

Sir Ron Watson CBE



Jonathan Ashby
Review Officer (Sefton)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE14 9FE

21 December 2022

Dear Mr Ashby,

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review of Sefton

May I refer to the recent letter/email from Professor Colin Mellors OBE, the Chair of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England.

I am afraid that I was not able to attend the Briefing Session that you very helpfully arranged for Councillors but I am not unfamiliar with the process and I have dealt with boundary issues on a number of occasions since I was first elected as a Councillor in 1969 for the Southport County Borough Council and then from the formation of Sefton in 1974.

I have had a couple of short breaks from being an Elected Member but reading through the documentation again the criteria does not appear to have been altered to any degree.

I would be grateful if you could note at the outset that any observations and comments that I make are being made on a personal basis.

I fully understand that you are specifically excluded from taking into account anything that might be considered a political representation and none of my observations I believe can therefore be viewed in that light.

I would also like to confirm that I do not intend to seek re-election when my current term of office expires in 2026 so I have no personal agenda regarding any changes that might be considered.

In the document you provided for Councillors you undertake the review on the basis that there has been no review for some 19 years and using this criteria a whole internal council boundary review is justified.

However, boundary issues have actually been quite a dominant feature within Sefton since the Borough was formed.

There have been a variety of campaigns to have Southport removed from Sefton but with one exception they were correctly perceived as being politically motivated.

There was however one campaign that had a degree of cross-party support and did address at least some of the criteria set down and the Commission was persuaded to undertake a review which proved to be comprehensive and fully involved all sections of the community and concluded that the existing boundaries of the Borough should not be altered.

There has also been something of a campaign by one of the local Members of Parliament to remove Southport from Sefton and link it into some areas in West Lancashire. These suggestions have proved to be very controversial and to the best of my knowledge no action has been taken.

We do however have to contend with a review undertaken by your colleagues in respect of the parliamentary boundaries and as they involve removing a significant part of the constituency that has been incorporated in the Town since its formation in 1885 and bring in other areas that the Town has no connection with any normal sense of the word.

I mention these issues because I think I can fairly state that the population of the Borough in overall terms is weary of constant references to boundary changes, none of which appear to have any degree of public support.

There are a significant range of cross cutting issues that relate to the Parliamentary and the Local Government situation.

These include issues such as transport links and geographical boundaries that are of significance to local communities. As a consequence, I am sending you a copy of a submission by the Sefton Conservative Group with the accompanying appendices, and I believe that you will find it helpful to integrate some of the points in this document when dealing with Sefton.

In your presentation you use the well-known phrase "if it ain't broke, don't fix it" but it is actually what I will describe as an anecdotal comment that does apply in this instance.

In terms of justification however for going forward you have produced as Appendix 1 the Electoral Data Summary on page 16.

This would seem to clearly indicate that with one exception there are no significant variations between Wards.

I do not know what criteria you set for determining whether or not a whole scale internal Ward boundary review is justified but I would have thought that most people would recognise that a tolerance figure that is 10% or below is perfectly reasonable.

The exception is St Oswald Ward where the figure is shown as 15% but I would submit that this in itself could be dealt with with what are bound to be minor changes to one Ward in the whole Borough.

In the event of there being a whole council election presumably in 2026 this would result in a significant unfairness within a metropolitan borough because Members duly elected would receive different terms of office ranging from 1-4 years and from experience we know that the dividing line in terms of the number of votes received is often very small.

I understand that in addition to this the Government are currently looking at the impact of name placement on the ballot paper can have and the evidence points to the fact, I believe, that the alphabetical approach does work to the disadvantage of those whose surname is at the bottom of the alphabet.

You seek views of the appropriateness or otherwise of a current number of Councillors elected for each Ward and it is fair to say that three Members per Ward is the norm in metropolitan boroughs in particular

There have been accounts locally to seek to reduce this to two but these have been on the grounds that it would bring about minor financial savings to the Council in respect of the amount allocated for Councillors allowances.

The corollary however is that no account has been taken of increasing the workload for the two remaining Councillors by a significant degree and that this in turn would probably result in them receiving a higher allowance to compensate.

This would also alter the electoral cycle which I believe most of the population would find confusing at best.

I also consider it would have a detrimental affect on the ability that political parties in particular have been attracting suitable candidates from all sections of the community to serve as Local Councillors. This is a growing problem with public demand increasing and a range of additional responsibilities in respect of Local Government being placed on all Councils.

I appreciate that in making these comments you could regard them as being anecdotal and in terms of what could be described as evidence would be difficult to provide in the accepted sense of the word but I hope that my experience alone would mean that they can be taken into account.

Your consultation document also asked for comment on the somewhat vexed question of governance arrangements. I can state without fear of contradiction that the arrangements under the Cabinet system within Sefton are regarded by all opposition parties as being highly undemocratic and clearly out of line with best practice.

I believe this has been confirmed by comparisons with other Councils with information provided by the LGA.

I can share with you the fact that over the last 4 years there have been 29 separate attempts to improve the governance arrangements but these have all have been rejected.

By way of example, for which clear written evidence is available, has been to reinstate the Southport Area Committee which had proved to be a very effective forum for Councillor and public engagement together with the rejection that in respect of the question time period at the Full Council Meeting in the event of the Leader of the Council being unable to attend the questions put by Members should be answered by the Deputy Leader which is standard practice in virtually every organisation that I have ever had any connection with over many years.

I am enclosing a copy of a report to the Audit & Governance Committee which illustrates the last issue but where the Committee decided to take no action.

This needs to be put into the context that the Council Constitution allows for 2.5 hours of questions over the course of a full municipal year. I could expand on this section quite considerably but I hope the information I have provided meets the criteria you are seeking in this area.

I fully understand that you actually have a very limited criteria to work to but I need to make the point that restricting consideration only to the numbers of people on the electoral roll whilst being an important consideration is not in itself justification for the disruption that would be caused by a whole internal Ward boundary review where a great many community issues are involved.

I also want to draw your attention to the fact that in considering the appropriateness of a review at the present time the figures produced will not be accurate in the sense that there is not insignificant housing development currently taking place and going well in to the future but it is not possible to quantify at this stage the direct impact this will have on the number of people on the electoral roll because whilst the properties are being built with certain categories and numbers of people in mind you could only make a rough estimate as to how this in turn would be reflected in the number of voters in any of the Wards that are affected.

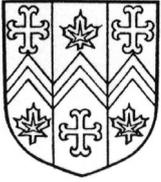
I hope I have dealt with the suggestions made from representation in our consultation document.

In every instance I would have no difficulty in providing considerable additional information – particularly in terms of governance – and if this would be of any further help to you please do let me know.

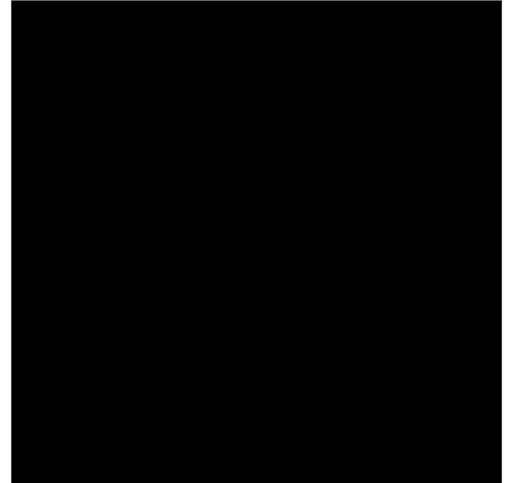
You indicate in the documentation that it is not possible to meet with individuals to discuss whatever comments have been made but I am happy to continue to co-operate using any mechanism that suits your organisation.

Kind regards,

Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE
Dukes Ward Councillor
Sefton Council



Sir Ron Watson CBE



Jonathan Ashby
Review Officer (Sefton)
LGBCE
PO Box 133
Blyth
NE14 9FE

10 January 2023

Dear Mr Ashby,

Local Government Boundary Commission for England – Electoral Review of Sefton

I do hope you had a good Christmas and New Year break.

During this period, I have had the opportunity to give further consideration to the issue of Governance arrangements within Sefton and I will take this opportunity to reiterate that I am writing in an entirely personal capacity.

Whilst this has always been part of the criteria when considering an internal Ward Boundary Review I have come to the view that in the context of Sefton Governance does need to have a higher profile in view of what I perceive to be considerable Councillors and public discontent with the current situation.

Since the proposed review by the Commission was announced we have had the resignation of one Member whose term of office did not expire until 2026 but he has left the Council because of his deep concern as to how the democratic process is currently being managed.

This Member has been a long-serving Labour Councillor and whilst comments made by other Parties on an informal basis cannot be repeated in a letter of this nature the situation with this one Councillor provides an anecdotal example of more widespread concerns.

I indicated to you in my original submission the issue of the Southport Area Committee which was set up following the recommendations of the Commission when they undertook a complete review of Sefton on a 'one off' basis. I will not repeat the arguments, but I think many Elected Members would have this as a high priority.

I do want to deal in more specific terms with the Cabinet System. This was introduced in May 2011.

At the time Sefton was a 'hung' or 'balanced' Council depending on which terminology you prefer and this meant that all Political Parties were represented on a proportionate basis on the Cabinet and thus have access to all the information pertaining to any given issue even if this was classified as being exempt.

When the Labour Party obtained an overall majority of seats within the Borough in 17 May 2011 they decided that the Cabinet would be made up exclusively of their Members and as a consequence much information has subsequently been denied to the other Parties on a regular basis.

There is a provision within the Sefton Constitution which allows individual Councillors to request an Item to be placed on the Cabinet Agenda and the Member concerned can then present his or her own Report, attend the meeting and speak on the Item, although they have no voting rights.

There have been attempts to invoke this procedure as per the attached but despite having fulfilled the criteria the Leader of the Council has exercised the veto so that the matters have not been discussed by the Council as a fully Representative Body.

You might however find it of additional help to access the complete series of reports and requests and these can be found on the Sefton Council website [Sefton Home](#)

By way of further example, a proposal was brought forward to allow the Leaders of the other Political Parties to become ex-officio Members of the Cabinet with the right to attend and speak but not to vote. This request was refused.

There is also concern that whilst very detailed documents form the Cabinet Agenda the meetings themselves are perfunctory and it is unusual for them to last for more than 20 minutes and even part of that time – indeed the majority of it – is taken up with what can only be described as Party Political considerations.

