

## CABINET

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT ON THURSDAY, 17 MAY 2007

PRESENT: Councillor Robertson (in the Chair)  
Councillors Brodie-Browne, P. Dowd, Lord Fearn,  
Martin, Parry, Platt, Porter and Tattersall.

INVITED MEMBERS: Councillor Cummins (for Minute No. 5)

#### 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Maher

#### 2. CODE OF CONDUCT - MEMBERS' AND OFFICERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of prejudicial interest were received:

Member	Minute No.	Reason	Action
Councillor Brodie-Browne	11 - Supporting People Programmes	He is the Chief Officer of an organisation that is one of the providers of services funded by Supporting People.	He left the meeting room whilst the item was under discussion.
Councillor Platt	333 - Lord Street Phase 2 - Tender Award	His eldest son works for one of the tenderers.	He left the meeting room whilst the item was under discussion.
Councillor Porter	341 - South Beach Park, Ainsdale, Southport	She was dealing with a similar restrictive covenant situation.	She left the meeting room whilst the item was under discussion.

#### 3. MINUTES

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 19 April 2007 be confirmed as a correct record.

**4. FEES AND CHARGES FOR RESIDENTS PRIVILEGED PARKING PERMITS (RPP)  
PETITION - RESIDENTS OF ZONE 403, STRAND ROAD AREA,  
BOOTLE**

A report by the Technical Services Director advised the Cabinet of a petition received through the Linacre and Derby Area Committee from residents of various roads in the Strand Road area of Bootle. This was further to the introduction of a fee for Residents Privileged Parking Permits and recommended a way forward.

The report had been considered by the Cabinet Member - Technical Services at his meeting on 9 May 2007 where he had resolved:

"That

- (1) the petition from the residents of various roads in the Strand Road area (Zone 403) in Bootle be noted;
- (2) the decision of the Cabinet Member - Technical Services (Minute No. 46) of 23 November 2005 and Cabinet (Minute No. 342) of 23 March 2006 introducing a charge for Residents Privileged Parking Permits (residents and visitors) be reaffirmed;
- (3) the Technical Services Director be requested to consult with the residents of all Residents Privilege Parking Zones to ascertain whether or not they wish their area to be the subject of a Residents Privileged Parking Scheme, the results of the Consultation be reported to the appropriate Area Committee and if necessary, the Cabinet Member for a decision on the future of this Scheme;
- (4) subject to the Scheme being withdrawn, the roads will revert to any pre-existing Traffic Regulation Orders and any subsequent request for reinstatement of the Scheme will be added to the waiting list of RPP requests to be dealt with in priority order; and
- (5) the Cabinet be advised of the above decisions."

RESOLVED:

That the resolutions of the Cabinet Member - Technical Services made at his meeting on 9 May 2007 be noted.

## **5. FINAL REPORT OF THE YOUTH SERVICES WORKING GROUP**

The Cabinet received the final report of the Youth Services Working Group that had also been considered by the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) at its meeting on 24 April 2007 (Minute No. 57 refers).

Councillor Cummins informed that the timing of the Review had been good as it coincided with a number of national initiatives. Members had considered that they had only scratched the surface on this issue. It had been identified that there was a need to increase the level of investment in Youth Services and that better joint working was required.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the principles of the recommendations of the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Children's Services) detailed as follows, be approved:
  - (a) Further development of the Youth Matters agenda to ensure young people will have more choice and influence over services and facilities that are available to them. There are opportunities for the Council to engage further with young people and encourage involvement in Sefton MBC Strategy Development. This could be achieved in part through the co-option of young people as members on Local Area Committees and the Scrutiny & Review Committee (Children's Services). Encouraging young people to volunteer, contribute to, and develop their local community.
  - (b) Youth Service should restructure its operational management immediately to enable delivery of service in recognising government's expectation of targeted approach to youth services.
  - (c) The Youth Service is poorly funded in comparison to other Local Authorities and this will need to be addressed in the current and forthcoming financial years. This issue needs to be addressed urgently.
  - (d) Better balance of spending on service - geographically, there is an imbalance of resource versus need. Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) and Single Regeneration Bid (SRB) Funding are being used to support rather than enhance mainstream delivery in the south of the borough.
  - (e) The Youth agenda involves a wide range of partners - Leisure, Police, Connexions, Fire Service, Voluntary and Community Sector and of course the young people themselves. Success will only be achieved if all partners recognise the interdependences and commit to working together to achieve common aims/outcomes.

