

**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)**

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE  
ON WEDNESDAY 17TH JUNE, 2015**

**Overview  
& Scrutiny**



**PRESENT:** Councillor John Kelly (in the Chair)  
Councillors Jo Barton, Bliss, Carragher,  
Dan T. Lewis, O'Brien, Sayers, Webster and  
Weavers

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Grace and Cabinet Member – Chair of  
Planning, Councillor Veidman

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Owens and his substitute Councillor Murphy.

**2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

**3. LOCAL PLAN FOR SEFTON: UPDATE FOLLOWING PUBLICATION OF DRAFT PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Interim Head of Planning Services in relation to an update of key issues arising from the publication of the Local Plan and changes which have taken place since then, prior to the Plan being submitted for examination.

The Interim Head of Planning Services reported that the Draft Sefton Local Plan was agreed by the Council on 22 January 2015 and was published for consultation for an eight week period between 30 January and 27 March 2015. In response to that stage of the Plan, the Council had received almost 1,300 "representations" and three petitions containing approximately 7,900 signatures.

The report identified key issues arising during the publication period. In particular it drew attention to the recent household projections published by the Department for Communities and Local Government and further work being done to assess the implications for Sefton's housing requirement figure.

It was reported that the next stage was to submit the Local Plan for examination by an Independent Inspector.

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It was also reported that the report had been submitted to the Committee for information purposes and would be submitted to the Cabinet on 3 July 2015 for consideration and then the Council on 16 July 2015 for determination. Members raised the following questions, observations and comments:-

- The Infrastructure Working Group had examined in detail, the Infrastructure issues in relation to Sefton's Local Plan and identified concerns with regard to various infrastructure issues related to the development proposed through the Plan.
- Concern was expressed regarding the household projections and meeting the required number of affordable houses.
- The need for areas to establish Neighbourhood Plans in order that they may, if appropriate, have access to the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).
- Concerns that the Planning Inspectorate would reject Sefton's Local Plan in its current form.
- Re-assurance was sought and confirmed that the change in context, the rise in households identified by the 2012-based household projections, could not have been predicted.
- Reasons were sought as to why the increase in household projections had occurred. It was explained that previous population projections had underestimated migration into Sefton and this underrecording had only become apparent in light of information from the 2011 Census.
- Clarification was sought in relation to paragraph 6.3 of the report and the reasons as to why an early review of the Plan had been proposed. It was explained that Peel Holdings had proposed a site east of Switch Island for Port-related logistics uses. However, the Council considered it would be more appropriate for a site (or sites) to be selected following a sub-regional study by the Liverpool City Region authorities, so an early review of Sefton's Local Plan was recommended to reflect the need for such a study.
- Concerns were expressed regarding the potential of developers to submit planning applications in relation to sites they had promoted during this stage of the Local Plan but had not been included in the Publication draft Local Plan. It was explained that developers promoting sites not included in the Plan would be required to justify and demonstrate to the Inspector at the Local Plan examination that the sites they have promoted are more suitable, using a range of criteria, than those identified in the Plan.

### RESOLVED:

That the key issues arising from the publication of the Draft Plan and change to circumstances since then be noted along with comments made from Members of the Committee.