This particular aspect was one of the issues raised by the LGA Peer Review that took place but no action was subsequently taken by the Majority Party.

I now turn to the system for the Overview & Scrutiny Committees.

These are not able to function in the manner that is envisaged on the basis that they are Chaired by the Majority Party but other Councillors in turn are not allowed to see any of the exempt information on which the Cabinet have come to its conclusion and as a consequence they are not in a position to come to a view on the validity or otherwise of any such decision as they are not allowed to have the information on which Cabinet came to its decision particularly in respect of what had proved to be significant financial considerations.

There is also a semi-independent role envisaged for the Audit & Governance Committee but again this cannot act in an effective manner as because with Overview & Scrutiny none of the exempt documents were made available to the Committee and the Chairmanship is again held by a Member of the Majority Party.

I should state that in respect of both the Chairman of Audit & Governance and of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee for Regeneration & Skills, of which I am a Member, they both act in a very fair and inclusive manner but the system does not allow both of these Committees to fulfil fully their role.

The question of confidentiality is recognised by all Members and the suggestion was put forward that if any of the amendments to the Constitution were agreed there would equally need to be some form of sanction against any Member who deliberately broke the conditions attached.

I will now also mention the running of the Full Council Meetings.

These allow for a 30 minute question time provision with Questions having to be submitted by no later than Tuesday prior to Council on Thursday.

This means in essence that Councillors have approximately two and half hours per year to ask Questions and there has been a move by the Majority Party for Backbench Members to submit to their Cabinet Members and Leader detailed Questions to which they already know the answer but the time taken means that other Members do not always get the opportunity to put their Questions, receive an answer but also ask a Supplementary Question if appropriate and they consider this to be necessary.

There is a further complication in that Questions addressed to the Leader of the Council are not answered if for whatever reason the Leader is not present at the meeting.

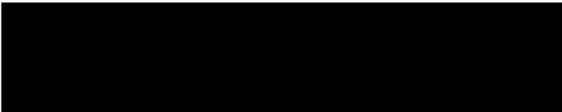
I know of no precedent for such an approach and in the context of anything else I have been involved in the responsibility for the Question and any Supplementary Question would automatically pass to the Deputy Leader.

This is acknowledged within Sefton and by way of anecdotal example the Deputy Leader has acted as Chairman of the Cabinet Meetings when the Leader has been indisposed.

I am attaching with this letter the relevant background information in terms of issue and timeframe, and I hope that you will be able to consider the points that have been raised.

I know there is some time before the actual Consultation Process you have instigated comes to an end so I hope that by submitting my points at an early stage this will in turn assist with the due consideration of the issues identified.

Kind regards,



Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE
Dukes Ward Councillor
Sefton Council

APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Electoral Data Summary

<i>Electoral Variance by Ward</i> Ward Name	No. Councillors	Electorate*	Variance*
Ainsdale	3	10,096	4%
Birkdale	3	10,136	4%
Blundellsands	3	9,285	-5%
Cambridge	3	9,819	1%
Church	3	9,195	-6%
Derby	3	9,035	-7%
Dukes	3	10,543	8%
Ford	3	9,313	-4%
Harington	3	9,858	1%
Kew	3	10,350	6%
Linacre	3	8,887	-9%
Litherland	3	8,960	-8%
Manor	3	9,933	2%
Meols	3	9,977	2%
Molyneux	3	10,139	4%
Netherton & Orrell	3	9,691	-1%
Norwood	3	10,424	7%
Park	3	9,800	1%
Ravenmeols	3	9,592	-2%
St Oswald	3	8,278	-15%
Sudell	3	10,371	6%
Victoria	3	10,678	10%

*Data based on December 2021 electoral registers.

Data Summary No. Cllrs	No. Electors	Cllr: Elector Ratio
66	214,360	3,248

Agenda Item 14a

Report to:	Audit and Governance Committee	Date of Meeting:	Wednesday 14 December 2022
Subject:	Request by Councillor Sir Ron Watson for an Amendment to the Constitution - Members' Questions to full Council		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report provides details of a request from Councillor Sir Ron Watson set out in in paragraph 2.1 to the report, for the Constitution to be amended in respect of Members' questions to full Council.

Recommendation:

That the Committee's views on Councillor Sir Ron Watson's request in respect of Members' questions to full Council as detailed in paragraph 2.1 be sought.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

A request has been received from Councillor Sir Ron Watson asking the Audit and Governance Committee to give consideration to the Constitution being amended in respect of Members' questions to full Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The Audit and Governance Committee to not give consideration to Councillor Sir Ron Watson's request regarding Members' questions to full Council.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no direct revenue costs

Agenda Item 14a

(B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): There are no direct resource implications	
Legal Implications: There are no direct legal implications	
Equality Implications: There are no direct equality implications.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services:
Place – leadership and influencer: The opportunity for Councillors to ask questions and receive responses at full Council enables effective scrutinisation of Council decisions to facilitate a democratic, transparent decision-making process.
Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7039/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5239/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee / Council meeting.



Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report.

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Constitution makes provision for the Council to receive and consider questions to Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Spokespersons for any of the Joint Authorities upon any matter within their portfolio/area of responsibility, of which notice has been given by Members of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 49 to 51 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, set out in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.
- 1.2 As set out in paragraph 2 below, Councillor Sir Ron Watson has requested that the Audit and Governance Committee consider the current provision and recommends that the Constitution be amended to enable the Deputy Leader of the Council to respond to any questions and supplementary questions submitted by Council Members to the Leader of the Council relating to the Leader's responsibilities on such occasions when the Leader of the Council is unable to be present at a Council meeting.

Agenda Item 14a

2. Councillor Sir Ron Watson's request is set out below:

2.1 *"The current Sefton Constitution does make provision for a question time session at each Full Council Meeting.*

A period of 30 minutes is currently allowed for this part of our process but is proving to be inadequate as Members of the majority party seem to have adopted a new policy of asking their own Cabinet Members questions to which they appear to already be aware of the answers and this is clearly taking up the time meant to be to facilitate opposition parties asking questions and a supplementary question if considered appropriate.

There has developed a specific problem that relates to questions addressed to the Leader of the Council.

In those instances where the Leader is not able to be present, for what I am sure are always very valid and justifiable reasons, Members are advised that the question in effect cannot be put at the Council Meeting itself and that the Leader will respond in writing in due course to the individual Member.

There is no precedent in any other form of Council activity for such an approach where the role of the Deputy clearly establishes the mechanism by which matters relating to the Leader's responsibilities can be dealt with by the Deputy.

There is no other form of Council activity whereas in principle this format does not apply and it has not been possible to obtain a justification for the current situation as it relates to the Full Council.

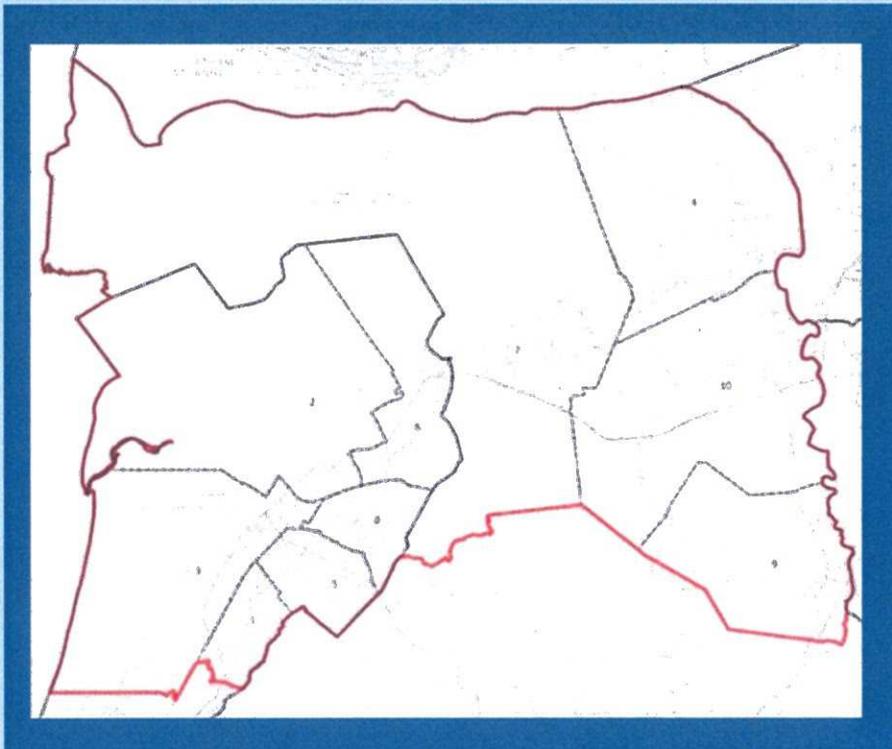
The Audit & Governance Committee therefore should recommend an amendment to the Constitution to ensure that this anomaly is dealt with the best interest of the democratic workings of the Council.

I hope that Members will carefully consider the point and accept the recommendations which would assist the growing concerns that relate to certain aspects of Member involvement as a consequence a Councillor's ability to pursue and promote points raised both by individual constituents and representative organisations, particularly in the voluntary sector".

2.2 The Committee's views on Councillor Sir Ron Watson's request in respect of Members' questions to full Council as detailed in paragraph 2.1 above are sought.



The Boundary Commission Proposals for the Southport Parliamentary Constituency



August 2021

**Submission as part of the Consultation Process
by the Sefton Conservative Group**



CONTENTS

1.	Introduction	Page 3
2.	The Proposals in respect of Ainsdale Ward	Page 5
3.	New Housing in Southport and Ainsdale	Page 6
4.	West Lancashire	Page 7
5.	The Local Government Situation	Page 8
6.	The Lancashire Areas in Southport	Page 10
7.	Alternative Proposals	Page 12
8.	Conclusion	Page 14
9.	Documentation that relates to part of the text	Page 15



1. Introduction

This document has been produced in response to the Consultation Process that the Boundary Commission are currently undertaking in respect of their preliminary proposals for some Parliamentary boundary changes in respect of the Southport constituency.

