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**Report to Cabinet Member:** Regeneration and Tourism**Date of Issue:** 28 May, 2014**Date of Decision:** 4 June, 2014**Subject:** Local Plan for Sefton: Additional Sites Consultation**Report of:** Director Built Environment**Wards Affected:** All**Is this a Key Decision?** No**Is it included in the Forward Plan?** No**Exempt/Confidential** No

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**Purpose/Summary**

To ask Cabinet Member to agree to consulting on the additional sites submitted during the Preferred Option consultation.

**Recommendation**

That **Cabinet Member** agree a consultation on the additional sites submitted by others during the Preferred Option consultation.

**How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?**

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		✓	
2	Jobs and Prosperity		✓	
3	Environmental Sustainability		✓	
4	Health and Well-Being		✓	
5	Children and Young People		✓	
6	Creating Safe Communities		✓	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		✓	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy	✓		

**Reasons for the Recommendation:**

To formally approve the consultation.

**What will it cost and how will it be financed?**

**(A) Revenue Costs**

Estimated expense is likely to be less than £1,000. This can be met from the existing 2014/15 Planning Department's (Planning Policy) Revenue budget.

**(B) Capital Costs** None

**Implications:**

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

**Impact on Service Delivery:** None

**What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT (FD2984/14) has been consulted and notes there are no direct financial implications for the Council. The cost of the additional work (estimated as less than £1,000) can be funded from the existing 2014/15 Planning Department's (Planning Policy) Revenue budget.

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 2289/14) has been consulted and comments have been incorporated into the report.

**Are there any other options available for consideration?**

The only other option is not to consult. However, it is recommended good practice to consult on sites submitted to the Council at Preferred Option stage, before formally consulting on the Publication Draft stage of the Plan. Failure to consult on these sites may lead to procedural issues later in the Plan.

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

At the expiry of the call-in period after Cabinet Member decision.

**Contact Officer:** Steve Matthews

**Tel:** 0151 934 3559

**Email:** [steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:steve.matthews@sefton.gov.uk)

**Background Papers:** Those representations submitted during the Preferred Option consultation which included additional sites.

## **1. Background**

- 1.1 During the consultation on the Preferred Option in summer 2012, we received representations from landowners / developers proposing a number of different sites for housing / employment from those proposed by the council.
- 1.2 This included approximately 25 proposals for completely different sites, and five sites which comprise extensions to sites included in the Preferred Option.
- 1.3 These were reported to Planning Committee and Cabinet in January 2014 as part of the overall Report of Consultation of all the comments submitted to the Council. However, it is considered that it would be valuable to offer a specific opportunity to members of the public to make known their views on the proposed sites.
- 1.4 The consultation on the sites would not include a Council view on the sites one way or the other. It would simply show the sites on a plan and refer to any studies submitted by others in support of their representations.
- 1.5 As part of preparing the next stage of the plan – the Publication Draft stage – the Council is required to assess thoroughly all relevant sites. The fact that sites have been submitted to the Council as part of the consultation means that the Council must seriously assess whether those sites might be suitable to be allocated for development or not. To consult at this stage would help the Council to fully appraise the sites. In addition to any studies the Council may commission in relation to the sites, the consultation would offer the benefit of receiving the views of local communities.
- 1.6 It is proposed that this consultation be advertised in the local press and by notifying all those on our consultation database. The consultation could also be publicised through parish councils.
- 1.7 The consultation is required to be a minimum of eight weeks as this is the standard set out in the Council's Statement of Community Involvement. Ideally the consultation would commence in early-mid June and finish in early August. This will allow progress to continue to be made towards the next formal stage of the Plan.
- 1.8 It is recommended that Cabinet Member approve this additional sites' consultation to commence as soon as is practicable.