members of the Committee. Throughout the year I have agreed the inclusion of all the relevant Cabinet Member Update Reports on agendas as I feel that it is particularly important to include regular updates on such a major part of the Council's activities, particularly during a time when budgets have been increasingly restricted. Councillor Cummins's attendance and the presence of senior officers from the Adult Social Care Directorate has been very useful and provides Members with an opportunity to question them about any developments within that service area. The update reports and presentations have included the following matters:-

- Integrated Adults System;
- Church Ward Pilot on older people at risk of social isolation;
- Health and Wellbeing Strategy;
- Healthwatch and the Sefton official launch;
- Community Meals;
- Day Opportunities;
- Respite;
- Community Meals Service;
- Progress of Church Ward Older People Pilot;
- Sefton Dementia Strategy and Dementia Action Alliance;
- Autism Initiatives Transfer of First Initiatives to Alternative Futures;



- Formation and Role of the Health Protection Forum;
- Sefton Adult Substance Misuse Treatment Service;
- Mental Health Day – a summary of findings from an event, together with planned next steps was included;
- Social Worker of the Year nomination and award;
- Integrated Sexual Health Service procurement;
- Winter preparedness;
- Flu vaccination;
- Sefton directory;
- James Horrigan Court – Extra Care Housing Scheme;
- The Care Bill;
- Market position statement;
- Better Care Fund;
- 2014/15 fees and charges;
- North West Adaa Annual Risk Review 2013 – Sefton Overview Analysis; and
- Public Health Campaigns.

A and E Monitoring

Following the referral of a Notice of Motion from the Council, the Committee committed itself to monitoring local Accident and Emergency services and this process will continue into 2014/15 with the submission of an update report by the Chief Officer of the CCGs to each meeting.

Contributions Made During 2013/14

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 2013/14 together with my appreciation of the advice and support of Fiona Clark, Chief Officer for both the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Dr. Janet Atherton, Sefton's Director of Public Health. 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. Special thanks go to our outgoing Director of Older People and Health, Robina Critchley, for all her valuable contributions over the years and I look forward to working with her successor, Dwayne Johnson. My particular appreciation goes to our Democratic Services Officers for their commitment, advice and support and specifically to the current officer, Debbie Campbell, for her enthusiasm and hard work.

The Year Ahead

Looking ahead it is anticipated that the Committee is likely to be fortunate in securing the services of a co-opted member from Sefton Healthwatch who will be able to bring additional experience and expertise to the table. The transformation of cancer services across Cheshire and Merseyside is likely to be an on-going issue. With continuing pressures on health and social care services and the forthcoming implementation of the Social Care Act, I am conscious that the Committee will face fresh challenges during 2014/15. However, I am confident that the Committee will continue to rise to the challenges it faces.



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 2013/14 Annual Report.

During the year the Committee has met 6 times and considered issues relating to the Youth Offending Team, the revenue budget 2014/15, budget monitoring and the achievement of savings, welfare reform, the Strategic Asset Management Plan, the Equalities Review, crime and disorder in Sefton, the Combined Authority for Greater Merseyside and the operation of the Council's bailiff service. The Committee received many presentations and this enabled Members to engage with colleagues from within and outside of the Council on topics identified below.

Youth Offending Team Improvement Plan (YOT)

The YOT Inspection Framework was a risk based model to provide assurance and promote improvement; and evidence that young people involved with YOT had access to mainstream and specialist services. The Committee were also provided with information on the key findings of the YOT Inspection relating to work to reduce re-offending; work to protect the public; work to protect children and young people and make them safer; work to ensure the sentence was served and governance arrangements. Eight recommendations contained in the Inspection Improvement Plan were identified together with the next steps contained in the Post Inspection Improvement Plan and how performance would be improved.

The Youth Justice Board of England and Wales has identified improvements across the post inspection year 2013/14 against the 8 inspectorate recommendations. Therefore, YOT practice and governance improvements have met the required level and sufficiency. The service will not be subject to national scrutiny however, but will continue with an improvement plan to ensure performance is sustained and the service is 'inspection ready'. Accountability for continued improvement will be from Safer Stronger Communities Partnership Board, Local Safeguarding Children's Board and the YOT Partnership Management Board.