This paper has been produced by the Sefton Conservative Group whose membership comprises of the following:-

CLLR TONY BROUGH – Group Leader – Ainsdale Ward – South Southport

Cllr Mrs Denise Dutton – Deputy Leader – Harington Ward - Formby

Cllr Mike Morris - Whip – Cambridge Ward – North Southport

Cllr Sinclair d’Albuquerque – Cambridge Ward – North Southport

Cllr Terry Jones – Ainsdale Ward – South Southport

Cllr Mike Prendergast – Dukes Ward – Central / Birkdale Southport

Cllr Joe Riley – Harington Ward - Formby

Cllr Sir Ron Watson CBE – Dukes Ward – Central / Birkdale Southport

We wish to confirm at the outset that we fully recognise the remit which has been given to the Boundary Commission and that the purpose of the review is to achieve equalisation in the numbers of electors for each Parliamentary Constituency required to elect a Member of Parliament.

We understand the reasons and criteria used by the Boundary Commission to adjust the number of voters in several of our regional constituencies. We also appreciate that a balanced and equitable diffusion of the electorate within the Merseyside and West Lancashire regions is desirable.

However, while the redressing of inequitable numbers in each area is the purpose of the review, we trust that numbers are not the only criteria to be considered



We wish to make it clear at the outset that we do not support the Notice of Motion that was passed by Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council on the 15th July 2021.

This Notice of Motion is attached for your guidance

Our reasons for holding this view are not that we disagree as such with the opposition to the proposed changes but that we are extremely concerned that both in terms of tone and actual content this Notice of Motion falls well below the standard of approach that we would expect from responsible Councillors whose primary remit is to represent their electorate in both a practical and a pragmatic manner.

The Notice of Motion therefore in our view is unnecessarily aggressive, uses inappropriate language and calls into question without a shred of justification the integrity of the Boundary Commission.

We are therefore adamant in our assertion that we will not be associated with this type of approach.

We hope that the information and views we are providing in this document will be considered relevant by the Boundary Commission.

We would very much welcome the opportunity of presenting our case in person and whilst we are very conscious of the fact that you have many demands on your time as an organisation we would be prepared for a small delegation of two of our Members to meet with you in person in London, which we hope will be more convenient to you, and we would anticipate that such a meeting would need to last for no more than one hour.

We look forward to your response at the earliest possible opportunity, particularly in view of the fact that the issue is proving to be one of significant importance to the people we represent.



2. The Proposals in respect of Ainsdale Ward

The most contentious part of the preliminary recommendations relate to the removal of Ainsdale Ward from the Southport constituency and moving it into the Sefton Central Parliamentary constituency.

The Southport constituency was formed in 1885 and Ainsdale has been an important and integral part since its inception.

The significance of the area did gain more importance as part of the Parliamentary constituency in the late 1960's/70's. This period was one of significant population growth with what are normally described locally as the Wimpey and Broseley Estates

These newbuild family type private sector homes were previously on vacant land, and covered 820 hectares with an estimated population of 12,723 in (2001 Census)

These developments therefore in numerical terms certainly enhanced the importance of Ainsdale as part of the Southport Parliamentary constituency.

During the whole period that Ainsdale has been an integral part of the Parliamentary constituency there has never been any discernible local desire for residents to leave and be incorporated into the adjoining constituency of South Sefton.

Much of the population of Ainsdale in the newer areas actually moved in from many other parts of Merseyside with whom they still retain significant family and employment connections.

By way of illustration there is a 15 minute rail service from Ainsdale into Liverpool Moorfields and Central Stations and is used to a great extent by going into businesses and offices in Bootle and the Liverpool City Centre areas in particular.



3. New Housing in Southport and Ainsdale

There are currently 100.9 Hectares of Land that are included in Sefton Council's Local Plan (2017 – 2030) for residential development.

Sources (Rudlin & Falk, 2000:219149) identify that a density of population for new build mixed housing developments can be estimated at 100 persons per hectare of development.

This would suggest that 100.9 (Ha) might provide a gross 'bed space' provision of 100 per (Ha) and a net bed space provision of 65 per (Ha).

The Local Plan represents a expected expansion of Southport's population over the next 1-7 years of between 6,500 and 10,000 new residents.

This increase in planned residential provision when delivered would in our view invite the Boundary Commission to re-visit the Constituency map of Merseyside, Ribble and Southwest Lancashire.



4. West Lancashire

We now turn to the preliminary recommendations that involve moving North Meols, Hesketh-with-Becconsall, Tarleton and Rufford.

These areas are not thought to have any connection of any significance with Southport and are an established part of the Lancashire National and Local Government system.

There is no continuity as there currently is in Southport in terms of community interest other than to say that there is an element of family connections due to the fact that property prices in these areas are less than they are in Southport in an overall sense.

We do however accept that in terms of community interest there are currently very valid attempts being made to improve transport links through to Preston but the number of people travelling north are not particularly significant.

There was a direct rail link between Southport and Preston which was discontinued during the Beeching era of rail re-organisation and there is some prospect that at least one of the closures might be re-opened by the reintroduction of what are known locally as the 'Burscough Curves'.

Most people in Southport and Lancashire would happily support such a move as the wider the levels of links to Southport that can be established the more the Town will benefit as a prominent North West holiday destination.

The main issue however remains the fact that we can establish no record of there having been any representations made from the areas concerned cited in the report for them to move from their current position in Parliamentary terms.



5. The Local Government Situation

Whilst we are fully conscious of the fact that the Commission's remit is to consider Parliamentary boundaries we believe it is important to point out that these in turn cannot be divorced from the Local Government situation.

The proposal to remove Ainsdale from the Southport constituency have no impact as such in practical Local Government terms as the area remains part of Sefton MBC.

Sefton MBC was formed in the extensive Local Government re-organisation that took place in 1974.

Your records will show that the original proposals from the Boundary Commission were that Southport was to lose its status as an all-purpose Authority and become a Shire District Council in Lancashire with most major services being transferred to Lancashire County Council on which a Southport District Council would have had 6 Councillors out of 100.

The unanimous view of the Southport County Borough Council was that whilst they did not wish to see any change they would prefer to be part of a Local Government system that had the powers and responsibilities that could be equated to those of a County Borough and in these circumstances the better option would be to become part of a Metropolitan District in an area that was only designated as being District 11a with the name Sefton emerging at a later stage.

This decision in due course did prove to be controversial and there were various campaigns over the years to seek a change.

The majority of these however were motivated almost entirely by partisan party political considerations.

However, there was one campaign that did not fall into this category and as a result the Boundary Commission did conduct a very extensive review as a 'one off' exercise and were very diligent in obtaining all of the facts and directly interviewing very large numbers of people as well as considering written representations.

Their decision was that the placing of Southport in Sefton was in the best interests of the Town and to a very large extent there has been no subsequent



move of any significance to question their conclusion and we think it is fair to say that the southern part of the Town represented by Ainsdale does have integral historical links to Southport and wide links to Merseyside based on the reasons previously outlined in this document.



6. The Lancashire Areas in Southport

We have considered this in terms of principle but we would like to make the following observations concerning the practical implications.

In the event of the Lancashire areas being incorporated into the Southport Parliamentary constituency there would obviously be the need to consider how this in turn related to Local Government services.

There is general agreement that there should wherever possible be coterminosity between Local Authority boundaries and Parliamentary boundaries and there is an acceptance that divisions between the two can be counter-productive and are not conducive to good governance.

By way of example, one could not have different policies based on part of the constituency being within Merseyside and another part within Lancashire.

Whilst we would not wish to go into detail this particularly applies to Strategic Planning, Adult Social Services and Transport.

The residents of Sefton enjoy the benefit of a highly comprehensive public transport system with a particularly strong and extensive rail and bus network.

Merseyrail are consistently rated as the second-best system in the country.

There is particular support amongst the population for the senior citizen travel pass which covers both rail and bus services but where the starting date in terms of age for the population is below that of the national scheme.

We consider therefore that communities moving into Southport would feel entitled to enjoy the same travel privileges and whilst Merseytravel could well agree to their inclusion there would be a significant additional cost on Sefton Council tax payers as more funding would be required.

Whilst Merseytravel do not identify the cost of each pass we estimate that if you take the total precept that Sefton pays and use the percentage for concessionary travel and divide that by the number of passes issued you arrive at a figure of in the region of £400 per person.



We also feel we should mention that people in the areas identified in Lancashire would feel that as part of the Southport Parliamentary constituency they in turn should have Local Council representation on Sefton MBC.

The prospect of having one small part of the Town administered by one Local Authority area with the major part being under the remit of a larger area is not tenable and would result in much public dissatisfaction.

Whilst it might be technically possible to deny those populations that are proposed to be incorporated into the Southport Parliamentary constituency this would mean that some of the current benefits that Southport residents enjoy as part of Sefton would not be available to those moving in to the Parliamentary constituency from Lancashire.

We would stress that it is our belief that this would produce significant tensions and the result would clearly indicate a very strong element of resentment and confusion and inevitable inefficiency.

We believe that this in turn would result in what is bound to be a highly divisive community element that would be most unwelcome.

We would mention in particular the Merseyside area travel pass which is a very valued facility that Sefton residents, as part of Merseyside, currently enjoy.

We trust these comments will be considered relevant by the Boundary Commission.



7. Alternative Proposal

We appreciate the need for a review of regional constituency boundaries to ensure a parity between Parliamentary Constituencies. However, the current Boundary Commission proposals do cause a confusion of Local Authority borders and administrative practice, coupled with a variance in service levels, support and expectations for residents.

Coterminous Parliamentary and Local Authority boundaries would, in our view be preferential, desirable, and deliver a more efficient and consistent administrative service to residents.

We propose that Harrington and Ravenmeols Wards of Formby (within Sefton MBC) be added into the Southport Constituency and the North Meols, Hesketh-with-Becconsall, Tarleton and Rufford Wards to remain in West Lancashire.

As can be seen in the table below, should our proposal be adopted, the numbers of residents served would remain consistent and provide for the numbers of additional residents that Sefton Council's Local Plan expects and makes provision for.

We include here a table of Ward numbers that we trust will support and demonstrate the accuracy and viability of our alternative proposals for the Constituency of Southport.



