



COUNCIL SUMMONS

To Members of the Metropolitan Borough Council

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend **the Remote Meeting** of the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on **Thursday 17th September, 2020 at 6.30 pm** to transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dwayne", followed by a horizontal line.

Chief Executive

Town Hall,
Southport

Wednesday 9 September 2020

Please contact Ruth Harrison, Democratic Services Manager
on 0151 934 2042 or e-mail ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk

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A G E N D A

1. Apologies for Absence

2. Declarations of Interest

Members are requested at a meeting where a disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest arises, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests, to declare any interests that relate to an item on the agenda.

Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting by switching their camera and microphone off during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest, except where he/she is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of a dispensation.

Where a Member discloses a personal interest he/she must seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or staff member representing the Monitoring Officer by 12 Noon the day before the meeting to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest or whether the Member can remain in the meeting or remain in the meeting and vote on the relevant decision.

3. Minutes of Previous Meeting

(Pages 7 - 8)

Minutes of the meeting held on 7 May 2020

4. Mayor's Communications

Public Session

5. Matters Raised by the Public

To deal with matters raised by members of the public resident within the Borough, of which notice has been given in accordance with the procedures relating to public questions, motions or petitions set out in Paragraph 36 to 47 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

(Details of any further petitions notified or questions submitted by members of the public will be circulated at the meeting).

Council Business Session

- 6. Questions Raised by Members of 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.
- 7. Public Health Annual Report 2019-2020** (Pages 9 - 14)
Report of the Director of Public Health
- 8. Southport Market** (Pages 15 - 20)
Report of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing
- 9. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20** (Pages 21 - 80)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Customer Services
- 10. Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy** (Pages 81 - 110)
Joint report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services and the Executive Director - People
- 11. Sefton Climate Emergency Implementation Plan** (Pages 111 - 130)
Joint Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services and the Executive Director - People
- 12. Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2020/21 including the Financial Impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 Budget** (Pages 131 - 158)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 13. Financial and Corporate Performance 2019/20** (Pages 159 - 200)
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 14. Local Government Act 1972 – Section 85 - Attendance at Meetings – Covid-19 Arrangements** (Pages 201 - 204)
Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer
- 15. Membership of Committees 2020/21**
To consider any changes to the Membership of any committees etc.

- 16. Matters dealt with in accordance with Rule 46 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Call-In and Urgency) and Rule 29 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules (Special Urgency) of the Constitution** (Pages 205 - 208)
Report of the Leader of the Council.
- 17. Motion submitted by Councillor Brough - Press Release** (Pages 209 - 210)
- 18. Motion submitted by Councillor Sir Ron Watson - Cabinet Meetings** (Pages 211 - 212)

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COUNCIL

REMOTE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 7TH MAY, 2020

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Burns) in the Chair
The Deputy Mayor (Councillor Robinson) Vice Chair
Councillors Atkinson, Brough, Dowd, Dutton, Evans,
Fairclough, Grace, Hardy, John Joseph Kelly,
Lappin, Maher, McCann, Moncur, Myers,
Brenda O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, Pugh, Pullin,
Roscoe and Shaw

1. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Remote Meeting of the Council

The Mayor took the opportunity to welcome Members to the first remote meeting of Sefton Council and extended a special welcome to members of the public who may be viewing the meeting online. This meeting was being held using Microsoft Teams Live Events software and prior to the meeting a test meeting had been held to ensure the meeting ran smoothly. A protocol for Members attending remote meetings had been circulated prior to the meeting and Members were respectfully requested to adhere to this protocol.

The Mayor advised the meeting that it would be particularly helpful if Members turned their cameras off and muted their microphones when not addressing the meeting; and that if Members would like to address the meeting at any time, they should indicate by using the chat facility in Microsoft Teams. The chat facility enabled elected Members to raise issues and interact with the meeting in real time.

Covid-19 Pandemic

The Mayor stated that as Members knew only too well the United Kingdom, and indeed the whole world, was in the grip of the Covid-19 pandemic. This was having a devastating impact on communities across the Country and here in Sefton.

However, our communities were pulling together and key workers across the Council, the NHS, transport, the food retail and distribution sector, Military, voluntary sector and Schools were continuing to provide valuable and in many cases life-saving services to our residents; and the Council was extremely grateful for the services provided by the key workers.

Tragically, key workers across the Country and here in Sefton had lost their lives due to Covid-19.

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COUNCIL- THURSDAY 7TH MAY, 2020

The Council then observed a minute's silence to honour the frontline NHS staff and key workers in the transport, food retail and distribution, Military, voluntary and Schools sectors who had died from Covid-19.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett, Blackburne, Bradshaw, Brennan, Brodie-Browne, Byrom, Carr, Carragher, Cluskey, Cummins, Dawson, Dodd, Doyle, Friel, Gannon, Halsall, Hands, Howard, Irving, Jones, Keith, John Kelly, Killen, Lewis, Marshall, McGinnity, McKinley, Morris, Murphy, O'Hanlon, Pitt, Roche, Sathiy, John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Spencer, Thomas, Anne Thompson, Lynne Thompson, Tweed, Viedman, Waterfield, Sir Ron Watson and Webster.

The Members concerned were not present as they were unable to attend the Meeting because of the current Covid-19 situation and this is the formal reason recorded by the Council for their absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of any disclosable pecuniary interests or personal interests were received.

4. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 85 - ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS – COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS

The Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought, due to the reduction of meetings because of the Covid-19 pandemic, authority to approve and authorise the absence of any Councillors from attendance at Council and Committee Meetings pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough and

RESOLVED:

That the absence of any Elected Members from all Council and Committee Meetings be authorised and approved for the period until 7 November 2020, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	17 September 2020
Subject:	Public Health Annual Report 2019-2020		
Report of:	Director of Public Health	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present the Annual Report of the Director of Public Health 2020.