- (f) Extension of Frontline Services - The work of frontline service staff i.e. Youth Workers / Outreach Workers is recognised as invaluable in engaging with young people and developing sustainable Youth Services, with positive local community outcomes as a result.
- (g) Sefton Youth Service is rated highly by service users themselves as a provider of safe places for young people to meet. However, the demand for such facilities still exceeds supply.
- (h) Demand from service users also exists in support of extending opening hours at existing Youth Club / Youth Centre facilities to cover Friday and Saturday nights.
- (i) Publication of Information - there is a need for publication of consolidated contact details for Sefton Youth facilities via websites and hard copy publications, providing young people and their parents with access information on the type of facility, location, and opening hours information available in their area.
- (j) There is an opportunity to further utilise existing facilities to provide a youth focussed approach 'one stop shop' to provide advice to, and gather feedback from, young people. Good examples of this practice currently exist, but service across the borough is not consistent.
- (k) Additional focus on "hard to reach" young people can be achieved via closer working with partner organisations such as Connexions using "not in employment, education or training" (NEET) data; and
- (2) the Cabinet Member - Children's Services be requested to move forward in respect of the Youth Service, in the light of the Scrutiny and Review Committee's recommendations.

**6. SCRUTINY AND REVIEW AT SEFTON COUNCIL - AN EVALUATION BY DR STEPHANIE SNAPE**

A report by the Legal Director provided the Cabinet with an overview of the recent evaluation by Dr Stephanie Snape on the Scrutiny and Review function within Sefton Council and informed of appropriate arrangements put in place to take forward and implement the Improvement Plan set out at Annex A to the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report be noted;

- (2) the draft Improvement Plan at Annex A be endorsed in principle;
- (3) a cross party Working Group (4; 3; 3) be established to look at the implementation of the detailed recommendations and report back to a future meeting; and
- (4) Councillors Tattersall and Platt be nominated to represent the Cabinet on the Working Group detailed at (3) above.

**7. APPOINTMENT OF REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES  
2007/08**

The Cabinet considered a report by the Legal Director that detailed appointments made to outside bodies for 2007/08, together with amendments made during the year. The Leisure Director circulated some additional information for Members at the meeting concerning leisure appointments to assist the appointments process.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the following Members be appointed to serve on the under-mentioned Outside Bodies for 2007/08; and

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
ACME Board	Cabinet Member - Leisure and Tourism and the Leisure Director
Aintree Hospitals NHS Trust	Councillor Platt
British Resorts Association	Councillor Lord Fearn and the Head of Tourism
Children's Services – Employment Procedures Committee	Councillors P Dowd, M Fearn and D. Jones
Citizens' Advice Bureaux Management Committee	
- Southport	Councillors Brodie-Browne and Porter
- Bootle	Councillor Friel
- Crosby, Formby and District	Councillor Hill
Community Against Drugs Project - Steering Group	Cabinet Member – Children's Services and the Members of the Linacre and Derby Area Committee

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<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
Elected Member Development Steering Group	Councillors Cluskey, Colbert, Griffiths, D Hardy, Ibbs, Porter and Weavers
Environment Agency - Merseyside Liaison Group	Councillor Tattersall
Formby Pool Trust - Board	Councillor Storey and Mr R Paul
<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
Industrial Air Pollution Standing Conference	Councillor Tattersall and the Environmental Protection Director (or their nominees)
Irish Sea Forum	Councillor Martin (or his nominee)
John Goore's Charity, Lydiate	Councillor Fenton
The Chartered Institute of Library and Information Professionals	Councillors Cummins and Glover (Affiliated Members) Head of Library and Information Services (Institutional Member)
Libraries North West	The Head of Library and Information Services
Liverpool Airport Consultative Committee	Councillor Brady (or his nominee)
Liverpool Airport plc - Director	Councillor Robertson
Liverpool Bay Forum	Councillors Glover, Tattersall and Tweed
Local Government Association	
- Urban Commission	Councillors Martin (2 votes) and B. Rimmer (3 votes)
- Coastal Issues Special Interest Group	Councillor Brady (or his nominee)
Local Solutions	Councillor Tweed