				Southport			
				Current	Proposed	Counter	
Ainsdale Ward	E05000932	10229		10229		10229	
Birkdale Ward	E05000933	10285		10285	10285	10285	
Blundellsands Ward	E05000934	9568					
Cambridge Ward	E05000935	9960		9960	9960	9960	
Duke's Ward	E05000938	10225		10225	10225	10225	
Harington Ward	E05000940	9970					
Kew Ward	E05000941	10009		10009	10009	10009	
Manor Ward	E05000944	10089					
Meols Ward	E05000945	10074		10074	10074		
Molyneux Ward	E05000946	10313					
Norwood Ward	E05000948	10255		10255	10255		
Park Ward	E05000949	9942					
Ravenmeols Ward	E05000950	9818					
Sudell Ward	E05000952	10385					
4 wards from South Ribble					13360		
Harington + Ravenmeols						19788	
				71037	74168	70496	



8. Conclusion

The Sefton Conservative Group wishes to make it clear that we understand that the Boundary Commission has been given a very difficult overall task and can use only a limited criteria and that this in turn means that the scope they have is very restricted.

In this document we have attempted to outline the various aspects of the current proposals that the residents of Southport and Ainsdale find themselves at odds with, and have difficulty accepting.

We recommend that our alternative proposal is considered on its merit as we believe it delivers a strong case for re-evaluation of the recent proposals for changing the Parliamentary boundary of Southport.

We also believe our alternative proposal is arithmetically accurate and administratively acceptable; it is based upon criteria that we trust is acceptable and familiar to officers of the Commission.

We make our case in good faith and in what we hope the Boundary Commission will consider to be a constructive manner.

We look forward to your response.

Cllr Tony Brough - Leader

On behalf of the Sefton Conservative Group



9. Documentation that relates to part of the text

Notice of Motion

Local Plan

SEFTON LABOUR GROUP

NOTICE OF MOTION

TO BE PUT TO THE COUNCIL MEETING ON 15 JULY 2021

Moved by: Councillor Myers

Seconded by: Councillor Doyle

Hands Off Southport and Ainsdale - A response to the Boundary Commission

The Boundary Commission has admitted that the radical changes it has proposed for Southport constituency are not justified in terms of the electorate.

Instead, it tries to explain them by claiming they will "...better respect both local ties and the boundaries of existing constituencies...".

They intend to cleave away Ainsdale, an area with very close ties to Southport, and replace it with various bits of the current South Ribble constituency which simply do not have anywhere near the same connection to our town. To add a further layer of confusion, they also lie under another council's authority.

As two councillors elected in Southport, one of whom lives in Ainsdale, we say that the Commission's claim is hogwash and an insult to the intelligence of local residents and representatives.

Ainsdale is a close and much-loved part of the local community here. Southport Town boundary actually lies in Ainsdale. It's a coastal community, as is Southport. It's one of our treasured villages.

Administratively, it's been linked with Birkdale, another of our lovely villages, since 1894 and both then joined Southport as a county borough in 1912. It is part of us.

As nice as they are, three of the four areas the Boundary Commission intends to replace Ainsdale with are quite separate and distinct from our town here.

There is no justification for trying to claim that wards such as Rufford, Hesketh with Beconsall or Tarleton have anything like the local ties to Southport that Ainsdale does. Only North Meols (Banks) comes remotely close to being justified on these terms.

Let us be clear, these changes do not better respect local ties - they sever them.

Ainsdale must remain part of Southport constituency or it is painfully obvious that both are being sacrificed on the altar of expediency by the Boundary Commission. An integral part of us should not be torn away simply because it makes life easier for others.

We move that Sefton Council rejects in the strongest possible terms the Boundary Commission's plan to remove Ainsdale from Southport constituency. Also, that it also writes to the Commission making clear our opposition as outlined above and that it asks the Commission to explain exactly how it comes to believe that the wards it is proposing to introduce at Ainsdale's expense have stronger ties to Southport.

Notice of Motion 18

Boundary Commission

Council meeting 15th July 2021

Councillor Brough says:

The notice of motion brought by the Labour Party at the last meeting of Sefton Council was a poorly written and insulting piece of political opportunism.

If the same un-edited submission were presented to the Boundary Commission, I am certain it would draw a negative response and severely hamper a more credible and properly constructed application that I wish to make on behalf of the residents of Ainsdale.

I could not support a document which I believe would seriously damage the prospects of better and more considered submissions that if applied correctly, would seriously challenge the findings of the Boundary Commission - and have a realistic prospect of keeping 'AINSDALE IN SOUTHPORT'.

Councillor Tony Brough

Leader of Sefton Conservative Group

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.01 Settlement Area Southport

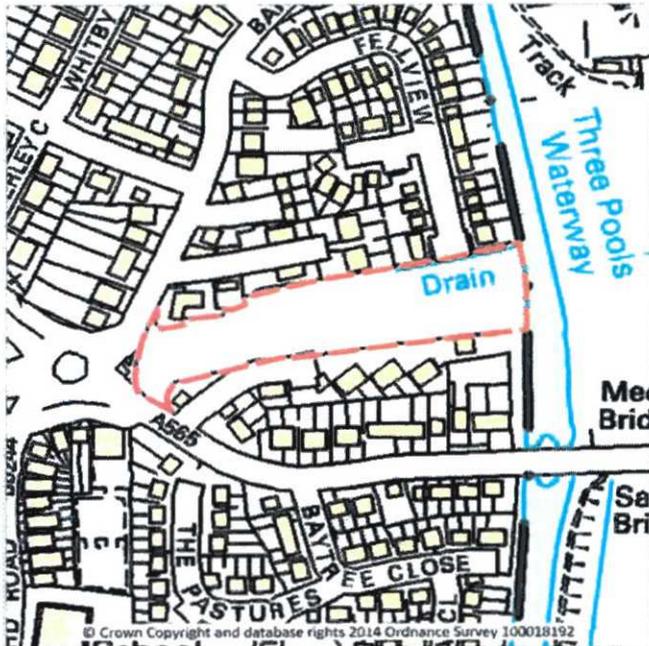
Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.1

SiteAddress Bartons Close, Southport

SiteType Potential Housing Allocation

SiteArea(Ha)

1



Proximity of the site to key services

Proportion of Site (%) with:

	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	0 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	100 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100 % (<400m)	0 % (<800m)	0 % (>800m)
Primary School	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100 % (<600m)	0 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	0 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	100 % (>1,200m)

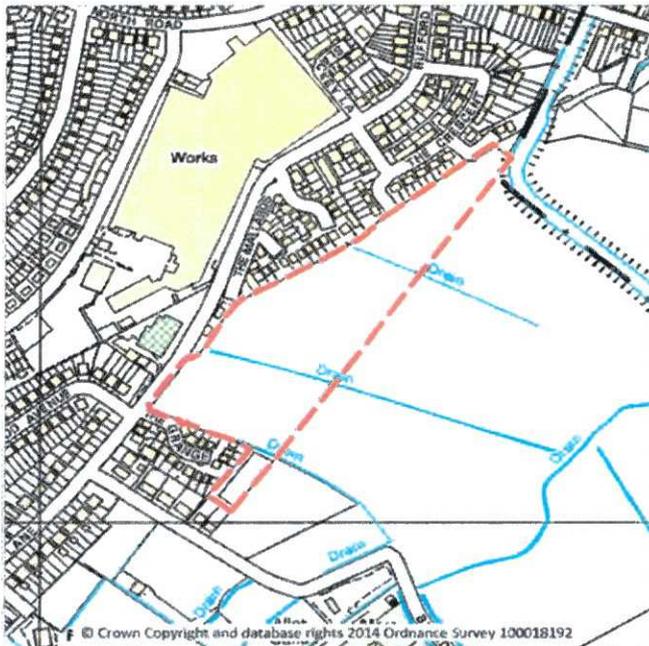
Site specific / wider benefits

Comments

- | | | |
|--|-----|--|
| 1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land? | No | |
| 2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure? | No | |
| 3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit? | No | |
| 4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area? | No | |
| 5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment? | No | |
| 6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need? | Yes | Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport. |
| 7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits? | No | |

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.02 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.2
 SiteAddress Land at Bankfield Lane, Churchtown
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 4.7



Proximity of the site to key services

Proportion of Site (%) with:

	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	0 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	100 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100 % (<400m)	0 % (<800m)	0 % (>800m)
Primary School	68 % (<800m)	32 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100 % (<600m)	0 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	0 % (<800m)	89 % (<1,200m)	11 % (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

Comments

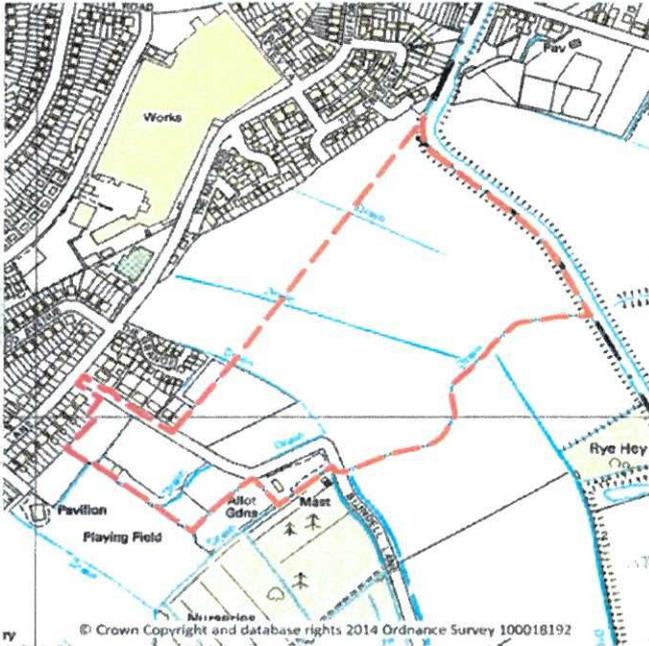
- | | | |
|--|-----|--|
| 1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land? | No | |
| 2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure? | No | |
| 3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit? | No | |
| 4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area? | No | |
| 5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment? | No | |
| 6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need? | Yes | Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport. |
| 7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits? | No | |

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference AS01 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.2

SiteAddress Land at Bankfield Lane, Churchtown (extension to proposed Local Plan allocation SR4.2)

SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 15.5



Proximity of the site to key services

	Proportion of Site (%) with:					
	High accessibility		Medium accessibility		Low accessibility	
Train Stations	0 %	(<800m)	0 %	(<1,200m)	100 %	(>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	84.6 %	(<400m)	15.4 %	(<800m)	0 %	(>800m)
Primary School	22.7 %	(<800m)	77.3 %	(<1,200m)	0 %	(>1,200m)
District Local Centres	86.5 %	(<800m)	13.5 %	(<1,200m)	0 %	(>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	72.3 %	(<600m)	27.7 %	(<900m)	0 %	(>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	0 %	(<800m)	61.8 %	(<1,200m)	38.2 %	(>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	No
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference AS28 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.3
 SiteAddress Phillip's Site, Balmoral Drive
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 6



