
Report to: Cabinet Council
Date of Meeting: 3 September 2015
17 September 2015

Subject: Delegation to Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control in relation to the Examination of the Sefton Local Plan
Wards Affected: All Wards

Report of: Chief Executive

Is this a Key Decision? Yes
Exempt/Confidential No
Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Purpose/Summary

It will assist the smooth running of the Local Plan examination hearings if the Council can agree minor changes to the Plan which would help to make the Plan 'sound'.

Delegating authority to Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control to agree minor proposed changes will enable the Council to respond quickly during the hearings, and will mean that only major proposed modifications will have to be reported to full Council.

Recommendations

That Cabinet recommends to Council that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control is given delegated powers to agree minor proposed changes to the submitted Local Plan during the examination hearings.

That **Council** is recommended to approve that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control is given delegated powers to agree minor proposed changes to the submitted Local Plan during the examination hearings.

How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		√	
3	Environmental Sustainability		√	

4	Health and Well-Being		√	
5	Children and Young People		√	
6	Creating Safe Communities		√	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		√	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	√		

Reason for the Recommendation:

To seek delegated powers to Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control to agree minor proposed changes to the draft Local Plan during the examination hearings.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The alternative would be to seek Council approval to consider all proposed changes to the draft Plan. This would require a significant number of very minor changes to be reported to Council which would not have any bearing on the strategy or intent of the Plan.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs - none

(B) Capital Costs - none

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Financial None	
Legal Delegated authority is sought so that that the Cabinet Member for Planning is acting within lawful powers.	
Human Resources None	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact of the Proposals on Service Delivery:

This will significantly speed up the examination of the Plan

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Chief Finance Officer has been consulted and notes the report indicates no direct financial implications for the Council. (FD 3732/15)

The Head of Regulation & Compliance has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report. (LD 3015/15)

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection

1. Background

- 1.1 Sefton submitted its Local Plan to the Planning Inspectorate for examination on 3 August 2015. Whilst the examination hearings are likely to take place in late October/ November, the examination formally began on the day of submission. The Council has been informed that Martin Pike has been appointed as the Inspector to conduct the examination.
- 1.2 The purpose of the examination is to determine whether the Sefton Local Plan is 'sound'. In examining the Local Plan, the Inspector is likely to recommend a whole series of changes/modifications to the Local Plan which would help make it sound.
- 1.3 The normal constitutional procedure (when not involved in a public examination) for agreeing proposed changes to an agreed Local Plan would be to seek Council approval.

2. Proposal

- 2.1 It is proposed that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control is given delegated powers to agree minor proposed changes to the submitted Local Plan during the examination hearings. Such minor changes would include:
 - changes which improve the clarity of the Plan
 - correction of errors, updating etc
 - minor changes to policy wording, but not changes which would affect the intention of the policy.

The delegated powers would specifically not include any changes to the Plan which would affect the allocation of land.

- 2.2 It would help the smooth running of the examination to be able to agree minor proposed changes as the hearings are taking place. These minor changes would then be consulted on with members of the public as part of the 'proposed modifications' stage of the Plan.
- 2.3 Those proposed changes which affect the strategy and direction of the Plan would be reported to Council. This offers a more streamlined approach to approving proposed changes. These 'main' modifications would also be consulted on at the 'proposed modifications' stage.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control is given delegated powers to agree minor proposed changes to the submitted Local Plan during the examination hearings.