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<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>	
Mersey Basin Campaign - Chairman's Forum	Councillor Tattersall (or his nominee)	
Mersey Estuary Forum	Councillors Glover, Maher and Tattersall	
Mersey Forest Steering Group	Councillor Griffiths (substitute representative - Councillor Tweed)	
Mersey Partnership Board	Councillor Tattersall	
Mersey Port Health Committee	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
	Cr. Colbert	Cr. Hands
	Cr. Sumner	L/D Vacancy
	Cr. Friel	Cr. Cluskey
	Cr. Kerrigan	Cr. Mahon
	Cr. Tweed	Cr. Larkin
	Cr. Glover	Cr. T. Jones
Mersey Park Waterfront Regional Board	Councillor Lord Fearn	
Merseyside Cultural Forum	Councillor Lord Fearn and the Leisure Director	
Merseyside Co-ordinating Committee	Councillors Parry, Martin and Robertson (or their nominees)	
Merseyside Strategic Transportation and Planning Sub-Committee	Councillors Dodd and Fairclough	
Merseyside Drugs Council - Southport Management Committee	Councillor D.P. Rimmer	
Merseyside Playing Fields Association	Councillor Lord Fearn (substitute representatives - Councillors Cummins and Glover)	
Merseyside Police Authority Appointments Committee	Councillors Parry, Martin and Robertson (or their nominees)	
Merseytravel Advisory Panel (Sefton Division)	Councillors Martin, Roberts and Sumner (or their nominees)	

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
Museums Association	Councillor Cummins (substitute representative - Councillor Glover) (Institutional Members) The Head of Arts and Culture and the Keeper of Museums and Art Galleries (Private Members)
National Parking Adjudication Service Joint Committee	Councillor Martin (substitutes Councillors Parry and Robertson)  NB - Nominated Member <u>and</u> substitutes must be Cabinet Members.
National Society for Clean Air	Councillors Storey and Tweed and the Environmental Protection Director (or their nominees)
Newheartlands Board	Councillor Maher (substitute Councillor Martin) and the Housing Market Renewal Director
North West Home Safety Council	Councillors T. Jones, Preston and Tweed and the Environmental Protection Director (or his nominee)
North West Local Government Association	Councillors Brodie-Browne, Parry and Martin
North West Regional Association of Education Authorities	Councillor P. Dowd
North West Regional Assembly	Councillors Byrom, McGuire and Martin
North West Regional Assembly Ltd.	Councillor Martin
North Western Local Authorities' Employers' Organisation	Councillor Robertson (Substitute Councillor Tattersall)
One Vision Shadow Board	Councillors Connell, D. Hardy and Griffiths
Objective 1 Programme Monitoring Committee	Councillor Maher



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<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
Pensions Committee (Wirral MBC) Merseyside Pension Fund	Councillor Ibbs (substitute Councillor Platt)
Peterhouse School	Councillor Glover
Police and Community Forums	
Copy Lane	Councillors Howe, Mahon and Roberts
Crosby	Councillors Hough, Parry and Veidman
Marsh Lane	Councillors Colbert, Kerrigan and Roberts
Southport	Councillors Booth, Glover and Rice
Raven Meols Community Centre, Formby - Management Committee	Councillors Doran and Griffiths
Ribble Estuary Advisory Committee	Councillor Tattersall
St. Mary's College, Crosby - Governing Body	Councillors Hill and Parry
Sefton Borough Partnership	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Board and Executive (3) - Party Group Leaders - Councillors Martin, Parry and Robertson (or their nominees) and Councillor P Dowd Children's Services</li> <li>● Thematic Partnerships:</li> </ul>	