Proximity of the site to key services

	Proportion of Site (%) with:					
	High accessibility		Medium accessibility		Low accessibility	
Train Stations	0	% (<800m)	0	% (<1,200m)	100	% (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100	% (<400m)	0	% (<800m)	0	% (>800m)
Primary School	100	% (<800m)	0	% (<1,200m)	0	% (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	100	% (<800m)	0	% (<1,200m)	0	% (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100	% (<600m)	0	% (<900m)	0	% (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	3.3	% (<800m)	96.7	% (<1,200m)	0	% (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	Yes		Brownfield industrial site - part vacant, part occupied by commercial uses
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No		
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No		
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No		
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No		
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes		Would contribute to meeting high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No		

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

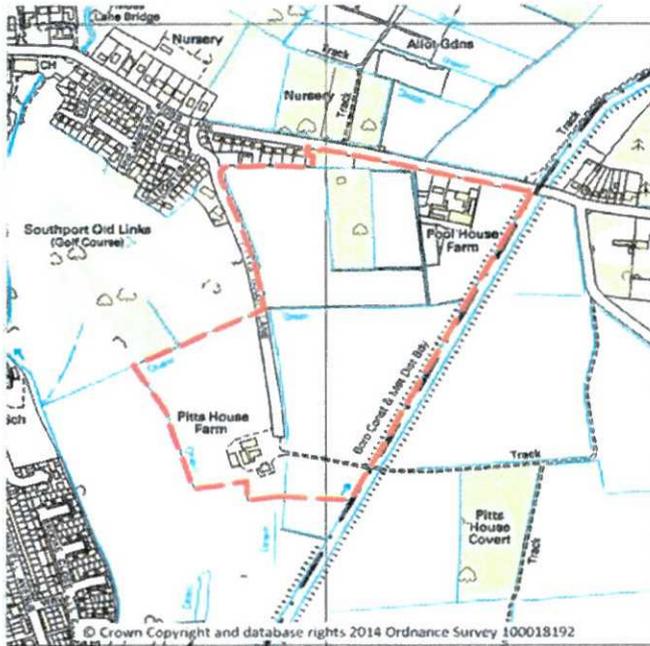
Site Reference SR4.03 Settlement Area Southport

Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.4

SiteAddress Land at Moss Lane, Churchtown

SiteType Potential Housing Allocation

SiteArea(Ha) 19.7



Proximity of the site to key services

Proportion of Site (%) with:

	High accessibility (<800m)	Medium accessibility (<1,200m)	Low accessibility (>1,200m)
Train Stations	0 % (<800m)	3.2 % (<1,200m)	96.8 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	0 % (<400m)	65.3 % (<800m)	34.7 % (>800m)
Primary School	99.2 % (<800m)	0.8 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	52.1 % (<800m)	47.9 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	83.9 % (<600m)	16.1 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	0 % (<800m)	93.1 % (<1,200m)	6.9 % (>1,200m)

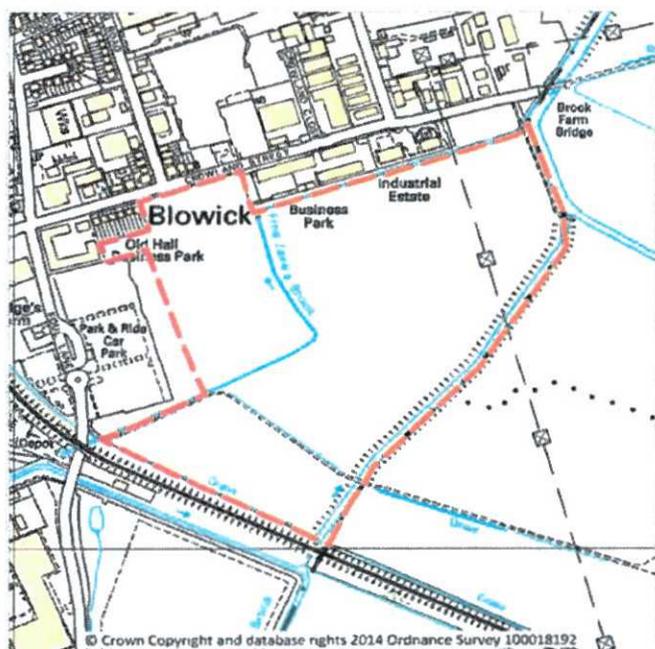
Site specific / wider benefits

Comments

1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	No	
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No	
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No	
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No	
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No	
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes	Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No	

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.04 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.5
 SiteAddress Land at Crowland Street
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 22.2



Proximity of the site to key services

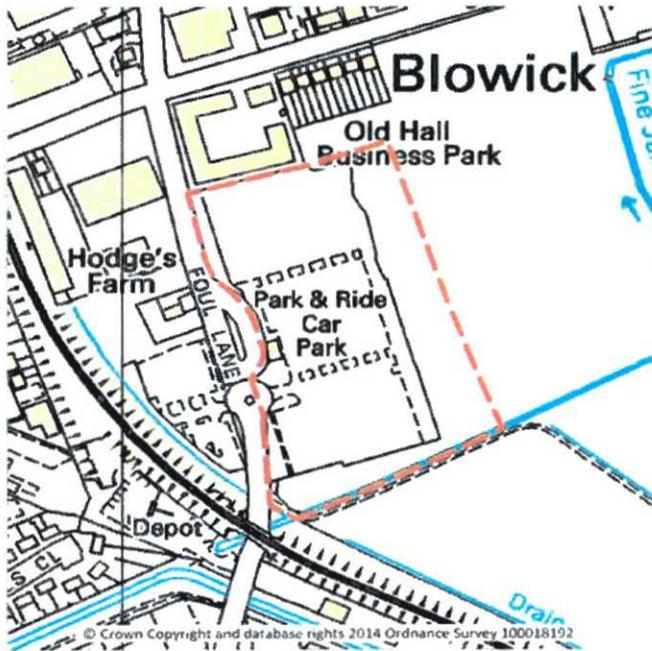
	Proportion of Site (%) with:		
	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	2.8 % (<800m)	82.4 % (<1,200m)	14.8 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	96.3 % (<400m)	3.7 % (<800m)	0 % (>800m)
Primary School	0 % (<800m)	86.7 % (<1,200m)	13.3 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	8.9 % (<800m)	89 % (<1,200m)	2.1 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	98.1 % (<600m)	1.9 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	0 % (<800m)	61.1 % (<1,200m)	38.9 % (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	No
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	Yes Adjacent to an area within the 20% most deprived in the UK. Industrial Estate creates a poor environment. Has the potential to contribute to the regeneration of the area.
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference S008 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.5
 SiteAddress Kew Park and Ride, Southport
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 3.6



Proximity of the site to key services

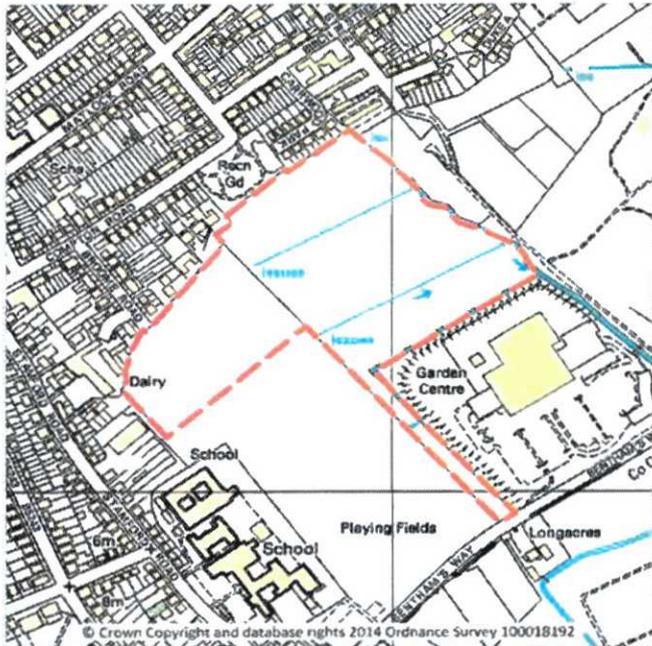
	Proportion of Site (%) with:		
	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	17.1 % (<800m)	82.9 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100 % (<400m)	0 % (<800m)	0 % (>800m)
Primary School	0 % (<800m)	100 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	14.7 % (<800m)	85.3 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100 % (<600m)	0 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	0 % (<800m)	100 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	Yes		Brownfield site
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?		No	
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	Yes		The site could facilitate access to the wider site to the east
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	Yes		Adjacent to an area within the 20% most deprived in the UK. Has the potential to contribute to the regeneration of the area.
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?		No	
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes		Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?		No	

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.05 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.6
 SiteAddress Land adjacent to Dobbie's Garden Centre, Bentham's Way, Southport
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 9



Proximity of the site to key services

	Proportion of Site (%) with:		
	High accessibility (<800m)	Medium accessibility (<1,200m)	Low accessibility (>1,200m)
Train Stations	0 %	93.0 %	7.0 %
Frequent Bus Stops	77.1 %	22.9 %	0 %
Primary School	100 %	0 %	0 %
District Local Centres	100 %	0 %	0 %
Neighbourhood Park	100 %	0 %	0 %
GPs/Health Centres	44.7 %	55.3 %	0 %

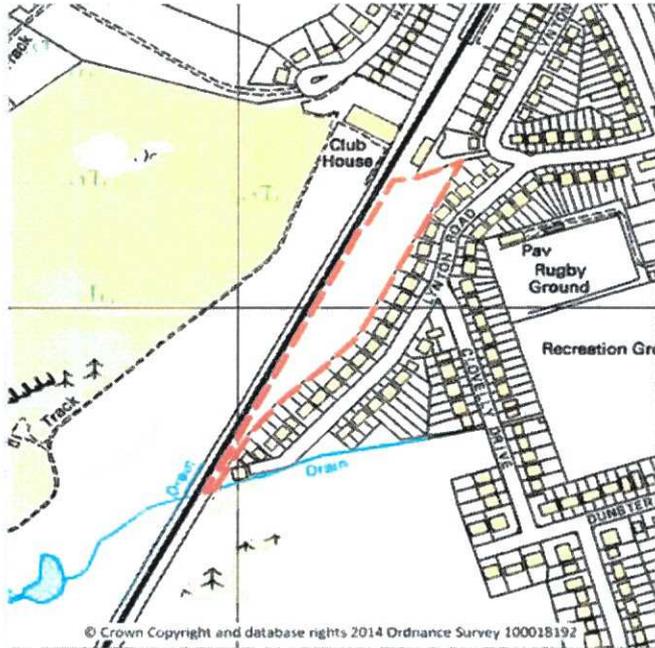
Site specific / wider benefits

Comments	Yes	No
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?		No
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?		No
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?		No
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?		No
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?		No
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes	No
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?		No

Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference AS02 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.7
 SiteAddress Land West of Lynton Road, Birkdale
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 1.5



Proximity of the site to key services

	Proportion of Site (%) with:		
	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	73.5 % (<400m)	26.5 % (<800m)	0 % (>800m)
Primary School	0 % (<800m)	100 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100 % (<600m)	0 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	0 % (<800m)	100 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Yes	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	Yes	Part of the site is brownfield land
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No	
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No	
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No	
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No	
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes	Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No	

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.06 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.8
 SiteAddress Former Ainsdale Hope School, Ainsdale
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 9.2



Proximity of the site to key services

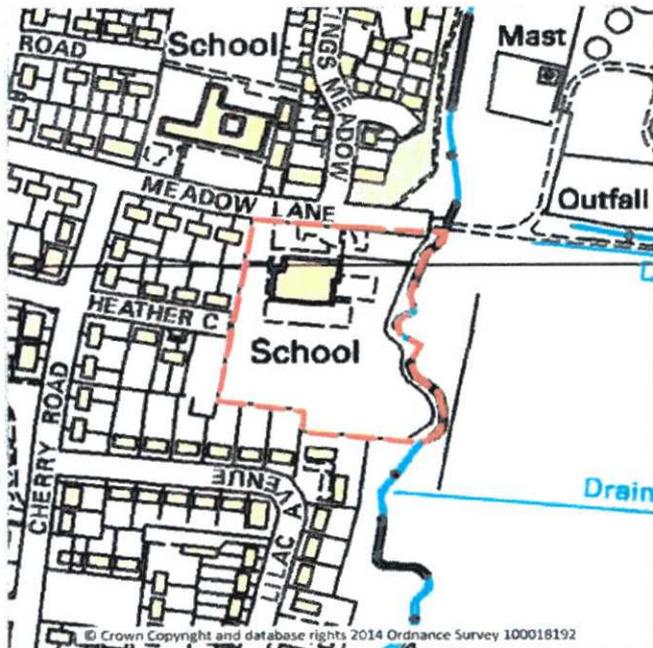
	Proportion of Site (%) with:		
	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	55.3 % (<800m)	44.7 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	0 % (<400m)	96.9 % (<800m)	3.1 % (>800m)
Primary School	0 % (<800m)	67.4 % (<1,200m)	32.6 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	95.8 % (<800m)	4.2 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100 % (<600m)	0 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	81.7 % (<800m)	18.3 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Yes	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	Yes	Partially brownfield land- former school buildings and hard standing.
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No	
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No	
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No	
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No	
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes	Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No	

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.07 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.9
 SiteAddress St John Stone RC Primary
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 1.3



Proximity of the site to key services

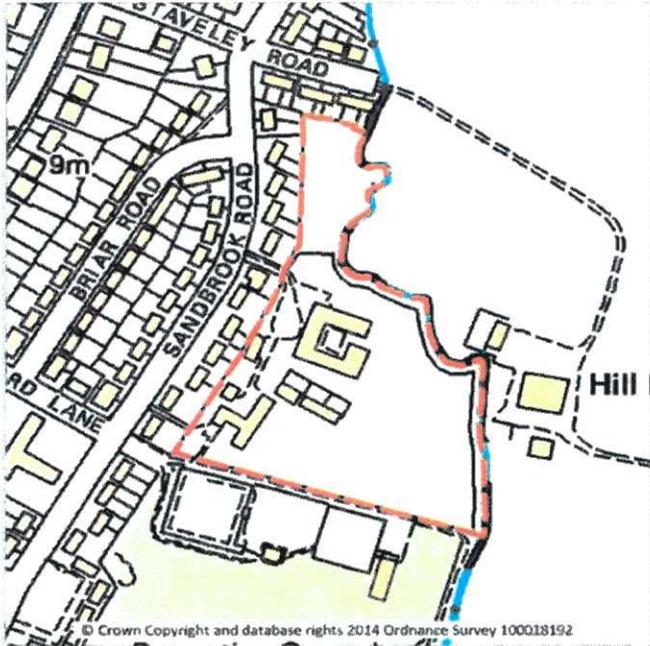
	Proportion of Site (%) with:					
	High accessibility		Medium accessibility		Low accessibility	
Train Stations	0	% (<800m)	0	% (<1,200m)	100	% (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100	% (<400m)	0	% (<800m)	0	% (>800m)
Primary School	100	% (<800m)	0	% (<1,200m)	0	% (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	100	% (<800m)	0	% (<1,200m)	0	% (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100	% (<600m)	0	% (<900m)	0	% (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	100	% (<800m)	0	% (<1,200m)	0	% (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Yes	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	Yes	Partially brownfield land- former school buildings and hard standing.
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No	
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No	
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No	
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No	
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes	Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No	

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.08 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.10
 SiteAddress Meadows ATC, Sandbrook Lane, Ainsdale
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 2



Proximity of the site to key services

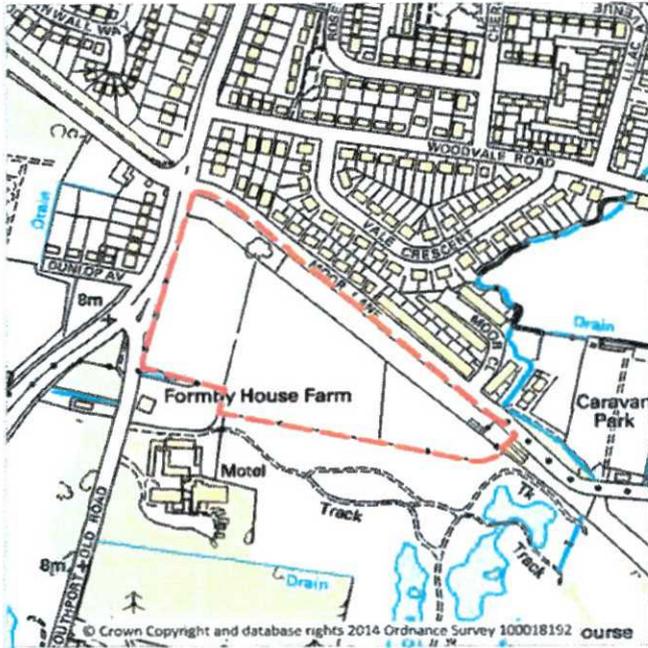
	Proportion of Site (%) with:		
	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	1.1 % (<800m)	98.9 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100 % (<400m)	0 % (<800m)	0 % (>800m)
Primary School	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100 % (<600m)	0 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Yes	No	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	Yes		Partially brownfield land- former school buildings and hard standing.
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No		
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No		
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No		
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No		
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	Yes		Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport.
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	No		

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR4.10 Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.11
 SiteAddress Land south of Moor Lane, Ainsdale
 SiteType Potential Housing Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 5.2



Proximity of the site to key services

	Proportion of Site (%) with:		
	High accessibility	Medium accessibility	Low accessibility
Train Stations	0 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	100 % (>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100 % (<400m)	0 % (<800m)	0 % (>800m)
Primary School	100 % (<800m)	0 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
District Local Centres	55.1 % (<800m)	44.9 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	7.5 % (<600m)	92.5 % (<900m)	0 % (>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	18.7 % (<800m)	81.3 % (<1,200m)	0 % (>1,200m)

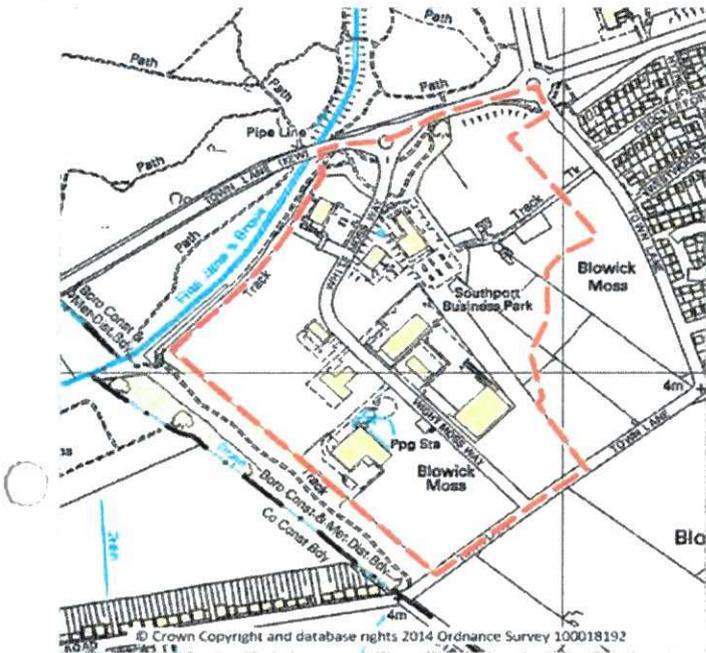
Site specific / wider benefits

Comments

- | | | |
|--|-----|--|
| 1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land? | No | |
| 2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure? | No | |
| 3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit? | No | |
| 4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area? | No | |
| 5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment? | No | |
| 6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need? | Yes | Would contribute to the high affordable housing need in Southport. |
| 7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits? | No | |

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN: SITE ASSESSMENT FORM

Site Reference SR5.2A Settlement Area Southport Policy ref (if applicable) MN2.50
 SiteAddress Southport Business Park and its Extension
 SiteType Potential Employment Allocation SiteArea(Ha) 19.2



