
Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	12 th January 2017
Subject:	Sefton Coast Plan	Wards Affected:	All
Report of:	Executive Director Sarah Kemp		
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes	Is it included in the Forward Plan?	Yes
Exempt/Confidential	No		

Purpose/Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek approval to proceed to public consultation with the draft Sefton Coast Plan.

Recommendation(s)

That the draft Sefton Coast Plan be agreed for the purposes of public consultation and the results reported back to Cabinet with any suggested amendments presented in the context of a final draft version of the Sefton coast Plan.

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	x		
2	Jobs and Prosperity	x		
3	Environmental Sustainability	x		
4	Health and Well-Being	x		
5	Children and Young People	x		
6	Creating Safe Communities	x		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	x		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	x		

Reasons for the Recommendation:

The development of the Sefton Coast Plan is a requirement of the Local Plan and will also support the aspirations developed as a result of the Sefton Vision 2030.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

If we wish to deliver the Local Plan there are no alternative options.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The consultation will be supported by all Partners within the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership of which the Council is one partner. Our role will be delivered within existing revenue resources.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital costs associated with this consultation process.

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:

The plan clearly identifies the key actions that are required to support the sustainable management of the coast and to support the delivery of Sefton Vision 2030.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 4443/16) and Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 3726/16) have been consulted and have no comments on the report

Implementation Date for the Decision

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

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Appendix;

Sefton Coast Plan

Background Papers:

Topic Papers that inform the Sefton Coast Plan

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In 2016, Sefton Council led a visioning exercise for the communities of Sefton to imagine the Borough they wished to live and work in - *Sefton Vision 2030*. The coast was identified as an important asset to be valued and cared for. The Sefton Coast Plan sets a course to deliver to the same time frame as Vision 2030, a life-span of 15 years from publication.

The Sefton Coast Plan is a non-statutory document prepared by the Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership (SCLP), comprised of Sefton Council, Natural England, the National Trust, the RSPB, the Mersey Forest, and Lancashire Wildlife Trust, which serves to deliver the Vision for the Sefton Coast as set out by SCLP:

Our vision is for the importance of the wonderful natural assets of the Sefton coast to be universally recognised and celebrated, and for the coast to be managed in a way which:

- **Conserves and enhances the important international, national and local network of natural and cultural sites, habitats and species,**
(Ecology)
- **Enables local communities to benefit from sustainable economic growth and successfully adapt to coastal and climate change and**
(Economy)
- **Provides long term benefits for the health and wellbeing of local communities, businesses and visitors to our coast.**
(People)

- 1.2 The Plan has been prepared by Sefton Council on behalf of the SCLP and with their participation and input. The Sefton Coast Plan sets out by theme, the challenges for delivery, and the determination of priorities for action across a broad range of partners and communities, seascapes and landscapes. It takes an integrated approach to the management of the coast as many of the issues need to be addressed at a coastal scale, or on a thematic basis. The Sefton Coast Plan area is the whole of Sefton as it is widely used and valued by all the communities of Sefton, most of whom live within a short distance of the shoreline.
- 1.3 It clearly sets out that we have a coast that is under pressure from visitors, coastal change, climate change and development. There are key pressure points such as maintaining the extent and connectivity of the sand dune system that will require the removal of woodland; the proposed expansion of the Port which would require compensatory habitat to be successfully created; sustainable access to the coast which will need managing through visitor gateways and suitable infrastructure; sustainable development of housing and businesses as set out in the Local Plan. To be considered successful this Plan will have to address these issues and ensure that we have a strong partnership and resources to deliver it.
- 1.4 For the first time, this Coast Plan sets a new ambition to fully realise the opportunities that the Sefton Coast presents by balancing the needs of people and economic growth with those of the environment and ecology of the Coast. The

Plan sets out a route-map to both resolution of points of tension and full realisation of the opportunities.

- 1.5 This plan will be taken to the SCLP Board on the 6th of January to seek partners approval for the document to go out to public consultation.

2.0 **Proposed Consultation**

- 2.1 An approach to the consultation process is currently being developed and agreed with Partners from the SCLP. This approach will then be taken to the Consultation and Engagement Panel for their advice on the 20th of January 2017 prior to going out for consultation at the end of January for a 6 week period. The main purpose of the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel is to coordinate and ensure the quality of public engagement and consultation, in accordance with the standards for engagement and consultation.
- 2.2 It is recognised that it can be difficult to consult on a plan dealing with strategic issues as this tends to be of more relevance to professional partners rather than our communities. To address this we will structure the questions to allow our communities to express why they value the coast, how they use it and the changes that they would like to see as well as to comment on the strategic issues. This can then be used to provide context for the plan both in understanding the use and value of the coast but also informing delivery as we move forward.
- 2.3 Following on from the consultation the responses will be collated and any proposed changes to the draft Sefton Coast Plan identified. These will then be checked to see if they have any impact on our legal duties under the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2010. Following on from this the final draft will be reported back to Cabinet along with details of the comments and any changes with a view to Cabinet approving it for adoption, this is likely to be in May or June 2017.