

Council response to Matter 6

Briefing Note on the Strategic Housing and Employment Land Market Assessment

All participating Council Heads of Planning have agreed to commission the work and put aside funds for the work.

A scope of works has been drawn up and approved by planning officers. Six of the seven Councils have obtained political approval where required, the other is in progress seeking approval (expected by end of week commencing 21/12).

One Council has signed the MoU and the others will be following suit - it is expected sign up will take place over the coming week.

The participating authorities have identified suitably qualified consultants to undertake the work and are able to employ them without going out to tender as it would be an extension of an existing contract.

The consultants have drawn up a proposal for the work. A meeting was held on 16/12 between the seven councils, the LEP, Merseytravel and the consultant to discuss the proposal, which was positive.

It is anticipated that the proposal and costs will be refined in the next week by the consultants for final approval by council officers. Formal appointment by St. Helens Council expected by the end of first week in January 2016 with consultants starting work in early to mid-January.

Sefton will update the Inspector again in January.