Recommendation(s):

- (1) Council is asked to receive the annual report of the Director of Public Health; and
- (2) That Council notes that the report will be published.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The report is a statutory independent report of the Director of Public Health and identifies key issues affecting health in the Sefton population.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

No direct costs associated with the report.

(B) Capital Costs

No direct costs associated with the report.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): No implications
Legal Implications: Legal Section 73B (5) and (6) of the National Health Service 2006 Act, inserted by section 31 of the Health and Social Care Act 2012, provides that the Director of Public Health must produce an annual report and the local authority must publish the report.

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Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: *Raises the profile of work taking place within some of the most deprived and vulnerable communities in Sefton.*

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: *Shows partnership working to tackle the issue of poor health and well-being, with the goal of increasing resilience in both individuals and communities.*

Commission, broker and provide core services: *Raises the profile of the Well Sefton approach to commissioning, partnership working and delivering services.*

Place – leadership and influencer: *Highlights the work of local community and voluntary sector as leaders of change regarding health and well-being within Sefton.*

Drivers of change and reform: *Highlight work taking place within Sefton, as a catalyst for change.*

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: *Showcases different methods of partnership working covering health and wellbeing, and includes business entrepreneurship.*

Greater income for social investment: *Showcases work with the community and voluntary sector to strengthen a collaborative approach to the issue.*

Cleaner Greener: *Showcases work within the community and voluntary sector to strengthen a collaborative approach to the issue and the mutual benefits for the cleaner/green agenda.*

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6022/20) and Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 4284/20) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Engaged with partners in community, voluntary and faith sector organisations, and community volunteers regarding the subject matter.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Steve Gowland
Telephone Number:	0151 934 3070
Email Address:	steve.gowland@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices: There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers: There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Director of Public Health (DPH) is required to produce an independent annual report on the health and wellbeing of their population highlighting key issues.
- 1.2 It is an important vehicle by which the DPH can identify key issues, celebrate success, flag up problems, report progress and, thereby, serve their local populations. It will also be a key resource to inform local inter-agency action.
- 1.3 Aims of the Report
 - Contribute to improving the health and wellbeing of local populations.
 - Reduce health inequalities.
 - Promote action for better health, through measuring progress towards health targets.
 - Assist with the planning and monitoring of local programmes and services that impact on health over time.
 - Be relevant to the health of local populations with information analysed at the most appropriate population level.
 - Must be integral to planning across all sectors and needs to promote action.
 - Include a clear set of recommendations.

2. Key findings

- 2.1 This year's annual report has been produced as a short film about health inequalities. It focuses on a specific area in Sefton, where a unique community leadership approach is helping to tackle high levels of inequality.
- 2.2 Health inequalities are the differences we see in health within, or between, different geographical areas and communities. For example, in Sefton, we know that people living in the north of the borough live, on average, 12 years longer than those living in less affluent areas in the south.
- 2.3 This report focuses on Bootle, an area in the south of Sefton, where different factors like poverty, unemployment, poor housing and unhealthy environments contribute to this 'health gap'.
- 2.4 The report illustrates how specific and focused work, which is built on shared community leadership can create purpose, increase community confidence and make positive changes to reduce these unfair health inequalities. In Sefton, we have taken this approach and developed an innovative programme known as the Well Sefton partnership.
- 2.5 The Well Sefton partnership is comprised of Sefton Council, SAFE Regeneration, YKids, Regenerus and Sefton CVS. The following are a few summarised examples of the work that they have undertaken and the positive impact it has had within the community.
- 2.6 SAFE Regeneration created **Bootle Music Festival**, within a highly ambitious timeframe of six months. They chose and prepared a site, erected two stages, organised a health and wellbeing field, booked music acts, finalised catering arrangements and delivered the first Bootle Music Festival (BMF). The event was

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highly successful with over 7000 people paying to attend the music festival in August 2018. This success was repeated in 2019 (with increased local business sponsorship). Part of the #destinationbootle canal-side regeneration programme, the Bootle Music Festival supported local people often furthest from the labour market, to gain experience in hospitality, staging/sound, performing arts, event planning, grounds keeping, brewing and much more. It has attracted enough community interest and support from local businesses that the Bootle Music Festival is almost self-sustaining and has become an important event in the area.

- 2.7 Managed by Regenerus, **Taking Root** is about greening neighbourhoods, and growing plants, vegetables and fruit in the south of Sefton. The project includes taking over a new site, designing the plot, preparing the land, working with local people in other community growing projects and sharing produce with local communities. Membership of Taking Root has grown to 36 community gardens and growing projects. These groups are supported by over 100 volunteers, who take part in a variety of collective activities. Since its development, Taking Root has held 4 'Doers get Together' network meetings for members and have organised over 56 collective activities. These have brought together different groups of community growers working together towards a common goal.
- 2.8 Run by Ykids, **Kingsley and Co.** is a children's literacy project and bookshop with an exciting 'Victorian Explorer Steampunk' theme. It has a small café, a hidden submarine themed classroom and second-hand children's books for sale for £1. The bookshop offers workshops, after school projects, family storytime, author visits, events and the opportunity for local authors to promote their books. The main aim of the project was to get children and their parents reading books. Using the Kingsley and Co. shop as its base, it fuels imaginations and creates a sense of fun. It provides a new space to encourage children to improve their emotional and academic literacy through story and expression.
- 2.9 Kingsley & Co in numbers; 1 x real life explorer, 2 x artists, 4 x community Theatre companies, 7 x children's authors, 10 x assemblies, 15 x schools involved, 48 x workshops delivered, 52 x volunteers involved, 77 x short stories received, 3465 x children involved, 10,000 x books donated.
- 2.10 The full film can be seen at www.sefton.gov.uk/PHAR

3 What we have learnt

- 3.1 Our key learning about the Well Sefton approach is summarised below:

It is not about;

- Structured commissioning
- Formal commissioner and provider relationship
- Commissioner made recommendations
- Commissioner-led approaches

It is about;

- Communities deciding what they need and want
- Commissioners listening
- A recognition of the strength present in our communities
- Community and voluntary sector knowledge

What have been the key ingredients?

