

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGENERATION AND SKILLS)

MEETING HELD AT THE THE BIRKDALE ROOM, TOWN HALL,  
SOUTHPORT  
ON TUESDAY 20TH SEPTEMBER, 2016

Overview  
& Scrutiny



PRESENT: Councillor Sayers (in the Chair)

Councillors Bliss, Dan T. Lewis, O'Brien, Pullin,  
Roche, Weavers, Webster and Bill Welsh

**9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carragher and Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills.

**10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interest were received.

**11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) held on 5 July 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

**12. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Minute No. 4 – United Utilities – Increase in Charging. The Committee raised concerns regarding the unsatisfactory response from OFWAT, to the Council's invitation to attend a future Meeting of this Committee.

RESOLVED:

That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requests that the Chief Executive of Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council write to the Minister for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs setting out the concerns of the Committee and the lack of cooperation conveyed by OFWAT in response to an invitation to attend a Meeting of the Committee.

**13. VISION - SEFTON 2030**

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director requesting the Committee to review the draft Sefton 2030 Vision and Outcomes Framework and engagement feedback and provide any comments thereon to Cabinet.

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The report indicated that through Imagine Sefton 2030 the Council had been leading on developing a new vision for the borough, working closely with partners, businesses, private sector organisations, the voluntary, community and faith sector and the community to help it understand what mattered and to be ambitious for the Borough and its communities in the future; that following various consultation exercises (including views from consultations associated with Sefton Strategic Needs Assessment, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Carers and Dementia Strategies, Town Centre Investment, Local Plan and other engagement activity) feedback gathered had been reviewed and analysed during the development of the draft Vision and Outcomes Framework; and that extensive engagement had taken place with the Council workforce, the majority of whom lived in Sefton, and that a number of themes began to emerge. The themes were then tested out with partners and although both groups expressed what they wanted to see in 2030 differently, the report detailed comments/views on what the following recurring themes should look like:-

- Resilient people and places
- Growing, living and ageing well
- A great place to live, work and play
- Activities, sociability and hosting
- Image and Environment
- Accessible and linked
- Right for business
- Digital, Science and Technology

Attached as Annex A to the report was a copy of the Vision and Outcomes Framework.

Attached as Annex B to the report was a copy of the Imagine Sefton 2030 Vision Consultation Report - August 2016

The report concluded that comments from partners and this and other Overview and Scrutiny Committees, plus an updated version of the Vision and Outcomes Framework, would be considered by Cabinet on 3 November 2016 with a view to commending the framework to Council on 17 November 2016.

Jan McMahon, Head of Strategic Support made a brief presentation to Members on the Sefton 2030 Vision.

Members of the Committee asked questions/made comments on the following topics:-

- the staged delivery of the Vision
- include reference to work life balance
- The requirement for all Town Centre Strategies to link into the Sefton 2030 Vision

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- Address the issue that respondents did not think that young people were listened to or that their opinions were taken into account when planning for the future
- Review those areas where young people seem to be least engaged against those areas where they seem more engaged and seek to improve
- Improve partnership working between the Council, Colleges and potential investors/business to ensure that relevant courses and trades are available to young and mature students across the Borough with a view to increasing supply and demand of the workforce sector
- Improve partnership workings to ensure that the housing choices referred to in the report are included in the Sefton offer
- Welcomed that the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board were undertaking a review of the Performance Framework which would be the framework to monitor and measure progress in achieving the 2030 Vision.

RSOLVED: That

- (1) Jan McMahon, Head of Strategic Support be thanked for her informative presentation; and
- (2) the report on the Vision and Outcomes Framework and engagement feedback in connection with the Sefton 2030 Vision, and comments of the Committee be noted.

### **14. REVIEW OF WINTER SERVICE POLICY AND OPERATIONAL PLAN**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned, in relation to the Winter Services Policy and Operational Plan.

It was reported that the Department provided a Winter Service to the Borough in accordance with the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan. It was further reported that Officers monitor the weather conditions 24 hours a day throughout the winter season and enact the plan when weather conditions dictate.

The report referred to the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (section 111) and an additional section being inserted (41(1A)) to the Highways Act 1980 which placed a duty on Highways Authorities in respect of winter conditions, as follows:-

“In particular, a Highway Authority is under a duty to ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway is not endangered by snow or ice”.

The report stated that the Council operated to a Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan which had been approved by the Council and was reviewed each summer to ensure that it remained “fit for purpose”.

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The report also stated that the Cabinet, at its meeting on 13 October 2011, resolved to authorise the Director of Built Environment (now Head of Locality Services – Commissioned) to make any further revisions to the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan in consultation with the Cabinet Member (Transportation) now (Locality Services) and that there was no requirement to submit any revisions to the Cabinet for further approval.

It was reported that the winter service policy and operational plan was subject to an annual reassessment and consultation and that in accordance with Cabinet Member's wishes, a consultation letter was sent to every Elected Member, as detailed at Annex A to the report. The closing date for responses was reported to be Thursday 30 June 2016. In addition to the formal consultation with the Elected Members, Officers had analysed systems to identify any issues or requests received from 3<sup>rd</sup> parties throughout the last winter season. It was further reported that the consultation had not raised any issues with the existing policy and operational plan.