Proximity of the site to key services

	Proportion of Site (%) with:					
	High accessibility		Medium accessibility		Low accessibility	
Train Stations	0 %	(<800m)	0 %	(<1,200m)	100 %	(>1,200m)
Frequent Bus Stops	100 %	(<400m)	0 %	(<800m)	0 %	(>800m)
Primary School	66 %	(<800m)	34 %	(<1,200m)	0 %	(>1,200m)
District Local Centres	83.3 %	(<800m)	16.7 %	(<1,200m)	0 %	(>1,200m)
Neighbourhood Park	100 %	(<600m)	0 %	(<900m)	0 %	(>900m)
GPs/Health Centres	100 %	(<800m)	0 %	(<1,200m)	0 %	(>1,200m)

Site specific / wider benefits

	Yes	Comments
1. Would site involve redevelopment of Brownfield land?	Yes	Site constitutes brownfield land
2. Would the development provide new or improved Road / Rail infrastructure?	No	
3. Would the site offer any other specific benefit?	No	
4. Would the site contribute to the wider regeneration of a deprived area?	No	
5. Would the site create jobs in an area of high unemployment?	No	
6. Would the site provide affordable housing in an area of high need?	No	
7. Would the site meet any other wider need or provide other benefits?	Yes	The site would help to meet North Sefton's employment land needs

Documents relied upon:

SEFTON LOCAL PLAN : SITE ASSESSMENT FORM :

https://www.sefton.gov.uk/media/2080/southport_sites_included_in_local_plan.pdf

Implications of Housing Density:

www.irbnet.de/daten/iconda/CIB919.pdf

From The same source

Graham Towers Chapter 10:

<https://www.irbnet.de/daten/iconda/CIB919.pdf#:~:text=The%20measurement%20of%20housing%20density%20is%20a%20complex,resident%20population%20have%20been%20used%20in%20the%20past%3A>

AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – 24TH JULY 2019

QUESTIONS / POINTS FROM CONSERVATIVE REPRESENTATIVE CLLR SIR RON WATSON

1. Agenda Item 4 Appendix C/D – Ernst Young Report

Both in the introduction (page 4) and on page 24 (second paragraph) there is reference to the confidential nature of the document.

The assertions in the second part in this respect are stronger than in the first.

My understanding is that this is a public document and I have asked previously why what are in effect disclaimers are included.

I think I was advised that it was 'custom and practice' as outlined on page 24 but I would appreciate clarification as there is a contradiction between the Council discussing it in an open session and the comments made by E&Y.

2. Agenda Item 4 – main text

Page 14 2.3 - Underspend reasons

Page 15 2.4 - Underspend on GFS reason

Page 16 4.3 - This area has been the subject of specific reporting but could this be explained in perhaps simpler terms?

Page 16 4.6 - The first point

This seems to be very technical language, what does it actually mean?

Page 24 - LGA Peer Review

No mention of specific reference to more locally based decision making – why has this been omitted?

The progress in the other areas is to be monitored. Who is responsible for the monitoring process and what work has been done up to now with any conclusions?

Page 41 – Conclusion

Reference to the overall outturn position is an underspend which has been used to increase general balances. In what areas has this underspend occurred and why was there no transfer to pressure areas?

Page 66 – Trading

Southport Market – no significant changes. Clarification on this point as retail occupancy has dropped significantly. Can it be confirmed that the figures shown for all trading services do not include a figure to cover the revenue charges incurred from any outstanding loans that relate to capital expenditure?

Whilst I may have missed this in what is a very long and detailed report is there a specific area devoted to the Bootle New Strand shopping development and what are the current figures?

Could I be advised what contact the Council has been engaged with in respect of the Company that was based in Luxembourg and have there been meetings between Council Officers and their Representatives and if so how many have there been, where have they taken place and what has been the outcome?

Page 80 – Artworks

This will be an issue for the Cabinet Member responsible but could we suggest that loaning out material could be extended to other bodies than the public sector.

Many of these are of value and could be hired out for a fee which covered the cost to the Council but this would make these items available for more people.

I understand that most of the artwork is in fact in store and this will be one way of getting it to a wider audience.

I note there has been no valuation on the Council's collection since 2005 and I can accept the point that the cost of such a valuation might be non-viable in the current climate.

However, it is very unusual for any Local Authority to own an asset where they do not know its value and have other mechanisms for determining the value being explored and if so what have they been?

Page 81 2.3 – Rental Income from Investment.

May I ask what does this include and why has it been reduced?

Page 98 - Public Bodies

This lists a range of Public Bodies where Sefton has a representative.

We are moving to a situation with much greater proposed co-operation with the NHS and I note that we do not have a representative on the Southport & Ormskirk NHS Trust.

Personally, I tried long and hard to get the Board to agree to this without success at the time but may I ask if this could be revisited. I am sure it is accepted that this would have to include an Elected Member from West Lancashire as well as Sefton.

There is reference to Members serving nationally on the Local Government Association. Can I be provided with the names of the Members concerned and the positions they hold and confirmation as to how they were appointed?

CABINET MEETING

3RD SEPTEMBER 2020

Agenda Item:

Report prepared by: Cllr Sir Ron Watson CBE, Dukes Ward Member

Subject Matter: Bootle New Strand and Surrounding Area

I have previously submitted a formal application to have this matter raised under Section 82 of the Cabinet Constitution.

This request was made on a formal basis on 2 July 2020.

This formal request was rejected by the Chairman of the Cabinet and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Maher.

His justification for refusal was based on the fact that he considered it to be “premature”.

Whilst I clearly did not agree with that decision on the basis that there were issues to be addressed at that time it is now clear following on from a recent press release that there have been a significant range of negotiations and decisions taken without any involvement of Elected Members as a corporate body.

The decisions that have been taken and their justification first came to the attention of Elected Members via a press release dated 14 August 2020.

At the very least Elected Members should have had a minimum of 48 hours advance notice of the information in this press release if only as a matter of courtesy with an addition on a practical level as it would have been clear that a number of them would be invited by the press and media to make comment.

The original decision by the Council to borrow some £32m to purchase The Strand was controversial at the time and subsequent events excluding the impact of Covid-19 have heightened the concerns that many Members have expressed.

At the outset the fact that no private sector company or organisation was prepared to contemplate taking on The Strand was an indication that people who are expert in this field clearly recognised that it was a loss-making development and was not viable in any normal commercial sense.

There has been further concern with the capital re-evaluation of the complex and the Council is now in a position where the public have an outstanding debt of £32m on a complex that is now considered to be worth £21.4m.

The whole scheme therefore is clearly in what is normally referred to as 'negative equity with annual interest payments being made on the original amount borrowed that are far in excess of what the amount would have been if the current and more realistic valuation had applied at the time of purchase.

The claim has consistently been made that The Strand was generating an income to the Council of £1m per annum.

This figure is grossly misleading and whilst there were some financial benefits they were clearly of a temporary and one-off nature.

In addition many Elected Members from all Parties have expressed their concern that it has not been possible to ascertain what the amount was spent on and whether or not it was factored in as an ongoing sum.

There have been attempts to have any specific Council areas of service that have benefitted identified but these attempts have not been successful and Members have been left with generalised statements that the amount has been used for general commitments.

In addition the budget that has been approved for 2020/21 and approved by the Full Council clearly indicates that there is no financial contribution to be anticipated from The Strand in the current year.

A preliminary look at the situation towards the end of the last financial year clearly showed that The Strand's revenue situation was deteriorating month by month and there were also additional concerns over elements of repairs and maintenance.

Once again it is important to stress that none of these factors bear any relationship at all to any subsequent deterioration that has taken place because of Covid-19.

The press release issued by the Council with a comment by the Leader of the Council was imprecise and raises the following questions:-

1. Who agreed the purchase of the sites surrounding The Strand?
2. What purchase price has been agreed and were they independently assessed?
3. What are the annual repayment costs?
4. What is meant by the word 'meanwhile' uses of the area?
5. What are the proposals and annual revenue costs to be borne by all Sefton Council tax payers?

6. What enquiries have been made of the private sector in respect of retail development?
7. Has there been an independent review of the proposals and is there is a report available?
8. In the event of a review not having taken place how can Elected Members come to an informed judgement about the validity of the proposals?
9. What elements of a 'consultation' process will involve spelling out to all Sefton Council tax payers the financial consequences of any proposals adopted?

Whilst Members will clearly be seeking definitive and none ambiguous answers to these questions in the intervening period I would maintain that it will be undemocratic and irresponsible to proceed any further where there are so many issues that have not been addressed and where there is a clear factual void.

I hope that Cabinet Members led by the Leader of the Council will feel that the time has come for there to be a much more open and transparent assessment of The Strand and that no further financial commitments should be entered into until such time as a detailed response to the issues raised have been addressed to the satisfaction of Elected Members who have a corporate responsibility of justifying any decisions to the council tax payer in Sefton.

There is a further element to this position in the sense that the Council whilst having received over £20m of additional funding from the national tax payer via the Government along with many other Local Authorities they will maintain that in itself the amount has not been sufficient to cover the various losses and costs that refer to Covid-19.

In order to make the best case possible it would be essential for Sefton Council to be able to demonstrate that they have acted in an inclusive manner that has in turn enabled all Elected Members to come to a factually based view on The Strand.

In the event of this criteria being met it would in itself strengthen any application for additional financial help on a national basis.

I express the hope that Cabinet Members will feel that they are in a position to consider carefully on a pragmatic and non-political basis the points made in this report and to take the appropriate action on behalf of all council tax payers in the borough.

Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE

CABINET MEETING

1 DECEMBER 2022

Report prepared by: Cllr Sir Ron Watson CBE, Dukes Ward Member

Subject Matter: Southport Pleasureland

The development of the Southport seafront area has within it the need for a quite integral programme of development in respect of Southport Pleasureland. The lease granted to the company concerned, Universal Rides, and I understand that during the discussions that took place by the Southport BID Board on which there was no representation from Elected Members representing the area assurances were given by the Company that no public funding would be necessary as this would be provided from private sources.

1. The first review of the lease is rapidly approaching.

Could the Leader of the Council please confirm what monitoring arrangements take place on a regular basis and who is involved?

Has experience over the past few years led our Legal Officers in particular to consider whether the leasing arrangements remain appropriate and in the best interests of Sefton residents?

2. The provision was that there would be an investment estimated at £5m in the initial stages.

Could the Leader of the Council please advise how much has actually been spent and on what has been achieved?

3. There were press reports that a major international style ride was to be erected and the press report featured a rollercoaster ride sited at Coney Island, New York.