- Trust
- Freedom to experiment, innovate and learn from failure and success
- Recognition of existing strengths and assets
- Commissioners acting as enablers and facilitators
- Partnership working and communication
- Confidence to challenge traditional methods
- Shared vision and outcomes

4 Conclusions

4.1 Every Public Health Annual Report must make recommendations about the subject of the report so that other organisations can take learning to improve their own ideas and projects.

4.2 Local people and community leaders have been key to the success of the programme. To improve health outcomes using such a community-led approach, our recommendations are as follows:

- **Create a simple vision** - Every organisation, regardless of size, services provided and expertise, should work towards a simple goal. A vision for partnership work must be established, like Well Sefton's aim for 'people living healthier, happier lives'.

Staying true to the vision of Well Sefton has been fundamental to the growth of the partnership. We will continue to explore opportunities to work with our wider partners, ensuring that we maintain a single focus, vision and clarity, ensuring communities remain at the heart of everything we do.

- **Work together** - Health inequalities exist, are significant and can be complicated. Community activities that recognise, and most importantly use the assets and strengths of a community, are more likely to positively impact communities than those that do not. Working hard, honestly and closely together really does work.

Extensive stakeholder engagement is essential to understand the assets and strengths in a community. We will continue to connect and engage with our communities, acting as enablers and facilitators. We plan to adopt the same approach across different areas, such as obesity and tobacco control.

- **Experiment** – Community organisations have often developed approaches through trial, error and experimentation. Taking risks is critical, as is learning from failure. The partnership should share potential risks and rewards.

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Non-traditional approaches and experimentation, such as the Lock & Quay community pub and the Bootle Music Festival, are examples of where local people having the freedom to innovate can maximise community assets. We are confident in the value of experiential learning and are committed to sharing this with our council colleagues and wider partners.

- **Change the relationship** – Traditionally organisations are commissioned or paid to provide service(s) for a specific community within a set of defined outcomes. The content of the legal contract is often seen as the method to ensure compliance, value for money, and provision of the best offer for local people. Within Well Sefton, this relationship has been reversed. Legal documents are in place; however, there are no junior partners, and content is written together, including timescales, outcomes and allocation of resources. Organisations worked very closely in partnership to design projects that were not in competition with each other.

We have taken a collaborative community-led approach and adopted a culture of continuous learning and improvement. We aim to apply this methodology of co-production and development to our research into obesity and healthy weight, building tangible actions and evaluative processes with all our partners.

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Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	17 September 2020
Subject:	Southport Market		
Report of:	Head of Economic Growth & Housing	Wards Affected:	Dukes
Cabinet Portfolio:	Regeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision?	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	NO		

Summary:

To approve a supplementary capital estimate of £1.400m that will allow the redevelopment of Southport Market as the approved business plan. This will be funded from a £0.500m direct grant by the Combined Authority and from a £0.900m accelerated grant as part of the Town Deal process

Recommendation(s):

(a) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £1.400m for the redevelopment of Southport Market. This will be funded from a £0.500m direct grant by the Combined Authority and from a £0.900m accelerated grant as part of the Town Deal process.

(b) Note the future years revenue implications arising from this proposal and approve that these be built into the council's medium-term financial planning and annual budgets.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

On 3 September 2020 Cabinet approved the business case for the development of Southport Market to provide a sustainable future for The Market Hall and it is now necessary for Council to approve the capital expenditure required to progress the development.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

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The business case presented to Cabinet was based on prudent assumptions in respect of visitor numbers and customer spend. Nevertheless, on these bases the project as agreed would deliver a surplus of £101k by year 3.

The Current budget for Southport Market is £75k, which represents the net cost to the Council after taking into account the target profit of £162k from operations less the annual cost of financing historic debt of £237k.

The current Market occupancy is below 20% and is therefore carrying a significant overspend - instead of generating £162k profit, it has an operating loss of c£130k (based on June 2020/21 forecast). This means that the Council support required is currently £367k per annum, a £292k overspend compared to the budget of £75k.

The financial forecast for the preferred option shows that by year 3 £101k profit would be generated and the net cost to the council would reduce from a forecast £367k to £136k.

	Current budget based on previous market business plan	Current June 2020/21 forecast Based on 20% occupancy	Proposed budget for food & drink market / flexible space Year 3
	£000s	£000s	£000s
Capital financing costs	237	237	237
Operating (profit) from activity / loss	(162)	130	(101)
Council required support	75	367	136
Budget in place or required	75	75	136
Offset by other services	0	292	0

The business case provided a detailed sensitivity analysis for information and to support decision making but importantly it outlined the increase in operating profit and assumptions that have been made by officers in conjunction with an industry expert's that result in the income figures for the new operation.

(B) Capital Costs

The Business Case includes £1.4m capital investment in refurbishment, reconfiguration and improvement of the Market Hall.

This includes both the professional fees for project management and construction costs.