Welfare Reform

The Committee spent considerable time scrutinising and gathering information on the Government's Welfare Reform proposals relating to:-

- **The Bedroom Tax in Merseyside** – The Operations Director of One Vision Housing (OVH) gave two presentations on the impact of the Bedroom Tax in terms of income for OVH; issues associated with the Benefit Cap; and how families in OVH tenancies were affected. The wider welfare impacts that affected OVH tenants were also detailed relating to increases in debts, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, benefit sanctions, the Disability Living Allowance change to Personal Independence Payments and the future introduction of Universal Credit.
- **Foodbanks** – The Committee viewed two films produced by Sefton Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) and Sefton CVS Young Advisors. The CAB film highlighted how levels of debt were increasing across communities and that more people were becoming reliant on foodbanks. The film also depicted two real life case studies that showed the impact of the welfare reform changes. The Young Advisors film "On The Frontline" looked at the impact of welfare reform on voluntary sector providers. The film showed interviews with volunteers at the Foodbanks and Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB) in Sefton and identified what the volunteers thought the challenges were for people they worked with, and the services they provided, in 21st century Britain.
- **Council Tax and Business Rates Collection** - Government changes to the Council Tax and Business Rates Schemes in 2013/14 meant that there was a greater financial risk to the Authority should income levels reduce, and financial targets not be achieved. Consequently, Members felt that it was important to be kept informed of the financial position for the Authority on these issues throughout the year and therefore, regular updates were provided.
- **Member Led Welfare Reform Reference Group** – The Committee monitored the work of the Group which looked at the impact of the implementation of Welfare Reform legislation so far; work that partners and the Council were doing collectively around the mitigation of impact where possible; and the preparatory work for further Welfare Reform legislation impacts. The Committee recognised the work of partners and the Council to mitigate, wherever possible, the impacts of Welfare Reform legislation.

Strategic Asset Management Plan

The Committee was updated on the progress made towards the development of a new asset management plan including the asset disposal policy/criteria.

Equalities Review

The Committee was updated on the implementation of the recommendations contained in the previously undertaken Equalities Review.



Crime and Disorder in Sefton

The Committee was very pleased to receive a presentation from Jane Kennedy, Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner, on her proposals to reduce crime and disorder in Sefton. The welcome news was that across the board, crime statistics in Sefton were better than expected and that there had been a large decrease in the numbers of burglaries. Members also had the opportunity to question the Commissioner on her performance.

Combined Authority for Greater Merseyside

The Committee was consulted on the Liverpool City Region's draft response to the Government's consultation on the creation of a Combined Authority for Greater Merseyside. The Committee requested that the Cabinet be advised of the concerns and points raised by Members relating to the name and scrutiny arrangements of the Combined Authority.

Operation of the Council's Bailiff Service

The Committee received a presentation from the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT on the recently awarded tender, containing six lots, for the operation of the Council's Bailiff Service. Members then asked questions of senior officers of the five successful tendering companies; and were reassured that adequate controls were in place to protect vulnerable persons.

Revenue Budget 2014/15

A major part of the Committee's work involved scrutinising the proposed budget for 2014/15 and a special meeting of the Committee was held for this purpose. This year was very challenging with a budget gap to be addressed of £27m, and budget considerations had to be set in the context of the coming years' challenges of finding further savings of £55m after 2014/15. Members were able to ask the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT numerous questions on aspects of the budget. The Committee will continue to scrutinise the Revenue Budget during the course of 2014/15.

Cabinet Member Reports

In keeping with previous years and in order to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered the portfolios of the Cabinet Member – Corporate Services and Performance and the Cabinet Member – Communities and Environment.

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 to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.



The Year Ahead

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

- Monitoring the impact of the Welfare Reform and Universal Credit proposals on Sefton's residents
- The consideration of budget proposals and savings and the Medium Term Financial Plan
- Review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme during the second year of operation
- To undertake an annual review of the service standards for individual Cabinet Members in accordance with a decision of the Management Board held on 7 January 2014,
- To undertake the role of the Council's "Crime and Disorder Committee"

I envisage the forthcoming year to be extremely busy and challenging for the Committee given the difficult budgetary challenges and financial savings that have to be met in Sefton.

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 Committee, officers who had attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and to colleagues from external organisations who gave up their time to attend meetings and provide the Committee with valuable information.

Councillor Steve McGinnity
June 2014



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's (Regeneration and Environmental Services) Annual Report 2013/14.

It has been a pleasure and privilege to chair the Committee during the year. The Committee met on seven 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.

The Committee dealt with three decisions that had been "called in" during the year 2013/14. 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:-

- Library Review – Assessment of Alternative Community Proposals;
- Ainsdale and Birkdale Sandhills Local Nature Reserve Higher Level Stewardship Agreement Review; and
- Library Review – Alternative Library Proposals: Second Gateway Assessments.



