



# Public Engagement and Consultation Panel

## Key Messages.



Date of meeting: 24th June 2025.



Chair of Panel: Councillor Liz Dowd.



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The reports are presented to the Public Consultation and Engagement Panel (The Panel).

This was a special meeting of the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel.



The meeting was about the Southport Town Gardens Project. The project is being led by three families who lost their loved ones.



It is not a memorial, but a positive and family friendly space for events in Southport.

Stephen Watson, Executive Director, Sefton Council explained that the Council is helping to make this happen.



The project is in the early stages of design and everyone's views are important.

Ollie Cowan, Senior Communications Officer, Sefton Council said that:



- There will be a 4-week engagement with the families and people affected by the events of July 2024. This is to get early feedback on the designs.



- There will then be a wider consultation with the whole community.
- This will include children, schools and other groups.



- The aim is to hear from everyone, including people with special educational needs and disabilities.



The Panel said:

- It is important to include key services like the Fire Service and the Ambulance Service.
- The project must reflect what the community needs.
- It is important to listen to young people.
- The space must be inclusive and accessible. To link up with Southport Access for Everyone regarding accessibility and parking solutions.
- To connect with nearby areas such as East Book Street, Market Street and Bandstand Gardens.



Stephen Watson thanked the Panel for the feedback and said that they had been thinking about connecting the project to Cambridge Arcade, the Town Hall and The Atkinson.



Stephen said that they would come back to the Panel after the 4 week engagement.

He also said that there would be a 12-week consultation period in late summer or early autumn.

**Tell us what you think**

1. Do you think the idea is a good one?

☐ Yes

☒ No

☐ Not sure



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