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
Children and Young People	Councillor P. Dowd (Cabinet Member - Children's Services)	To be nominated.
Safer and Stronger Communities	Councillor Porter (Cabinet Member - Communities)	Councillor Platt

	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>
Economic Development & Sustainability	Councillor Maher (Cabinet Member - Regeneration), Councillor Tattersall (Cabinet Member – Environmental), Councillor Martin (Cabinet Member – Technical Services) Councillor Lord Fearn (Cabinet Member - Leisure and Tourism)	To be nominated.
Healthier Communities and Older People	Councillor Platt (Cabinet Member – Health and Social Care)	Councillor D. Rimmer.
Neighbourhood Regeneration Sub Group	Councillor Martin; Councillors Fairclough, Moncur and Pearson (as NRF Ward Councillors) Councillor Maher (Cabinet Member – Regeneration)	To be nominated.
Related Groups/Partnerships Sefton Compact Working Group	Councillor Robertson	To be nominated.

Organisation

Representative(s)

Sefton Chamber of Commerce and Industry	Councillors Cluskey, Lord Fearn and Councillor Glover
Sefton Coast Partnership - Coast Partnership Strategic Group	Cabinet Members - Environmental and Leisure and Tourism and Chair of Planning Committee (or their Substitute Members) and Councillor Roberts
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service	Councillors Doran, Friel and Hill
Sefton Education/Business Partnership	Councillors P. Dowd, M. Fearn and D. Jones

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<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representative(s)</u>
Sefton F.A.S.T. Steering Group	Councillors P. Dowd, M. Fearn and D. Jones
Sefton Sports and Athletics Trust	Councillors Barber, Lord Fearn and P. Hardy (or their nominees)
Sefton Sports Council	Councillors Cummins, Lord Fearn and Glover
Sefton Sports Council - Executive Committee	Councillors Lord Fearn, Cummins and Glover
Sefton Business Village Partnership	Chair of the Cabinet
South Sefton Partnership	Councillor D. Hardy
Southport Marketing and Enterprise Bureau - Board of Management	Councillors Bigley, Lord Fearn and Moncur
Southport Pier - Board of Trustees	Councillors Lord Fearn Glover and Maher (or their nominees)
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)	Cabinet Member – Children’s Services and 2 Spokespersons with their Deputies as substitutes
The Southport Partnership	Councillors Maher, Porter and Tattersall
Third Sector Technology Centre SRB Partnership Board	Councillor Maher
Trans Pennine Trail Members Steering Group	The Chair of the Planning Committee (or nominee) and the Technical Services Cabinet Member (or nominee)
TREND (Trust for Regeneration and Enterprise Development Limited)	Councillor Tweed
University of Liverpool - Court	Councillors Connell, P. Dowd and Platt in addition to the Mayor, the Chief Executive and the Director of Children’s Services, who are ex-officio Members
Various Leisure Grant-aided organisations (when appropriate)	Councillors Barber, P. Hardy and B. Rimmer;

- (2) Sefton F.A.S.T. Steering Group be the subject of a future review;  
and
- (3) in relation to those appointments for a longer period than one year,  
the following persons be appointed to serve on the Outside Bodies  
indicated:

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>
Ashton Memorial Fund, Formby	Councillor Griffiths, Rev. A. Woodhouse and Mr. L.A. Street	May 2011
Consolidated Charities of Thomas Brown and Marsh Dole, Formby	Councillor Platt Councillor Storey	26.6.2008 26.6.2010
Governing Bodies:		
Halsall Educational Foundation	Councillor Parry	21.5.2009 (2 year appointment)
Hugh Baird College, Bootle	Labour vacancy	3.2.2010 (4 year appointment)
KGV College	Councillor Dodd	2010 (4 year appointment)
Southport College	Councillor B. Rimmer	20.11.2008 (4 year appointment)
Mayor of Crosby's War Relief Fund (4 year appointments)	Mr. Fanning and Mr. J. Hulligan	30.9.2009
	Mr. N. Goldrein and (vacancy to be filled by the Crosby Area Committee)	30.9.2010
	Mr. T.V. Beswarick and Councillor Papworth	30.9.2007
	Mr. J.R.M. Heppell and Councillor Hill	30.9.2008