The capital funding of the preferred option will be funded by a direct grant award of £500k direct grant by the Combined Authority as part of the Town Centre Commission

funding allocation to Sefton. The remaining £900k will be funded by The Government's accelerated grant fund as part of the Southport Town Deal.

Capital cost certainty will be delivered via the procurement and project management processes.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

The estimates in the business case reflect the evaluation of the information provided to the council by two 'industry experts' whose expertise has been procured in order to directly inform the development of the business case as this specific knowledge was not held in the council. This has then been financially modelled, verified and challenged by officers within the service. As would be expected, the ultimate future financial performance of the market will predominantly depend upon the number of visitors to the market and how much each individual spends. These will be the two key drivers of financial performance hence the importance of the council receiving specialist advice in these matters, and taking a prudent approach in business case development.

The figures provided within this report and Business case represent the base case for the preferred option based on the procured external advice and the evaluation by the service. This is supported by a range of sensitivities and analysis that look at a number of eventualities that will inform annual performance. It is important to note that these activities will not occur in isolation e.g. higher or lower footfall or expenditure per head but will be inter-related and will require careful and robust management and monitoring as they will directly impact the overall performance hence the reliance on the information provided by the industry experts at this stage. The information contained within the base case is considered prudent by the service based on the advice provided and in this case financial performance can be expected to better than detailed. Conversely in the event that these key factors do not materialise and commercial performance is not as strong as set out then additional council support will be required

In addition to these factors and metrics supplied by the industry expert, financial performance will also be influenced by external factors for which the council may have no control and again the impact of these issues will need to predict, forecast and monitored with remedial activity undertaken as required to both maintain and enhance financial performance.

This review has been most recently updated to reflect, to the extent possible at this time, the impact of COVID-19 on the sector, in both the short- and longer-term. This informs the business case and validates its prudence, and will be relevant to operational management planning.

As is the case currently, financial performance of Southport Market will be reported as part of the councils monthly monitoring and outturn processes.

Legal Implications:

Details of any legal implications are contained within the Business Case.

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Equality Implications:

The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The new market offer will provide a high-quality experience that will provide a destination for local communities to use and enjoy
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: The Council will directly contribute to an improved visitor destination as part of The Southport Development Framework creating further confidence in Southport that could lead to further private sector investment. The Market project will also have key strategic linkages to the Southport Town Deal and will form part of the Southport Masterplan that will be agreed and submitted by the newly established Town Deal Board
Drivers of change and reform: Providing a long-term sustainable future for Southport Market creating a new diverse use meeting the expectations of residents and visitors
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The proposal will allow a number of new small business start-ups creating additional employment and sustainable business growth
Greater income for social investment: Improve the financial performance of the Market that will allow a greater contribution to the historic borrowing
Cleaner Greener The future operation will contribute to Sefton's aims to becoming Carbon Neutral

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director Corporate Resources & Customer Services FD6093/20 and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer LD4275/20 have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Early consultation was conducted with existing market traders along with a wider consultation exercise, results of which can be found in the full business case which was presented to cabinet on 3 September 2020.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the decision being made.

Contact Officer:	Mark Catherall
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2315
Email Address:	Mark.Catherall@sefton.gov.uk

1. Introduction

This project has been identified following a comprehensive review of the current Southport Market operation, along with desktop research, commercial and public engagement.

The project will deliver a revitalised market hall with a shift in focus to more food and drink while still retaining a flexible space to hold markets and other temporary events to meet the changing consumer demands building on and maximising the value of the previous investment in 2012. The project should then enable further development within an enhanced Market Quarter that will attract creative and culture industries.

Southport is a valued major destination in Sefton and the wider City Region, attracting millions of visitors a year. The Sefton Development Framework reflects a commitment to attract new investment into Southport and work towards realising long term ambitions through a co-ordinated approach to town centre management, unlocking sites, enhancing key heritage assets, improving the public realm and enhancing accessibility, the Southport Market project will play a key role in meeting this ambition.

More recently Southport was given the opportunity to secure up to £25 million as part of the Town Deal. The Market project will have key strategic linkages to the deal and will form part of the Southport Masterplan that will be agreed and submitted by the newly established Town Deal Board. The Town Deal Board has confirmed its support for the project and the allocation of the accelerated grant fund to it.

Since its refurbishment in 2012 The Market Hall occupancy rates have never reached 90% target level, though there was a notable improvement when management of the market passed back to Sefton in 2015. Occupancy largely remained around 70%, but more recently this has dropped below 20%. It should also be noted that some units have remained empty since the refurbishment in 2012, these units are at the rear of the market with poor sight lines.

There appears to be many reasons why traders are leaving such as lack of footfall, debts, rent levels and lack of consumer spending power.

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A small number of traders have re-located to other locations within Southport while others have gone out of business or reduced their market stall portfolio.

2 Project Outcomes

The outcomes of the referenced option being a refurbished market hall with a focus on food and drink with flexible events space, which will support the wider visitor economy by;

- A revitalised market hall creating a sense of place, where residents and visitors will spend time, socialise and spend more, in recognition of an excellent food and beverage offer and experience.
- Opportunities for new business start-ups and growth of already established businesses creating and safeguarding jobs
- Safeguarding and creating new construction jobs
- Creating new full-time employment opportunities within the food units, bar operations as well as within the Council.
- The creation of a visitor economy asset that forms part of a critical mass of attractions in Southport that will contribute to the vitality and viability of the town centre and contribute to the continued growth and diversification of the visitor economy
- Act as a catalyst for the regeneration of 'The Market Quarter'
- Eliminate the risk of closure and 'mothballing' based on current losses and further decline.