Does the Leader of the Council know if this press report was accurate and if so what supplementary action has been taken concerning design and construction following on from any planning permission that has been granted?

4. There have also been press reports by the Senior Executive at Pleasureland to the effect that a number of high-profile rides are being imported from various European sites and that he will be responsible for their assembly and maintenance.

Do we have any details of what is involved i.e. the types of ride, the capital cost, the construction and assembly timescale and whether any planning permission has been sought at this stage?

5. Planning Permission was granted for a major ride on the site but this was not adhered to by the Company who had the ride constructed on a different area for which no planning permission had been granted.

Were Chief Officers and/or any Members of the Council advised in advance of this action?

Planning Permission was sought retrospectively but has any justification ever been given or sought as to why the original planning approval was ignored?

6. The Company concerned had quite a large piece in the local press complaining about the fact that roadworks had taken place which had in turn impacted adversely on their revenue over the period of time it took to complete the work.

Will the Leader of the Council confirm whether or not advance notice of this work was given and if so to what timeframe?

7. There was extensive press coverage in the Southport Visiter recently that related to a serious incident where one of the major rides broke down and families with young children were stranded for some 40 minutes – literally up in the air – which caused great distress.

Do the Council Officers concerned with health & safety issues check on a regular basis that all the appropriate safety certificates and conditions are met by Universal Rides?

Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE

Audit and Governance Committee

23 June 2021

Report prepared by: Cllr Sir Ron Watson CBE, Dukes Ward Member

Subject Matter: Bootle New Strand and Surrounding Area

I have previously submitted a formal application to have this matter raised under Section 82 of the Cabinet Constitution.

This request was made on a formal basis on 2 July 2020.

This formal request was rejected by the Chairman of the Cabinet and the Leader of the Council, Councillor Ian Maher.

His justification for refusal was based on the fact that he considered it to be “premature”.

Whilst I clearly did not agree with that decision on the basis that there were issues to be addressed at that time it is now clear following on from a recent press release that there have been a significant range of negotiations and decisions taken without any involvement of Elected Members as a corporate body.

The decisions that have been taken and their justification first came to the attention of Elected Members via a press release dated 14 August 2020.

At the very least Elected Members should have had a minimum of 48 hours advance notice of the information in this press release if only as a matter of courtesy with an addition on a practical level as it would have been clear that a number of them would be invited by the press and media to make comment.

The original decision by the Council to borrow some £32m to purchase The Strand was controversial at the time and subsequent events excluding the impact of Covid-19 have heightened the concerns that many Members have expressed.

At the outset the fact that no private sector company or organisation was prepared to contemplate taking on The Strand was an indication that people who are expert in this field clearly recognised that it was a loss-making development and was not viable in any normal commercial sense.

There has been further concern with the capital re-evaluation of the complex and the Council is now in a position where the public have an outstanding debt of £32m on a complex that is now considered to be worth £21.4m.

The whole scheme therefore is clearly in what is normally referred to as ‘negative equity with annual interest payments being made on the original amount borrowed that

Appendix 2

are far in excess of what the amount would have been if the current and more realistic valuation had applied at the time of purchase.

The claim has consistently been made that The Strand was generating an income to the Council of £1m per annum.

This figure is grossly misleading and whilst there were some financial benefits they were clearly of a temporary and one-off nature.

In addition many Elected Members from all Parties have expressed their concern that it has not been possible to ascertain what the amount was spent on and whether or not it was factored in as an ongoing sum.

There have been attempts to have any specific Council areas of service that have benefitted identified but these attempts have not been successful and Members have been left with generalised statements that the amount has been used for general commitments.

In addition the budget that has been approved for 2020/21 and approved by the Full Council clearly indicates that there is no financial contribution to be anticipated from The Strand in the current year.

A preliminary look at the situation towards the end of the last financial year clearly showed that The Strand's revenue situation was deteriorating month by month and there were also additional concerns over elements of repairs and maintenance.

Once again it is important to stress that none of these factors bear any relationship at all to any subsequent deterioration that has taken place because of Covid-19.

The press release issued by the Council with a comment by the Leader of the Council was imprecise and raises the following questions:-

1. Who agreed the purchase of the sites surrounding The Strand?
2. What purchase price has been agreed and were they independently assessed?
3. What are the annual repayment costs?
4. What is meant by the word 'meanwhile' uses of the area?
5. What are the proposals and annual revenue costs to be borne by all Sefton Council tax payers?
6. What enquiries have been made of the private sector in respect of retail development?
7. Has there been an independent review of the proposals and is there is a report available?

Appendix 2

8. In the event of a review not having taken place how can Elected Members come to an informed judgement about the validity of the proposals?
9. What elements of a 'consultation' process will involve spelling out to all Sefton Council tax payers the financial consequences of any proposals adopted?

Whilst Members will clearly be seeking definitive and none ambiguous answers to these questions in the intervening period I would maintain that it will be undemocratic and irresponsible to proceed any further where there are so many issues that have not been addressed and where there is a clear factual void.

I hope that Cabinet Members led by the Leader of the Council will feel that the time has come for there to be a much more open and transparent assessment of The Strand and that no further financial commitments should be entered into until such time as a detailed response to the issues raised have been addressed to the satisfaction of Elected Members who have a corporate responsibility of justifying any decisions to the council tax payer in Sefton.

There is a further element to this position in the sense that the Council whilst having received over £20m of additional funding from the national tax payer via the Government along with many other Local Authorities they will maintain that in itself the amount has not been sufficient to cover the various losses and costs that refer to Covid-19.

In order to make the best case possible it would be essential for Sefton Council to be able to demonstrate that they have acted in an inclusive manner that has in turn enabled all Elected Members to come to a factually based view on The Strand.

In the event of this criteria being met it would in itself strengthen any application for additional financial help on a national basis.

I express the hope that Cabinet Members will feel that they are in a position to consider carefully on a pragmatic and non-political basis the points made in this report and to take the appropriate action on behalf of all council tax payers in the borough.

Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 14TH JULY, 2022

35. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON - SOUTHPORT AREA COMMITTEE

It was moved by Councillor Sir Ron Watson, seconded by Councillor Prendergast:

That: The Council recognises the need to continually seek ways of engaging the public in Council affairs. On this basis experience has now shown that the decision to abolish the Southport Area Committee against the majority view of the public who were consulted needs to be reviewed as it is now clear that it was a mistake. Whilst the situation varies in various parts of Sefton the Southport Area Committee was a success and enabled the public who often attended, in not insignificant numbers, the opportunity to directly question their Councillors, make observations on local issues, present petitions, but also hear from other organisations, such as the Police, who came and gave regular updates. Members of the public could also listen to the decision making that took place by Councillors in respect of a range of local issues. The case therefore for the re-establishment of the SAC has therefore been made many times and is backed up with significant public support. As a consequence the Council now agrees to reinstate this important democratic body at the earliest opportunity.

Following a debate on the Motion the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the Motion was lost by 9 votes to 35.

Thu 02/07/2020 11:51

Sir Ron Watson SirRon.Watson@sefton.gov.uk

Cabinet Meeting - 30 July 2020

To: Ian Maher Ian.Maher@sefton.gov.uk

CC: David McCullough David.McCullough@sefton.gov.uk

Dear Ian,

I very much hope that you and your family are well and the same comment applies in respect of your Cabinet colleagues who I know are having to deal with a range of issues in what are difficult circumstances at the best of times.

The purpose of this email is that I wish to submit a request under Rule 82 in Chapter 5 of the Constitution relating to the Cabinet.

I quote this below:-

“82 Any Member of the Council may ask the Leader to put an item on the agenda of a Cabinet meeting for consideration, and if the Leader agrees the item will be considered at the next available meeting of the Cabinet. The notice of the meeting will give the name of the Councillor who asked for the item to be considered. [This Councillor will be invited to attend the meeting, whether or not it is a public meeting]. However, the Leader has discretion to limit the number of such items to be considered per Cabinet meeting”.

The request is for a report to be prepared by the relevant Officers to include the following information:-

1. The final outturn financial position on The Strand for the 2019/2020 financial year.
2. The current number of empty retail units expressed in both numerical terms and as a percentage of the total.
3. The number of units that have been re-opened since we moved to Level 3 of the Covid-19 restrictions.
4. The amount of revenue lost to Sefton Council since the ‘lockdown’ occurred.
5. Any additional financial figures which take into account reduced income from business rates in particular.
6. Whether or not the suggestions that were made that some of the units could be occupied by other Public Sector Bodies which were not named could be released and

the extent to which there have been any attempts in the current circumstances to pursue this issue.

7. The current level of rent arrears and any estimates that have been made in terms of rent now being payable following the partial re-opening of retail outlets.
8. Whether or not there is a current monthly ongoing estimate of the losses which will now be involved and whether any additional proposals are being currently worked up to address what is clearly an ongoing and increasing adverse financial position.

I gather that as the Elected Member who has formally submitted the request in the manner in which is specified and as a consequence I would confirm that I would be attending the meeting and exercising the right to ask questions and participate.

I appreciate that there is a degree of discretion given to you in confirming acceptance of the process that the Council has made provision for in respect of Cabinet procedures but I hope you will share my view that it is in the best interests of Sefton to proceed in the manner that is specifically mentioned in the Council's rules for Cabinet procedures.

I would be very grateful for your confirmation in the near future.

Kind regards,

Ron

THURSDAY 16TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

56. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON - SEFTON CONSTITUTION AMENDMENT

Sefton Constitution Amendment It was moved by Councillor Watson, seconded by Councillor Brough that: The current Sefton Constitution under Rule 82 enables Elected Members who are not Members of the Cabinet to submit an item to be placed on the Cabinet Agenda. There are strict rules concerning the time frame, the relevance of the subject matter and the Councillor themselves have to submit a full written report detailing the issue. The Councillor concerned is able to attend the Cabinet and speak and answer questions from other Members but is not allowed to vote. Under the current conditions of the Constitution the Leader of the Council is consulted when the request is received and he/she has the delegated authority to veto the item so that it does not appear on the Agenda notwithstanding the fact that all the criteria have been met. Council now believes that this is an undemocratic and unnecessary power and resolves to remove this section of the Constitution. This will mean that all Members of the Council can be assured that they will have the ability to raise issues when appropriate with the main decision-making body of Sefton Council.

Following a debate and on a show of hands the Mayor declared the vote was lost by 40 votes to 16 with 0 abstentions.