<u>Organisation</u>	<u>Representatives</u>	<u>Term of Office Expires</u>	
		<u>PARTY</u>	<u>Term of office expires</u>
		<u>NOMINATING</u>	
Merseyside Valuation Tribunal	Mr. D. Blanchflower	Lab.	) 31.03.2010
	Mr. A.E. Brookfield	Con.	
	Mrs. E. Beech	Lib/Dem.	) 31.03.2013
	Mrs. M. Caldwell	Con.	
North Western and North Wales Sea Fisheries Committee	Councillors Friel and Glover		30.6.2009
Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	Councillor Byrom		31.3.2008
Sefton Educational Trust	Councillors P. Dowd, M. Fearn and D. Jones, Mrs. P. Leyland and 1 Labour vacancy (or appropriate nominees)		31.8.2008

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS FROM OTHER MEETINGS

RESOLVED:

That the recommendations contained in the following Minute be approved;

Cabinet Member - Environmental - 11 April 2007

Minute No. 107 - Copyright Designs and Patents Act - Additional Funding for Trading Standards.

## 9. LOCAL LAND CHARGES - HOME INFORMATION PACKS

A report by the Legal Director sought the Cabinet's approval for the setting of new fees for Local Land Charges Searches prior to the introduction of the Government's new requirement for Home Information Packs from 1 June 2007. The Council needed to be able to demonstrate that its charges were cost effective. The Cabinet was aware that the revenue received by the Council had already reduced significantly since the advent of Personal Search Companies and unless the Council moved to a more competitive fee it was likely that this would continue to be substantially reduced. There would be financial implications in reducing the current Search Fee.

The Cabinet was told that the Government had recently issued guidance on setting fees for Local Land Charge Services. The Local Land Charges Act 1975 had been amended to specify that in setting fees, Authorities must ensure that taking one financial year with another, fee income did not exceed the cost of providing the service. The effect of changing the fees would be to decrease the income achieved by the Land Charges Service bringing it in line with the real cost of providing this Service. The emphasis on the provision of the new Home Information Packs would be at the point at which the property came onto the Market, as opposed to just prior to a sale. This change had made it more difficult to assess the likely impact on income generation in this and future years.

Based on last year's search levels and assuming these were maintained, fees could fall by as much as £60,000 in 2007/08 rising to £80,000 in a full year. However, initial demand at the start of Housing Information Packs may be quite high and this might help mitigate some of the income reduction in 2007/08, particularly if the new fee levels were much more competitive.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the fee for the LLC1 Official Search be set at £10 for both postal and electronic searches with effect from 1 June 2007;
- (2) the fee for Con 29 Part I and Part II Search be set at £80 for both postal and electronic searches with effect from 1 June 2007;
- (3) the fee for a stand-alone enquiry under Con 29 Part II Additional Enquiries be set at £25 per enquiry (to include the Council's disbursements to its supplier);
- (4) the fee to 'refresh' a full search for the new Home Information Pack be set at £25; and
- (5) these fees be kept under review and monitored and further reports be brought back to the Cabinet as appropriate should it be necessary to review the current amounts.

#### **10. PROPOSED OPENING HOURS AND PRICES FOR THE NEW SPLASH WORLD COMPLEX**

A report by the Leisure Director advised the Cabinet of the proposed opening hours and prices for the new Splash World facilities in Southport. Prior to the opening of new facilities, a marketing campaign was to be undertaken involving the distribution of promotional literature, which included the prices to be charged for entry to the new facilities and the opening times for public access. Prices and opening hours, therefore, needed to be finalised prior to the commencement of the marketing campaign.