Agenda Item 9

Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	17 September 2020
Subject:	Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Adult Social Care Children, Schools and Safeguarding Communities and Housing Health and Wellbeing Locality Services Planning and Building Control Regeneration and Skills Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To present formally the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees for 2019/20.

Recommendation:

That the Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees introduce their Annual Reports for 2019/20.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with the Local Government Act 2000 and the formal reporting mechanism to Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report needs to be submitted to Council.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

(A) Revenue Costs – see above

(B) Capital Costs – see above

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Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None
Legal Implications: None
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

This report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any reports referred to in the Annual Report have been subject to the LD and FD process when they were originally submitted to Committee. Likewise, any reports referred to in the "Year Ahead" section of the Annual Report will be subject to the LD and FD process prior to their submission to Committee during the 2019/20 Municipal Year.

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	Debbie Campbell
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2254
Email Address:	debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report 2019/20

- 1.1 Each year the Council receives the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 Attached as an Appendix to the report is the Overview and Scrutiny Annual Report for 2019/20.
- 1.3 The Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees have been requested to introduce their Annual Reports for 2019/20.

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Overview
& Scrutiny



**SEFTON COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY
ANNUAL REPORT
2019/20**



Overview & Scrutiny



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Overview and Scrutiny Management Board



Councillor John Sayers
*Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board
2019/20*

It gives me great pleasure to introduce the Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board for 2019/20.

Communication has always been a key consideration for the Management Board and the Board has previously agreed that Cabinet Member reports would be submitted to the relevant Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to contribute towards the relationship between the Executive and Overview and Scrutiny Members.

Members have welcomed the Cabinet Member update reports and attendance of relevant Cabinet Members at Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings; and this process will remain in place during 2020/21.

The Management Board met four times during 2019/20 and considered the following issues:

- Overview and Scrutiny Training - seeking the views of the Management Board on the provision of Overview and Scrutiny training for Members;
- Consideration of the establishment of a Cross-Cutting Working Group Review following approval by the Council of a Motion on climate change. This was not proceeded with by the Management Board and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) was advised accordingly;
- Updates on the North-West Employers' Strategic Scrutiny Network;
- Updates on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee's work;
- Regular progress reports on the position of Working Groups established by the Council's four Overview and Scrutiny Committees;
- Maghull Masterplan - Update on item "called-in" to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)
- Possible Site Visit to Sefton Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) by Members of the Council.

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- Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities
- Member Development/Training - A copy of the draft Guidance Handbook for newly Elected Members and Member Development Programme was provided for comments by the Management Board;
- Updates on the North West Scrutiny Support Officers Network;
- Updates on the work of the Centre for Public Scrutiny - including the initial results of a survey of Scrutiny Officers and Councillors with an involvement in Scrutiny; and new guidance published on "Taking Scrutiny Seriously".

Further, more detailed information about some of the issues considered can be found within the paragraphs below.

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

The Combined Authority is led by the Metro Mayor and brings together the Liverpool City Region's six local authorities – Halton, Knowsley, Liverpool, Sefton, St. Helens and Wirral – to tackle the major issues that affect people who live and work within the Region. Elected Members from each of the six local authorities form the Combined Authority. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is made up of three elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities, along with one elected Member from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and from the Conservative Group. The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee includes scrutinising the decisions and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor.

At the commencement of the 2019/20 Municipal Year, Sefton Council appointed Councillor Paula Murphy, who was subsequently replaced by Councillor Dowd, as the Scrutiny Link, and also Councillors Howard and Marshall onto the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority (CA) Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Up to her resignation from the CA, Councillor Murphy submitted regular progress reports in relation to the operation of the LCR Overview and Scrutiny Committee. During 2019/20 both the Council's Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees received a report on Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities, and it was agreed that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny would be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in the future.

North-West Employers' Strategic Scrutiny Network

The Strategic Scrutiny Network is part of North West Employers' core membership offer and is designed to support councillors in the development of their scrutiny function and role, share good practice and highlight local and national drivers.

Throughout 2019/20 the Management Board received regular updates about meetings of the North West Employers' Strategic Scrutiny Network. Meetings of the Network are open to both Councillors and officers to attend and are useful in terms of recent developments in Scrutiny, including the recent Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities. Both Councillors Doyle and Murphy have attended Network meetings during the year, together with one of the officers from our Democratic Services Team and have provided useful feedback. I hope that Network meetings will continue in the future.

Centre for Public Scrutiny

The Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) is a national centre of expertise on governance and scrutiny.

During 2019/20 the Management Board received updates about the work of the CfPS including the initial results of a survey of Scrutiny Officers and Councillors with an involvement in Scrutiny. As a result of the survey, new guidance was published entitled "Taking Scrutiny Seriously", and I look forward to receiving feedback from Cabinet Members on the new guidance during 2020/21.

Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

During 2019/20, the Management Board considered reports that advised of the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. The Management Board agreed that a report should be submitted to all four Overview and Scrutiny Committees during the October / November 2019 cycle of meetings. This resulted in a number of recommendations and developments, including the following:

- updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny would be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting;
- Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations would be submitted to the Cabinet and then full Council for final approval;
- each Overview and Scrutiny Working Group would consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration.



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The Year Ahead

The following paragraphs set out details of some of the issues that I would anticipate the Management Board to consider during 2020/21.

The Local Government Association Peer Review Action Plan includes implications for Overview and Scrutiny in relation to strengthening corporate performance management and the development of the role of Members in a changing context for local government and a changing model of delivery locally. I would anticipate that the Management Board and Overview and Scrutiny Committees will consider issues associated with the Action Plan during the forthcoming year and will also consider the level of information to be included in the performance reports arising from the Peer Review.