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

The Committee continued to actively monitor the progress on the implementation of the 29 recommendations from the Watercourse Maintenance and Flooding Working Group. Those recommendations have been agreed as actioned and have been incorporated into the Local Flood Risk Strategy. 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 are 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 has been updated on the outcome of the “consequences study” and preferred options document which led into a 12 week consultation. The consultation raised numerous infrastructure issues and the Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Tourism has requested that this Committee investigate and review the infrastructure implications of the emerging Local Plan. In that respect the Committee has agreed to establish a Working Group to examine the issues in more detail. Due to the timescales involved it has been necessary to establish the Working Group immediately which means that the work will continue into the municipal year 2014/15 and is likely to be completed sometime during August 2014. As Chair of this Committee I welcome the opportunity to investigate these issues on behalf of the Community. The Committee will be updated on progress.

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 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.

Review of Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan

The Committee welcomed the Annual Report reviewing the winter service policy and operational plan. The pre-scrutiny process allows Overview and Scrutiny



Committees to pre-scrutinise reports such as this and feed comments back to the Cabinet Member or Cabinet for consideration. In terms of the Winter Service Policy/Operational Plan the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to ensure that the policy and plan are “fit for purpose” in the coming Winter months and it’s fair to say that the plan was “fit for purpose” and all roads across Sefton were deemed to be safe during the Winter months 2013/14. The Committee will monitor this on an annual basis.

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 Committee has been updated on statistical information regarding NEET in Sefton. As a Member of the Working Group I am keen to monitor the progress made against each of the recommendations and as such the Committee will be briefed upon the latest position with regard to NEET on a six monthly basis.

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

The Committee established a Working Group to conduct a policy review 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.

The Working Group were keen to examine Employment Development and areas of potential economic growth and future skills needs to develop a clear training strategy based on an assessment of employer needs and how these needs can be met by training local people with a view to formalising recommendations to maximise job opportunities for local people.

The Working Group were also keen to ensure that all Council assets be organised in a holistic way to maximise the Local Authority impact on regeneration, something that will become increasingly important as Public Sector funding continues to be reduced. As part of the brief, Members interviewed many key witnesses and the final report was submitted to Cabinet in November 2013. All recommendations were agreed by Cabinet.

The Working Group continued its brief in investigating Local Town Centres and interviewed many key witnesses. The Working Group are currently formalising the findings of the final part of the review with a report scheduled to be submitted in September 2014.

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. This Committee will monitor the action made against all the agreed recommendations.



Port Master Plan

In September 2011 the Committee established a Cross-Cutting Working Group/Joint Review with Members from the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Health and Social Care) to investigate the Port Master Plan.

The report was agreed by Cabinet in September 2012.

This Committee has received updates in relation to progress made against 15 of the recommendations and the Committee will continue to monitor progress.

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 Ruth Harrison, Senior Democratic Services Officer for all their hard work, dedication and support throughout the year.

Councillor Patrick McKinley
June 2014



During 2013/14, 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 Hands
Councillor Hartill
Councillor Keith
Councillor Killen
Councillor McKinley
Councillor Preece
Councillor Thompson
Councillor Webster
Canon R. Driver – Church Diocesan Representative
Father D. Seddon - Church Diocesan Representative
Ms. M. Bradley, Mr. D. McCaughrean and Mrs. C. Ryan-Palmer - Parent Governor Representatives
Mrs. S. Cain - Advisory Member

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Health & Social Care)

Councillor Page (Chair)
Councillor Robinson (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ball
Councillor Friel
Councillor Gatherer
Councillor Hubbard
Councillor J.J.Kelly
Councillor McGuire
Councillor Rimmer
Councillor Roberts



Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Performance & Corporate Services)

Councillor McGinnity (Chair)
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Ashton
Councillor Booth
Councillor Dawson
Councillor M. Dowd
Councillor Kermode
Councillor Maguire
Councillor McIvor
Councillor Robinson
Councillor Thompson

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration & Environmental Services)

Councillor McKinley (Chair)
Councillor J. Kelly (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Bennett
Councillor Dutton
Councillor Gatherer
Councillor Jones
Councillor Lappin
Councillor McGuire
Councillor Maguire
Councillor Shaw
Councillor Tonkiss
Councillor Weavers





Sefton Town Hall

Overview & Scrutiny



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Further information can also be found at:

www.sefton.gov.uk