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It was expected that the opening of the Splash World facilities would generate copious amounts of publicity and initially attract large volumes of new customers.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the proposed pricing structure detailed below be adopted and also compared with current charges at comparable facilities as detailed in the report:

### Splash World Proposal

Adults £7.50

Juniors £5.50  
(under 16yrs and over 1.2m height)

Juniors £4.00  
(under 16yrs and/or under 1.2m height)

Under 2 yrs FREE  
Spectator £3.00

Family Ticket £23.00  
( 2 adults + 2 children)

Adult Leisure Passport £5.00

Junior Leisure Passport £3.50  
(under 16yrs and over 1.2m height)

Junior Leisure Passport £3.00  
(under 16yrs and/or under 1.2m height)

Spectator Leisure Passport £2.00

Groups of 15 or more:

Adults	Normal Price £7.50	Group Price £6.00
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Juniors	Normal Price £5.50	Group Price £4.00
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and;

- (2) the opening hours detailed below and compared with comparable facilities be agreed from June opening to the end of September 2007 and further reports be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration at the end of the summer holiday period, with recommendations for future opening hours and price additions or amendments as may be necessary:

	Proposed Splash World Opening Hours	Blackpool Waterworld Opening Hours	Stoke Waterworld Opening Hours
Weekends	10.00 - 17.30	10.00 - 17.30	10.00 - 17.30
Midweek (School Holidays)	10.00 - 17.30	10.00 - 17.30	10.00 - 17.30
Midweek (Term Time)	*See Below	*See Below	*See Below

\*At Blackpool and Stoke, the weekday term time opening hours are generally restrict to the latter part of the week with the facilities closed on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. Some specialist sessions are adopted, such as 'Aqua Zone Junior Disco Nights' in an attempt to generate repeat custom from junior users.

## **11. SUPPORTING PEOPLE PROGRAMME**

A report by the Strategic Director, Adult Social Services (Health and Social Care) advised the Cabinet on the progress to date of the Supporting People Programme aimed at providing a better quality of life for vulnerable people to live more independently and to create safer communities and advised of the forthcoming Audit Commission Inspection.

RESOLVED:

That the contents of the Supporting People Progress Report and the progress to date made in respect of the strategic priorities identified within the Five Year Supporting People Strategy 2005-2010 (detailed in Appendix 1 to the report), be noted.

## **12. RIMROSE HOUSE**

A joint report by the Strategic Director Adult Social Services (Health and Social Care) and the Technical Services Director detailed action taken in relation to Rimrose House following its closure.

The Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care had considered this report at his meeting on 16 May 2007 and had resolved to recommend to Cabinet:



"That

Rimrose House be declared surplus to requirements and the Cabinet be recommended to authorise the Technical Services Director to seek and obtain either an appropriate alternative use or an open market disposal of the property in line with the Council's Asset Management Strategy and in support of the Single Capital Pot."

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation of the Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care (as detailed above) be adopted.

### **13. LORD STREET PHASE 2 - TENDER AWARD**

A report by the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environmental Services and Deputy Chief Executive informed that tenders had been issued and returned in respect of the Lord Street Phase 2 Improvement Scheme. The tender process had been completed and the tenders had been assessed. The successful contractor now needed to be appointed to deliver the works required.

The Cabinet considered the need to monitor the progress of this Scheme and discussed the arrangements that could be put in place to do this.

It was noted that the figures provided in the report were only representative of the cost of contract preliminary items as required, not the total works costs. These had not yet been agreed but would be reported at the next meeting of the Cabinet on 14 June 2007.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) approval be given to accept the highest scoring tender based on price and quality assessment for Lord Street Phase 2 Environmental Improvement;
- (2) a Member/Officer Working Group be established to work together to track and monitor the Lord Street Phase 2 developments consisting of six Members of the Southport Area Committee (3 L/D:3 Con) and the Cabinet Member - Technical Services;
- (3) the Legal Director be requested to prepare a formal contract with the successful tenderer; and

- (4) it be noted that the Chair of the Scrutiny and Review Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) has given his consent under Rule 17 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules for the resolution (1) - not to be subject to "call-in" on the basis that it cannot be reasonably deferred because any delay likely to be caused by the call-in process would delay the start of the Scheme on site and hence the amount of work completed in 2008. This is of particular importance as the Scheme is currently programmed to be completed on 13 June 2008, ahead of the start of the Open Golf Championship in July 2008.