Following a presentation by Sefton Council for Voluntary Services (CVS) about its interaction with smaller organisations in the Borough in November 2018, during 2019/20 the Management Board discussed a potential site visit to Sefton CVS and the possibility of extending such an invitation to attend to all Members of the Council. I hope we might be able to explore the possibility of such a visit in the future.

Looking ahead to 2020/21, I hope we will be able to secure and provide some training by an external provider for Overview and Scrutiny Members. The possibility of providing this on-line could be explored, if necessary.

I also look forward to receiving further updates on the work of the Centre for Public Scrutiny, including the full results of the survey of Scrutiny Officers and Councillors with an involvement in Scrutiny.

Given the scale of the financial and service challenges facing the Council, the year ahead will be extremely busy for both Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Management Board to scrutinise such challenges, including how they impact on the Council's statutory requirement to remain financially sustainable and the desire to deliver the Sefton's 2030 Vision and Core Purpose.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Officers of the Democratic Services Team for all their hard work during the year; and to thank the Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all the Overview and Scrutiny Committees for their on-going input into the work of the Management Board.

Councillor John Sayers
September 2020



During 2019/20 the following Members served on the Committees indicated-

Overview & Scrutiny Management Board

Councillor John Sayers (Chair)
Councillor Roscoe (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Blackburne
Councillor Bradshaw
Councillor Byrom
Councillor Carragher
Councillor Doyle
Councillor Murphy

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)

Chair: Cllr. Doyle
Vice-Chair: Cllr. Roscoe
Cllr. Carr
Cllr. Cluskey
Cllr. Howard
Cllr. Irving
Cllr. Jones
Cllr. Myers
Cllr. Pugh
Cllr. Waterfield

Mr. B. Clark, Healthwatch Representatives
Mr. R Hutchings, Healthwatch Representatives



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Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding)

Chair: Cllr. Murphy
Vice-Chair: Cllr. Carragher
Cllr. Bennett
Cllr. Evans
Cllr. Keith
Cllr. Pitt
Cllr. Yvonne Sayers
Cllr. Spencer (Subsequently replaced by Councillor Cluskey)
Cllr. Thomas
Cllr. Webster

Mr. M. Byrne, Healthwatch Representative
Ms. K. Christie, Healthwatch Representative
Mrs. S. Cain, Advisory Member
Mr. S. Harrison, Church Diocesan Representative
Father D. Seddon, Church Archdiocesan Representative
Ms. M. McDermott, Parent Governor Representative
Ms. C. McDonough, Parent Governor Representative

Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills)

Chair: Cllr. John Sayers
Vice-Chair: Cllr. Blackburne
Cllr. Brough
Cllr. Dowd
Cllr. Halsall
Cllr. Lewis
Cllr. Marshall
Cllr. Myers
Cllr. Robinson
Cllr. Sathiy



Overview & Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)

Chair: Cllr. Bradshaw

Vice-Chair: Cllr. Byrom

Cllr. Brodie-Browne

Cllr. Doyle

Cllr. Grace

Cllr. Killen

Cllr. Lewis

Cllr. McCann

Cllr. McKinley

Cllr. Morris (Subsequently replaced by Councillor Brough)



Adult Social Care and Health



Councillor Mhairi Doyle, MBE
Chair of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee
(Adult Social Care and Health)

It is my pleasure to introduce the 2019/20 Annual Report of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health).

Introduction

This is my first Annual Report as Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health). When I took on the role as Chair of the Committee, I did not anticipate that Adult Social Care and Health Services in general would be battling against a pandemic before the Municipal Year was over. I will highlight aspects of coronavirus and the response to the COVID-19 crisis at the end of this Report.

I believe that the Committee has built on the existing good working relationships we have with many of our health partners. The trust that has been established has meant that we are recognised in our role of “critical friend”; we are listened to and have been able to have a positive influence on the development of health and adult social care services within Sefton. This Report is presented to the Council and a wider audience beyond in the hope that the information it contains will contribute to the debate and discussion about the provision of health and adult social care services for Sefton residents and their development, improvement and access.

The Committee met formally on five occasions during 2019/20. An informal meeting of Members of the Committee was held in order to receive information on draft Quality Accounts, and a further informal meeting of Members took place to provide a training session on Adult Social Care. A site visit by Members was also held. Details of all these events are outlined below.

NHS Trust Quality Accounts

As usual, the Committee commenced the Municipal Year with the consideration of draft Quality Accounts from local healthcare providers. This provided Committee Members with an opportunity to comment on the performance of local NHS Trusts during the preceding twelve months, particularly in relation to patient experience, safety and clinical effectiveness. A number of local NHS Trusts routinely submit their draft Quality Accounts for consideration and comment each year and it is always a

challenge to determine where the Committee will focus each year. An informal meeting of Members of the Committee was held during May 2019, dedicated to considering the four draft Quality Accounts from the following NHS Providers:

- Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, insofar as it related to community health service provision in the north of the Borough;
- Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, insofar as it related to community health service provision in the south of the Borough;
- Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust; and
- Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust.

The Providers concerned sent representatives to respond to our questioning and Committee Members also sought input from a representative of the two Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups, together with Healthwatch Sefton representatives. This proved to be an effective approach in scrutinising the four draft Quality Accounts concerned.

Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

Throughout 2019/20 the Committee received regular update reports from the two Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) within Sefton, namely the South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group and the Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group.

