Welcome

Welcome to our consultation event, where you can find out more about our proposals for the regeneration of Southport Town Hall Gardens.

Sefton Council is preparing a Detailed planning application, as we seek to build on the heightened significance the space has taken on in recent years to create a place that delivers a positive legacy for Southport's future and a new chapter for the Gardens.

Illustrative artist's impression of the proposals

Have your say

Feedback from the local community at this stage will help us understand local priorities before we submit a Detailed planning application.

Please take the opportunity to explore our proposals and share your views by completing a feedback form, speaking to a member of the team, or visiting our consultation website.

https://yourseftonyoursay.sefton.gov.uk/southport-town-hall-gardens

Illustrative artist's impression of the proposals

A positive legacy for Southport's future

Following the tragic events of July 2024, the area outside The Atkinson became a place for thousands to come together in solidarity and support, creating a deeper meaning for the space beyond its previous status and opening a chapter for it to create a new legacy. The space now resonates for many as a place for hope, togetherness and community, where families and individuals alike can share the emotion of their collective lived experience.

From that experience grew an ambition from the families of Alice Da Silva Aguiar, Bebe King, and Elsie Dot Stancombe to create a place that is positive and lasting as a "thank you" to the town – somewhere for reflection, but also for anticipation of the future, where people can gather to celebrate the strength of their community.

Creating a new chapter for Southport's civic heart

Our ambition for Southport Town Hall Gardens is to deliver a place that looks confidently towards the future and creates a positive legacy. Somewhere that children and families feel safe and welcome, where nature and colour are brought into the heart of the town, and where Southport can come together throughout the year to play, meet, perform and celebrate.

That vision has formed the basis of our proposals for Southport Town Hall Gardens and ultimately runs through each element of the designs we are presenting here.

Illustrative artist's impression of the proposals

The Site

From civic space to the heart of a thriving community

The prospect of regenerating the heart of the town as a flexible, open place that is safe for families, schools and the wider community is too attractive to ignore.

However, achieving that aim cannot be delivered simply through cosmetic improvements. In its current form, the area outside The Atkinson has a difficult relationship with the surrounding roads, poor pedestrian and cycle connectivity, and limited capacity to support play, events or performances.

We are therefore aiming to create a space that serves the community far better than it does at present – reimagining the long-term purpose and function of the Gardens and transforming the area into a community hub that serves the town. The new area will be safer, greener, more accessible, more welcoming and better able to support community life for years to come.

Today

Proposal

Inspired by Southport's Heritage

Heritage considerations are being embedded within the design and planning process, with specialist input informing how the proposals relate to listed buildings and the Lord Street Conservation Area. Adjacent to the site, the Town Hall, The Atkinson and their historic setting are fundamental to the character of the area, and our proposals seek to respond sensitively to this fact. The regeneration does not seek to compete with these buildings, but to create a high-quality public realm setting to enhance them.

As part of the proposals, the Princess Diana fountain will be removed with the permission and support of her family. At present, the fountain incurs significant maintenance costs and suffers from repeated technical issues, while portions of the fountain's surrounds are damaged or broken. Options are being explored to ensure Princess Diana's legacy remains honoured within the new-look space.

Features such as the proposed 'Potting Shed', which is currently a listed building, have also been carefully considered. The proposals intend to treat these features respectfully; recognising their historic importance whilst balancing how they can contribute to the long-term vision for the space.

Today

Proposal

Illustrative Plan

The prospect of regenerating the heart of the town as a flexible, open place that is safe for families, schools and the wider community is too attractive to ignore – creating a space that serves Southport far better than it does today: safer, greener, more accessible and better able to support community life for years to come.