**[Following the meeting the following Members were nominated to sit on the Member/Officer Working Group detailed at (2) above: Councillors Byrom, Glover, McGuire, Pearson, Shaw and Sumner]**

#### **14. THORNTON SWITCH ISLAND LINK SCHEME - FUNDING**

Further to Minute No. 271 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 22 March 2007 a report by the Technical Services Director sought the Cabinet's commitment to a funding contribution to the proposed Thornton Switch Island Link Major Highway Scheme and its inclusion within the Capital Programme. The Department for Transport had indicated that in considering the Scheme for Programme Entry it would expect the Council to have approved a commitment to a funding contribution on the lines of recent consultation guidance.

The Cabinet Member - Technical Services had considered this report at his meeting on 9 May 2007 and had resolved:

"That

the Cabinet be recommended to approve the funding contribution to the proposed Thornton Switch Island Link Scheme, and its inclusion within the Capital Programme, as detailed in the report."

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Cabinet Member - Technical Services' recommendation to approve the funding contribution to the Thornton Switch Island Link Scheme, as detailed in the report be endorsed; and
- (2) the funding contribution at (1) above, be approved for inclusion in the Council's Capital Programme.

**15. SEFTON LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:  
PREPARATION OF THE CORE STRATEGY**

A report by the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director explained the Core Strategy, how the Council intended to prepare it (including setting up a "sounding board" or Working Group of key Members), and informed that the report marked the formal start of the process of Preparation. The aim was to meet the requirements of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Regulations in preparing the Council's Local Development Framework.

It was noted that the Planning Committee had considered the same report the previous evening and had resolved

"That

- (1) it be noted that the report marks the start of the process of preparing the Core Strategy;
- (2) the financial staff and other resources required to prepare the Core Strategy and approve the use of unallocated Planning Delivery Grant to fund this programme be noted; and
- (3) Cabinet be requested to approve the recommendations detailed above."

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the recommendations of the Planning Committee as detailed above be approved; and
- (2) the Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Environmental and Communities be nominated to join the Working Group as set out in paragraph 7.1 of the report.

**16. REGULATING THE SUPPLY OF RESIDENTIAL LAND  
QUARTERLY UPDATES: JULY - SEPTEMBER 2006,  
OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2006 AND JANUARY - MARCH 2007**

A report by the Planning and Economic Regeneration Director provided the Cabinet with an update on the number of dwellings built and the number granted planning permission and advised on whether the Housing Restraint Mechanisms should continue to be applied.

It was noted that the application of the mechanism needed to be reviewed regularly. Without a Housing Restraint Mechanism, the number of dwellings built was likely to exceed the number specified in the Regional Spatial Strategy that would be contrary to National Planning Policy Guidance and harm housing-led regeneration.

The Cabinet was informed that the number of new dwellings built over the three years from 1 April 2003 to 30 June 2006 (1, 116) was above the 3 - year average requirement of 1,050. It was, therefore, essential that the Council's Housing Restraint Policy continued to be applied. The clarification of the guidance contained with the SPG should be used for development control purposes.

It was noted that the Planning Committee had considered this report at its meeting the previous evening and had resolved to recommend to Cabinet:

"That

the Council's Housing Restraint Policy be continued to be applied."

RESOLVED:

That the recommendation of the Planning Committee be endorsed.

#### **17. INTERIM PLANNING GUIDANCE - NEW HOUSING IN SOUTH SEFTON**

A joint report by the Directors of Planning and Economic Regeneration and Housing Market Renewal sought the Cabinet's approval to the introduction of an Interim Planning Guidance for the provision of new housing in South Sefton that reflected the findings of their South Sefton Housing Supply and Demand Study, and took account of the Council's Policy in respect of the provision of affordable housing in this area.

The Cabinet considered the new housing in Sefton Interim Planning Guidance note in detail and asked a number of questions which were answered by Officers as appropriate.

It was noted that the Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Health and Social Care and the Planning Committee had all considered this report at their meetings held on the previous day and had endorsed the Study findings and the preparation of the Interim Planning Guidance note.