The CCGs are, of course, responsible for the planning and commissioning of health care services for the local area. During 2019/20 they reported to the Committee on a range of activities designed to promote health and wellbeing amongst residents. I believe that excellent relationships exist between Committee Members and officers of the CCGs, particularly the Chief Officer who attends virtually every Committee meeting and has always been willing to take up issues raised by Members and explain aspects of the services provided.

Updates submitted by the CCGs have included details of CCG Board meetings to which members of the public are invited; representatives and elections for the CCG governing bodies; “Big Chat” events used to shape services; plus, details on various aspects of the work and health care services provided by the CCGs. The regular updates allow Members to raise questions and scrutinise aspects of the services provided by the CCGs.

We received separate reports from the CCGs on the following matters:

- Seven Day GP Access Update;
- Five Year Plan for Sefton;
- Primary Care Networks in Sefton;
- Update on North Mersey Urgent Care Review; and
- Social Prescribing in Sefton.

We also received a joint briefing paper produced on behalf of the following Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs):

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- NHS Knowsley CCG;
- NHS Liverpool CCG;
- NHS South Sefton CCG; and
- NHS Southport and Formby CCG.

The briefing paper presented the case for change for a re-design of hyper-acute stroke services across the North Mersey area, proposing the adoption of a new model of care that would transform health outcomes, meet clinical standards and eliminate unwarranted variation for the population.

Throughout the year the Sefton CCGs have also submitted statistics to the Committee on Health Provider Performance which has enabled us to scrutinise the key performance areas of our local NHS Hospital Trusts, including the Friends and Family Test and A&E monitoring for both Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and Aintree University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. These statistics have been particularly useful in scrutinising services during winter pressures. We raised concerns regarding transient ischaemic attack (TIA) (mini stroke) performance at Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and the Chief Operating Officer attended a meeting to discuss performance figures at the Trust.

I am grateful to Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for both the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups, and her staff, for their input into the work of the Committee and their attendance at Committee meetings.

NHS Trusts / Partners

Throughout 2019/20 the Committee received reports and presentations on work and activities undertaken by certain NHS organisations. Attendance at meetings by senior NHS representatives has enabled Committee Members to scrutinise NHS performance in the following areas:

- Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust; and
- Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, on the merger of Aintree, Broadgreen and the Royal Liverpool Hospitals.

I was very pleased that the Deputy Chief Executive and Medical Director for Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and the Chief Executive for Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust attended Committee meetings during the year, and I look forward to establishing a good working relationship between those Trusts and the Committee.

Towards the end of 2019/20 both myself and my Vice-Chair, Councillor Roscoe, also visited the new Chief Executive for Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust and I hope we will be able to develop this working relationship during the year ahead.

Adult Social Care

During the year, Committee Members received an informal training session from Deborah Butcher, Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health, on Adult Social Care in Sefton. The training included performance; budget; legal duties; commissioning; safeguarding of adults; strengths-based practice; Adult Social Care Teams; the current structure of Adult Social Care management; and challenges, including managing demand. This training also provided Members with an opportunity to raise a range of questions and issues about the Adult Social Care services and function.

I am grateful to Deborah Butcher and her Teams, for their input and their attendance at Committee meetings. I hope the Committee will be able to focus more on Adult Social Care in the forthcoming year and I look forward to receiving Deborah's reports in the future.

Public Health

During 2019/20 the Committee received a report on the Public Health Annual Report on the issue of air quality in Sefton. The annual report had been produced as a short animation, the aim of which was to present complex information in an accessible, engaging and transparent format which was easy to disseminate and could reach a broad audience.

Throughout the year the Committee also received reports on the following aspects of the Council's Public Health function:

- Progress Update on the Development of a New Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Sefton 2020-2025; and
- Community Substance Use.

I am very grateful to Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, and her Team for keeping the Committee informed of Public Health developments during 2019/20.

Other Items

During the year we received a report from the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer on "Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities". It was agreed that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny would be included within the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting in the future.

The Committee also received a presentation from a representative of the Council's Strategic Support Team on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA), and Members were very interested to hear about the links from the JSNA to health and wellbeing.

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Following on from the motion to declare a Climate Emergency, as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 18 July 2019, the Committee received a joint report from the Head of Corporate Resources and the Executive Director. Work had progressed on developing a programme structure, strategy and initial implementation plan for delivery of the motion and its objectives. In order to further inform this work, a baseline position was required across the Council of work that was currently underway or planned that could contribute to the Council achieving the aims of the motion. The Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources, attended the meeting to provide a presentation to Members on the Climate Emergency. A further presentation was provided at the following meeting on climate emergency information and initial baseline results, including initial results against adult social care.

I look forward to seeing further developments on this important topic during 2020/21.

Scrutiny Review Working Groups

The Committee did not establish any working groups during 2019/20, although we will consider whether there is a need during the next Municipal Year.

Site Visit

Towards the beginning of 2019/20, a site visit took place to the Aintree University Hospital, which has since become part of the Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, following the merger of Aintree, Broadgreen and the Royal Liverpool Hospitals. Members met with the Chief Nurse and other senior managers for an overview of developments at the Trust and were provided with a tour of the Emergency Department, together with a tour of a ward for older people. Finally, Members were able to hold private discussions with Aintree Governors. Unfortunately, I was unable to attend the visit myself, although I did receive positive feedback from those Members who were present.

Pre-Scrutiny and the Key Decision Forward Plan

As ever, the Key Decision Forward Plan provided the Committee with an opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decision items from the Council's Forward Plans, as each of the latest Forward Plans are submitted to the Committee as part of its Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by allowing Overview and Scrutiny Committees to examine issues beforehand and make recommendations prior to a determination being made by the Executive.

