At a meeting of this Panel held on 18 September 2013

(Present) Councillor De’Asha (Chairman)
Councillors Anderton, C D Banks, Cunliffe, Dyer, Jackson, Jones and Roberts

(Also Present) Councillor McCauley, Cabinet Member, Regeneration, Housing, Planning and Community Safety

13 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

It was reported that there were no apologies for absence.

14 MINUTES

* Resolved that the Minutes of the meeting held on 20 June 2013 be approved and signed.

15 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FROM MEMBERS

No Declarations of Interest from Members were made.

16 RESPONSE FROM CABINET TO THE SCRUTINY REVIEW OF TOWN CENTRE CAR PARKING

A report was submitted which informed Members that at a meeting of Cabinet held on 24 April 2013 a response had been presented to the Scrutiny Review of Town Centre Car Parking undertaken by the Regeneration, Housing, Culture and Leisure Overview and Scrutiny Panel. Cabinet had been requested to note the contents of the report outlining the response to the Scrutiny Review of Town Centre Car Parking and approve the Action Plan which was attached at Appendix 1 to the report.

Councillor McCauley, Cabinet Member, Regeneration, Housing, Planning and Community Safety, was present to outline an updated action plan in response and answer questions from Members.

It was reported that in relation to Recommendation 8 of the action plan, the Parking Permit Application Form now included the Fairer Processing Statement and would be circulated to the Panel for their information.

* Resolved that:

(1) the report be noted;

(2) the Cabinet Member, Regeneration, Housing, Planning and Community Safety be thanked for his attendance; and
17 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF FLOOD DEFENCES – DRAFT REPORT

A draft report was submitted and outlined by Councillor C D Banks, Chairman of the Scrutiny Review of Flood Defences Task and Finish Group which updated the panel on the Scrutiny Review of Flood Defences.

The report detailed the background and scope, methodology, findings, conclusions and recommendations of the review.

The Chairman of the Task and Finish Group thanked all those who had participated and contributed to the review and in particular Councillor Jackson for his invaluable knowledge.

The Panel discussed the draft report and agreed to an amendment to be made to the recommendation one contained in the report to include the “North West Regional Flood Defence Committee”.

* Resolved that:

(1) the report be noted;

(2) an amendment be made to recommendation one contained in the draft report, to include the “North West Regional Flood Defence Committee”; and

(3) the final report, as amended, be forwarded to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission prior to submission to Cabinet.

18 ST HELENS LOCAL PLAN SITE ALLOCATIONS AND APPROACH TO GREEN BELT

A report was submitted which informed the Panel that at a meeting of Cabinet held on 19 June 2013 a report had been submitted on St. Helens Local Plan Site Allocations and Approach to Greenbelt. Attached to the report was a briefing note for the Panel on St Helens Local Plan Consultations 24 July 2013 to 11 September 2013 in relation to St. Helens Local Plan Site Allocations and Approach to Greenbelt. The Development Plans Manager and Senior Planning Officer were present to outline the report and answer questions from Members.

The St Helens Core Strategy had been adopted on 31 October 2012 as the key strategic planning document to shape the development of the Borough until 2027. To enable delivery of the Core Strategy a Site Allocations Plan was required to replace the old Unitary Development Plan allocations.

St Helens was required through statute to have an up to date Development Plan. Whilst the Core Strategy went some way towards this it only formed part of the Development Plan for the Borough.

The Allocations document would not only identify new sites for development to meet the needs for new housing, employment, and retail, it would also identify
where the Council wished to have certain policy controls of protection such as open space, detailed Green Belt boundaries and wildlife sites.

The Panel were informed that all the sites had been mapped and would be available for Members inspection on request.

The Panel raised questions which were answered at the meeting.

* Resolved that:

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the Development Plans Manager and Senior Planning Officer be thanked for their attendance.

19 SCRUTINY REVIEW OF LOCAL SHOPPING CENTRES AND THE CLOSURE OF SHOPS – SCOPING MATRIX

A draft Scoping Matrix was submitted which confirmed to Members the Terms of Reference, objectives and information required to scrutinise the Scrutiny Review of Local Shopping Centres and the Closure of Shops. It was reported that the Scoping Matrix would be submitted to a future meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

Members discussed the draft Scoping Matrix with regard to tightening up the scope of the review.

The Development Control Manager was present to assist with the review.

* Resolved that:

(1) the report be noted; and

(2) the Development Control Manager be thanked for her attendance.

Councillors Jackson and McCauley here left the meeting.

20 SCRUTINY WORK PROGRAMME 2013/2014

A verbal report was made to the Panel by the Scrutiny Manager, which updated Members on the Scrutiny Work Programme 2013/2014 in relation to the Victoria Park Project and Recycling and Waste Collections.

(a) Update on Victoria Park Project

A lengthy report was tabled which updated the Panel on extensive progress made on the Victoria Park Project.

* Resolved that the report be noted.
(b) **Update on Recycling and Waste Collections**

The Panel were informed that information packs on Recycling and Waste Collections were in the process of being delivered to households.

Orders for kitchen caddies, as at 10 September 2013, had reached 13,000 and the number was expected to increase before the launch. Orders had also been received for blue and pink bags and black boxes.

The information had been advertised in the local newspaper and would be advertised at bus stops until October 2013.

Members had attended drop in sessions on the new Recycling and Waste Collections. Lists of streets in Wards which showed the new collection dates had been circulated to Members.

Eight of the new vehicles had been fully operational week commencing 9 September 2013 and the remaining four would be on site by 16 September 2013.

It was reported that a site visit had been arranged to Gillmoss Recycling Park for the Panel to take place on 22 October 2013.

* Resolved that the report be noted.