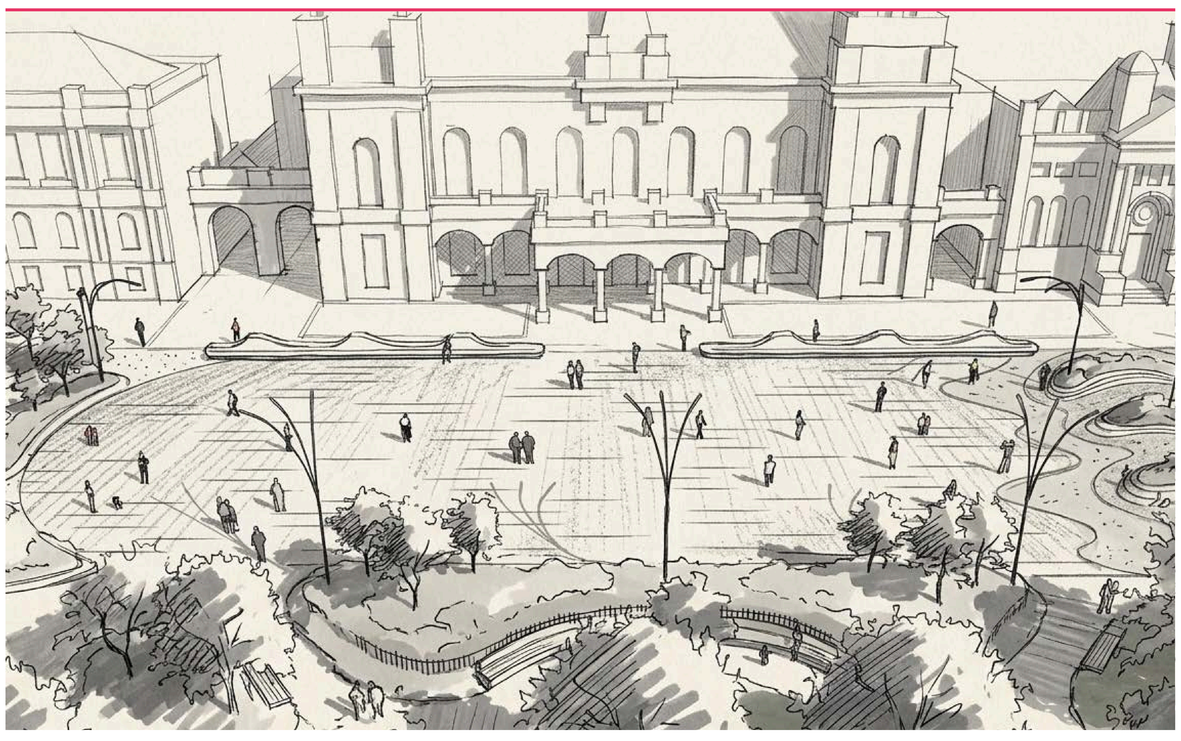
Summary of key proposals

1. Eastbank Street footpath
2. Celebratory Garden with sand-dunes inspired planting
3. The Botanical Gardens with beautiful planting and seating – a spill out space for the Town Hall
4. A flexible civic space to host a variety of community events throughout the year
5. An exciting play space with water mist features, mounds and lighting
6. A clear and open movement route with access to the three heritage buildings
7. 'Green Edges' to draw pedestrians into the space
8. Extensive seating to encourage people to dwell, rest and enjoy the space
9. Controlled vehicle access and movement to service the space whilst creating a safe space for pedestrians

Our Vision

Southport Town Hall Gardens has a unique place in the story of the town. The proposals have therefore been shaped by the existing character of the site and its surroundings, and informed by extensive engagement with local families, community groups and town centre businesses, to ensure we create something positive and lasting for Southport.

The project also represents an opportunity to bring to life one of Southport's most important civic spaces. By creating a high-quality, flexible and welcoming destination around the Town Hall, The Atkinson and Library, our proposals aim to support sustained activity throughout the year, acting as a centre point for the local community and creating a place that future generations can enjoy.



Performance Plaza

A place for people to come together and feel the strength of Southport's community

A strong and welcoming heart for the community, the Plaza is a flexible gathering space designed to bring people together and create a true sense of place. Able to host everything from makers' markets and exhibitions to performances, celebrations and community events, it provides a platform for local people to come together, share experiences and celebrate the character of the town. Generous seating encourages people to meet, pause and enjoy the activity around them, while feature lighting brings energy and warmth after dark. Designed to adapt throughout the year, the Plaza becomes a shared space that belongs to everyone.

