
Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	10 th March 2016
Subject:	Sefton Local Plan - Proposed Modifications	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Report of:	Chief Executive		
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	Yes
Exempt/Confidential	No		

Purpose/Summary

To report the urgent decisions taken by the Leader under 'Matters delegated to the Leader' during the Local Plan examination hearings.

These changes have been made to the submitted Local Plan, as a result of the discussion at the hearings which were held between 17th November 2015 and 15th January 2016. In some cases they replace decisions taken by the Leader and Cabinet on 1st October 2015 and 5th November 2015 (Minutes 51 and 63), and those reported to Cabinet on 3rd December 2015 (Minute 78), which cover the changes made prior to the hearings taking place.

Consultation on the Modifications will take place when the Inspector's interim report and the proposed Modifications to the Local Plan have been approved by the Council later this year.

Recommendation

That this report on the urgent decisions taken by the Leader of the Council be noted by the Cabinet.

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			
--	--	--	--	--

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To report the urgent decisions taken by the Leader to Cabinet, as required by the constitution.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None. This is required by the Council’s constitution.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

Within the Local Plan budget

(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	
Legal	
Human Resources	
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:

None

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Chief Finance Officer (FD 4044/16) notes that any costs associated with the process outlined in this report can be accommodated within existing revenue budgets.

The Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD 3327/16) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Implementation Date for the Decision

With immediate effect.

Contact Officer: Ingrid Berry

Tel: 0151 934 3556

Email: ingrid.berry@sefton.gov.uk

Background Papers:

The representations to the Local Plan can be accessed via www.sefton.gov.uk/localplan, the evidence base via www.sefton.gov.uk/examlibrary. This includes documents submitted during the hearings including the proposed Modifications.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Local Plan for Sefton was submitted to the Planning Inspectorate on 3 August 2015. Mr Martin Pike was appointed as the Planning Inspector to examine the Sefton Local Plan. Hearings took place between 17 November 2015 and 15 January 2016.
- 1.2 A number of changes were approved by Cabinet in October and November 2015 (Minutes 51 and 63) before the hearings opened based on updated evidence, and in response to representations made and the Inspector's 'Matters, Issues and Questions' which were discussed at the hearings. Further changes were noted by Cabinet on 3 December 2015 (Minute 78) which provided details of the urgent decision taken by the Leader of the Council on 13 November 2015 to approve a list of post submission changes to the Local Plan for consideration by the Planning Inspector at the Local Plan examination.

2. Further Changes arising during the hearings

- 2.1 During the course of the hearings, further Modifications were put forward by the Council in order to make the Plan sound or to take account of updated evidence and representations. These are contained in the Annex attached to this report. These were approved by the Leader of the Council as urgent decisions in accordance with his delegated powers under Chapter 5 of the Constitution. The Constitution requires that such urgent decisions are reported to the Cabinet. As the Cabinet are simply noting the decisions, this action is not subject to call-in.
- 2.2 Although most of the policies in the Local Plan have been modified to some degree, with some of the changes being quite extensive, the Plan is essentially the same as that approved by Council and submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. In particular, the number of houses proposed in the Local Plan has not been increased, although there have been changes to the specific areas and capacities of some of the sites, and one additional housing site has been added.
- 2.3 It should be noted that some of the earlier Modifications may have been superseded by subsequent Modifications which have arisen as a result of the discussion at the examination hearings held between November 2015 and January 2016.

3. Next stages

- 3.1 The Inspector has now submitted his interim findings to the Council. These have to be published as an 'Examination document' as soon as possible after they are received. In his report, the Inspector will set whether he considers the Local Plan is 'sound' and will indicate where changes are required. He will also set out the reasons why he disagrees with any of the Modifications proposed by the Council.
- 3.2 The Council will be asked to approve the Inspector's report and the Modifications for comment later this year.