RESOLVED:

That the revised Interim Planning Guidance as set out in the report be approved for consultation purposes, noting that if approved following consultation it will be used as a material planning consideration in a determination of planning applications for new housing in the South Sefton area.

**18. CABINET MEMBER REPORTS**

The Cabinet received reports from the Cabinet Members for Health and Social Care, Children's Services, Performance, Corporate Services, Technical Services, Regeneration, Communities and Leisure and Tourism.

RESOLVED:

That the Cabinet Member reports be received.

**19. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

RESOLVED:

That, under Section 100A(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972 the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act. The Public Interest Test had been applied and favoured exclusion of the information from the Press and Public.

**20. TOWN HALL GARAGE, ORIEL ROAD, BOOTLE**

A report by the Technical Services Director sought the Cabinet's approval for the disposal of land and premises at the Town Hall Garage in Oriel Road, Bootle to the highest tenderer on the terms detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) subject to the receipt of planning permission, the Council approve the disposal of the site and premises to the highest tenderer on the terms detailed in the report; and
- (2) the Technical Services and Legal Directors be authorised to agree any additional terms and conditions and complete the necessary documentation.

**21. SOUTHBEACH PARK, AINSDALE, SOUTHPORT**

A report by the Technical Services Director sought the authorisation of the Cabinet to relax the covenant to enable minor building works on the above estate. The proposal required the consent of the Council, as original freeholder and beneficiary of restrictive covenants. It was noted that should the relaxation of the covenant not be permitted, the residents' proposals could not proceed.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the present position be noted; and
- (2) in consideration of the circumstances Officers be authorised to grant the necessary relaxation of the Covenant.

**22. DISPOSAL OF VICTORIA BATHS COMPLEX PROMENADE, SOUTHPORT**

A report by the Technical Services Director sought approval to the terms for the disposal of the Council's freehold interest in the Victoria Baths Complex, Promenade, Southport.

It was noted that the alternative option was to retain the Council's freehold interest and not support the redevelopment proposals, but, this would mean that parts of the building would be likely to remain closed and the building fabric would probably continue to deteriorate.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the terms for a disposal of the Council's freehold interest to Southport First Club Limited on the basis of the terms and conditions contained in the report be approved; and
- (2) the Technical Services and Legal Directors be authorised to negotiate and agree any other detailed terms and conditions and complete the transaction.

**23. THE LAKESIDE INN, PROMENADE, SOUTHPORT**

A joint report by the Head of Tourism and the Technical Services Director sought the Cabinet's approval to surrender the renewal of the lease for the Lakeside Inn, Promenade, Southport on the terms and conditions detailed in the report.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the surrender and renewal of the lease for the Lakeside Inn, Promenade, Southport on the terms and conditions detailed in the report be approved;
- (2) the Technical Services Director be authorised to agree any additional terms if necessary; and
- (3) the Legal Director be authorised to complete the necessary documentation.

**24. SALE OF PAVILION BUILDINGS, LORD STREET, SOUTHPORT**

A report by the Technical Services Director sought the Cabinet's approval to dispose of Pavilion Buildings, Lord Street, Southport.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the offer set out in the report be accepted;
- (2) the Legal Director be authorised to complete the necessary documentation; and
- (3) it be noted that the receipt is allocated for the Council's accommodation strategy.

**25. PLEASURELAND, SOUTHPORT**

A joint report by the Strategic Director (Regeneration and Environmental Services) and Deputy Chief Executive and Head of Tourism sought the Cabinet's approval for the demolition and clearance of the dangerous buildings and structures on the Pleasureland site. It was noted that not to demolish and clear the site would pose an unacceptable risk to the Council as the site was currently in a dangerous condition.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the content of the report be noted and Officers be requested to prepare further updated reports as necessary;
- (2) the inclusion of a Scheme in the ongoing Capital Programme for the demolition and clearance of the buildings on the Pleasureland site as detailed in the report be approved; and
- (3) the Legal Director be authorised to take legal action on behalf of the Council in an attempt to recover additional costs falling on it as a result of the breach of contract and terms of the tenancy in the light of the way in which the site has been left.