Mega Ripples

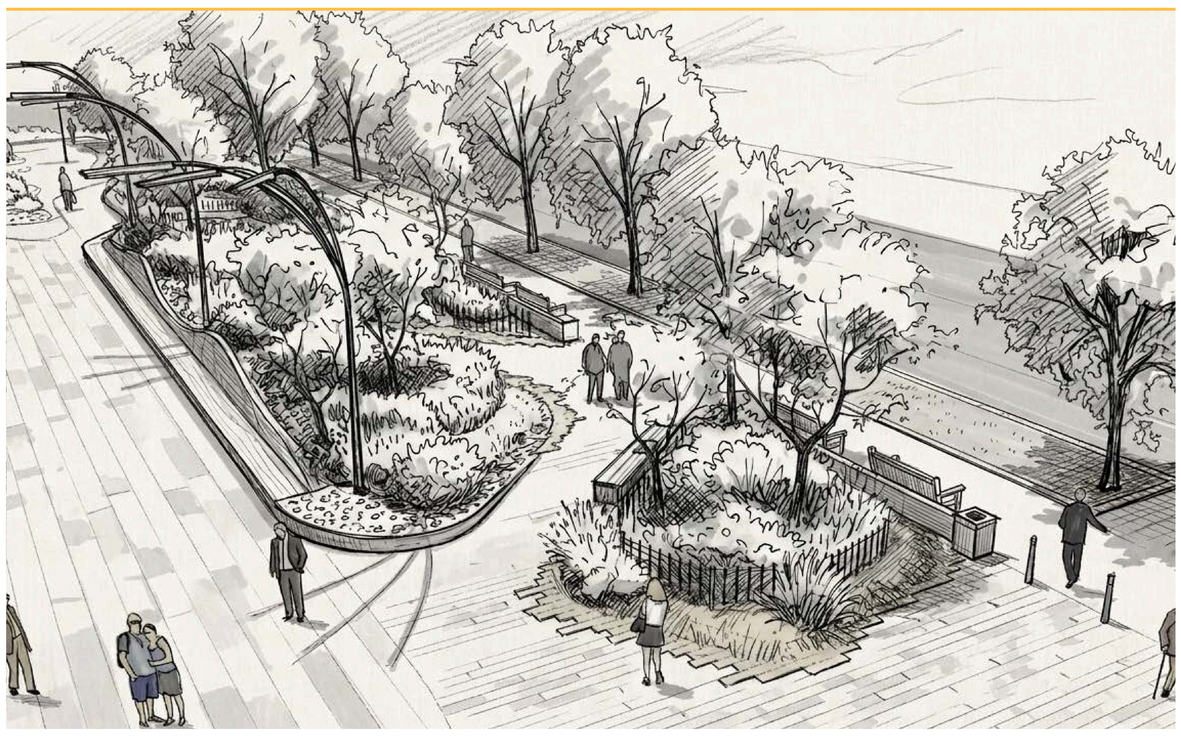
A destination water play space full of fun and joy

A vibrant and joyful play landscape where children can explore, climb, splash and play, while parents relax and enjoy watching them. Inspired by the wind and water-shaped forms of coastal dunes, oversized mega-ripples create a playful setting of raised mounds, pathways and misting water features. Generous seating, welcoming planting and carefully integrated lighting create a comfortable, sociable space that feels lively by day and inviting into the evening.

Botanical Gardens

A tranquil garden space with beautiful planting

A new botanical garden designed as a beautiful destination for weddings, gardening and relaxation, where lush, immersive planting creates a tranquil setting to explore, gather and unwind. Carefully curated gardens, peaceful seating areas and vibrant seasonal planting invite visitors to slow down and enjoy being surrounded by nature, creating a memorable landscape for celebrations, quiet moments and a shared appreciation of plants.



Celebration Dunes

A sand dune inspired garden to meander through

The Celebration Dunes create an immersive coastal landscape that celebrates Southport's unique relationship with the sea, bringing the character of the dunes into the heart of the town. A gently shaped landscape and lush coastal planting create a sense of escape, with winding paths leading visitors through grasses, flowers and natural-looking greenery. Secluded seating pockets, playful artwork and interpretation are woven into the landscape, encouraging people to slow down, explore and become immersed in nature.

The Potting Shed

'The Potting Shed' will breathe new life into Southport's listed heritage deckchair store, turning it into a lively community hub at the heart of the botanical garden. With the aim of putting the community at the centre of caring for the garden, the refurbished pavilion will become a place where knowledge, skills and a love of horticulture can be shared across generations. As the home of the resident gardener, it will support the day-to-day upkeep of the gardens while providing a welcoming base for community gardening, school visits, workshops and seasonal activities.