The report stated that Sefton's Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan was based on guidance provided by the Government in a document entitled "Well-maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highways Maintenance and Management 2005 Edition.

The report highlighted that one key issue had been addressed, in relation to the need for an improved fleet of vehicles which can spread salt more accurately. Newer vehicles with a higher specification had been acquired through a rental agreement with the contractor which would ensure that any vehicles utilised on the eight gritting routes should meet the requirements of Appendix H.

The report highlighted that the policy had been reviewed by a 3<sup>rd</sup> party in order that the Council's compliance in accordance with the Government guidance could be audited. Some minor changes had been made based on the recommendations received.

Members requested that the following comments be referred to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services:-

- That at the conclusion of the review currently being undertaken by Merseytravel in relation to Bus routes, the Cabinet Member be requested to re-assess the impact on the gritting routes, taking into account the outcomes of the review.
- Consider the merits of padlocking the grit bins to prevent theft.
- Request that in consultation with Sefton's Communications Team, an article be published on Sefton's Website detailing some key facts regarding the gritting process.

RESOLVED: That:

(1) the report be noted;

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- (2) the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned be requested to refer the comments of this Committee to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services.

**15. UPDATE ON THE PROCESS OF DEVELOPING A NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Committee considered a report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing in relation to the process of developing a Neighbourhood Plan and the progress being made towards the making of Neighbourhood Plans by Communities of Sefton.

Members raised questions regarding the process for those areas that weren't associated with a Parish or Town Council.

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

**16. SHALE GAS WORKING GROUP - UPDATE ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regeneration and Housing in relation to the progress with implementation of the recommendations of the Shale Gas Working Group.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the draft objectives, membership and frequency of meetings of the Cross-Regulatory Working Group, be referred to the Cabinet Member for Planning and Building Control and his recommendations be submitted to the next meeting of this Committee scheduled to take place on 8 November 2016;
- (2) the Head of Regeneration and Housing or his nominated representative be requested to meet with partners as necessary to inform the scope and the terms of reference of the group; and
- (3) the timetable associated with the actions, as detailed in the report be noted.

**17. STREET CLEANSING, FLY TIPPING AND LITTER BINS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Locality Services - Provision in relation to the current issues surrounding the delivery of the work programme for the Year 2016/17 in relation to Street Cleansing, Fly tipping and Litter Bins.

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The report highlighted the following key headlines in relation to street cleansing activities throughout the Borough of Sefton:-

- Legislation governing street cleaning services.
- Roles and responsibilities of the Council for street cleaning services in Sefton.
- Common perceptions around street cleaning service and the measure of success used.
- Street cleaning enforcement powers of the Council and opportunities for joined up enforcement with other individuals, groups and organisations.
- Frequency and monitoring of street cleaning services, fly tipping and litter bins.
- Resource pressures relating to street cleaning services.
- The methods of community engagement used to reflect local priorities for street cleaning and Cleansing.

Members of the Committee raised questions, comments and observations on the following topics:

- That the Head of Locality Services – Provision, be requested to write to all Schools throughout the Borough with a request for them to send a message to all the pupils that disposing of litter inappropriately was not only antisocial and unpleasant but also illegal.
- That a similar message be conveyed to local businesses such as convenience stores and fast food outlets emphasising that they have a responsibility and duty to ensure customers use litter bins provided.
- There was an issue around areas with flats where there doesn't seem to be any provision for storing rubbish and so consequently rubbish sacks/bags were being put out each day. A possible solution could be something like euro bins.
- There is a need to address those residential areas where parked cars prevent cleansing of the highway. Could the Council issue a schedule to those residents so that there is an understanding of when vehicles are required to be moved to allow the cleansing process to proceed?

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report be noted; and
- (2) the Head of Locality Service – Provision, be requested to provide an update report to a future meeting of the Committee.

**18. WORK PROGRAMME 2016/17 AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN - 1 OCTOBER 2016 - 31 JANUARY 2017**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance that sought the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2016/17, the progress of established Working Groups appointed by the Committee and the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Committee notes items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan for period 1 October 2016 – 31 January 2017;
- (2) the Committee approves the following memberships of the established three Working Groups:
  - (a) Peer Review – Councillors Dan.T.Lewis (Lead Member), Carragher, O'Brien and Thompson;
  - (b) Parks and Greenspaces – Councillors Bliss, Roche, Webster and Welsh; and
  - (c) Voluntary Community Faith Sector – Councillors Pullin and B. Welsh;
- (3) the Scoping Document of the Peer Review Working Group, as detailed in Appendix B to the report, be approved; and
- (4) the Work Programme for 2016/17, as set out in Appendix C to the report, be approved.

**19. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS**

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Regulation and Compliance that included the most recent report from the following Cabinet Members:-

- Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing;
- Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing (parks and greenspaces element only);
- Cabinet Member – Locality Services;
- Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control; and
- Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member update reports be accepted.