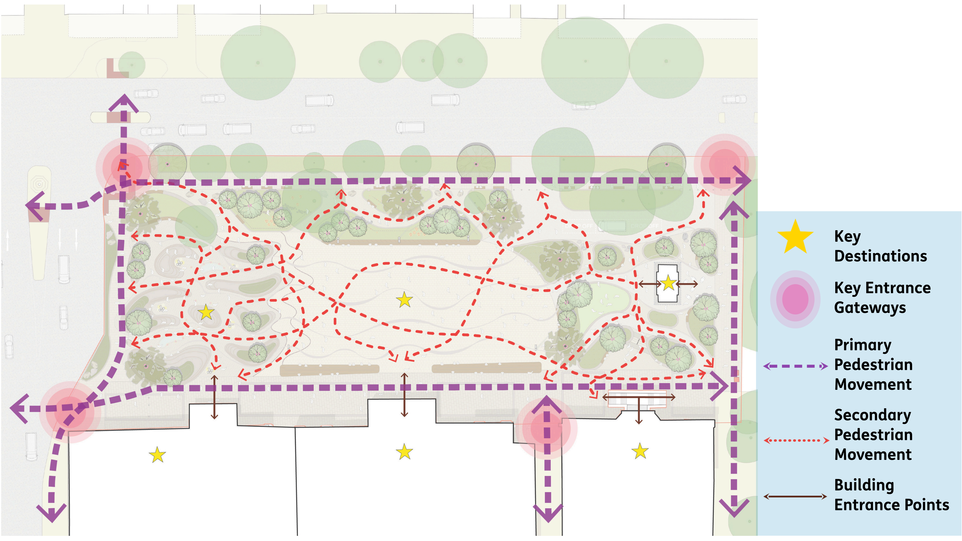
From sowing seeds and propagating plants to learning about horticulture and looking after the landscape, The Potting Shed will give people of all ages the chance to get involved, connect with nature and play an active part in shaping the garden's future, creating a living legacy for generations to come.

Roads, Access & Movement

At present, the relationship between the Gardens and surrounding roads can make the town's civic centre feel disconnected and exposed. The proposals seek to address this, improving pedestrian permeability, crossing arrangements and the connection between the Gardens and the wider town centre.

Access requirements with the Town Hall, nearby businesses, public transport, servicing and the need for accessible parking are all important considerations that have informed the proposals, ensuring that the wider area functions effectively.

Pedestrian Movement



The diagram above shows the key entrance gateway points and arrival destinations within the proposals. These include two key entrance points from each corner of the Gardens from Lord St, another entrance point from East Bank St and another from Cambridge Arcade. The space will also be directly accessible from the Library, The Atkinson and the Town Hall.

Vehicle Access

At present, the relationship between the Gardens and surrounding roads can make the town's civic centre feel disconnected and exposed, with vehicles regularly encroaching onto the forecourt outside The Atkinson and Town Hall. This was one of the concerns residents raised most clearly during our first stage of consultation, and it has directly shaped our approach.

Our proposals reduce the presence of vehicles within the Gardens themselves, improve pedestrian crossings and permeability, and strengthen the connection between the Gardens and the surrounding town centre. Clear sightlines, well-used routes, extensive seating and natural surveillance throughout the space are all designed to make the Gardens feel safer and more welcoming, day and night.

Access requirements for the Town Hall, nearby businesses, public transport, servicing and accessible parking have all been carefully considered to ensure the wider area continues to function effectively - while keeping vehicle activity to the edges of the space rather than the heart of it.

A Transport Assessment will be submitted as part of the planning application to support these proposals.

Current parking situation outside The Atkinson.

Funded by UK Government

Sefton Council

LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY

METRO MAYOR LIVERPOOL CITY REGION

Have Your Say

Help Shape Southport Town Hall Gardens

Your feedback is invaluable in helping us to ensure we deliver on this vision. All feedback received will be carefully considered before a Detailed planning application is submitted. Please take a few moments to share your thoughts by completing a feedback form. Copies are available today, or you can submit your response online until **Monday 05 October 2026.** Visit https://yourseftonyoursay.sefton.gov.uk/southport-town-hall-gardens or scan the QR code below.

Your views matter

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Contact Us
Email: southport@devcomms.co.uk **Phone:** 0800 080 3263

Next Steps

STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4
Public Consultation	**Application Submitted**	**Planning Decision**	**Work Starts**
September/October 2026	October 2026	Early 2027	March 2027

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