Cabinet Member Reports

The regular attendance at Committee meetings of both Councillor Paul Cummins, Cabinet Member - Health and Social Care, and Councillor Ian Moncur, Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing, has been very much appreciated by Members of the Committee. Throughout the year all the relevant Cabinet Member Update Reports have been included on agendas and I feel that it is particularly important to



include regular updates on major areas of the Council's activities, particularly as budgets have become increasingly under pressure. The Cabinet Member Update Reports have included a wealth of valuable information on aspects of the services and the Cabinet Members' attendance, together with the presence of senior officers from both the Council's Adult Social Care and Public Health service areas, has been very useful, providing Members with an opportunity to raise question and scrutinise developments within those Council Portfolio areas. I hope to develop scrutiny opportunities in these areas during the next Municipal Year.

Sefton Healthwatch

Back in 2014/15 the Committee was fortunate in securing the services of two Advisory Members from Healthwatch Sefton who bring additional experience and expertise to the table, and this good practice has continued into 2018/19.

Myself and my Vice-Chair have met informally with the Healthwatch representatives on a regular basis, together with the Manager of the Organisation, and these informal meetings have proved to be very useful, enabling us to discuss a range of issues and strengthen the excellent working relationship between Healthwatch Sefton and the Committee. We have also been able to use these informal meetings to plan ahead for Committee work, such as the scrutiny of draft Quality Accounts.

I am very grateful to both our Healthwatch co-opted Members for their valuable input into the work of the Committee and their attendance at Committee meetings.

Contributions Made During 2019/20

The attendance of representatives of organisations and partners, including senior officers of NHS Trusts, has been much appreciated and I would like to thank all our partners for their openness and their responses to our requests and suggestions. I have also appreciated the advice and support of Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for both the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs); Deborah Butcher, the Council's Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health; and Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, during 2019/20.

I am grateful to all the Members of the Committee for their support and for the enthusiastic way that they have contributed to our work. I would specifically like to thank my Vice-Chair during 2018/19, Councillor Diane Roscoe, for her help and assistance with the work of the Committee. During the year she has accompanied me to meet with the Chief Executive for Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust on an informal basis and this has helped forge closer working relationships between the Trust and the Committee. Diane has also attended informal meetings with Healthwatch representatives, and this has assisted in strengthening the excellent working relationship between Healthwatch Sefton and the Committee.

My particular appreciation goes to our Democratic Services Officers for their commitment, advice and support. Without them the work of Overview and Scrutiny could not take place. Specific thanks must go to the officer who supports the

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Committee, Debbie Campbell, Senior Democratic Services Officer, for her hard work, dedication and patience.

Coronavirus and the Response to COVID-19

I cannot end my Annual Report without mentioning coronavirus and the pandemic that has dominated the news during 2020. Throughout the lock-down we were told to “Stay home. Protect the NHS. Save lives.” Please can I send out a huge thank you, not just to the health workers both in our region and nationally, but also to the carers who continued to go to work, both in care homes and within the community, to look after our most vulnerable residents during the crisis. We are indebted to these key workers and coronavirus has highlighted just how important these services really are. My thoughts are with the family and friends of those who have lost loved ones to COVID-19.

I hope that we can begin to look forward to a less stressful time in adult social care and health services in the months and years ahead. We need to continue to support services whilst they move forward and return to something approaching normality.

The Year Ahead

Looking ahead to 2020/21, there may be potential for some Health Scrutiny work in the following areas, although this work may have fallen behind during the coronavirus crisis:

- Review of Hyper-Acute Stroke Services;
- Southport and Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust - The Acute Sustainability Programme; and
- North Mersey Urgent Care Review.

There is also the potential merger of the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) in North Merseyside. Whilst such a change would not formally require a consultation, it is essential as part of the approval process and I would anticipate updates from the CCGs.

We may also hear from Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust, regarding the Trust’s plans for the Low Secure Unit Project.

With on-going pressures on social care and health services at a time when public expectations remain high, I am aware that the Committee faces fresh challenges at the beginning of each new Municipal Year and this year could see exceptional challenges. Despite these challenges, I am confident that the Committee will rise to meet the expectations on it and that Members will be kept fully informed and continue to play an active role on the Committee. The coronavirus has dominated available resources and it may be some considerable time before services are anywhere near fully recovered and able to function as something approaching normal.

Councillor Mhairi Doyle
September 2020



Children's Services and Safeguarding



Councillor Paula Murphy
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Children's Services and Safeguarding)

I am pleased to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Annual Report 2019/20 to the Council.

Meetings

During 2019/20 the Committee met formally on six occasions. This included a special meeting, details of which are below.

Special Meeting – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Review

At the beginning of the Municipal Year a Special Meeting of the Committee considered the outcome of the Ofsted and Care Quality Commission (CQC) joint local area special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND) re-visit. This had been undertaken in Sefton during April 2019 and the revisit was a follow-up to the SEND Inspection held in 2016. The re-visit had highlighted that partner agencies needed to significantly improve outcomes for children and young people and support parents and carers through improvements to joint working, transparency and health system responsibility.

There had been five areas of weakness identified at the time of the initial inspection during November 2016, as follows:

- Poor progress made from starting points by pupils with a statement of special educational needs, or an Education Health and Care (EHC) Plan at Key Stages 2 and 4.
- Poor operational oversight of the Designated Clinical Officer across health services in supporting children and young people who have special educational needs and/or disabilities and their families.
- Lack of awareness and understanding of health professionals in terms of their responsibilities and contribution to Education Health and Care Plans.
- Weakness of co-production with parents, and more generally in communications with parents.

- Weakness of joint commissioning in ensuring that there are adequate services to meet local demand.

Inspectors had found that sufficient progress had not been made to improve in the areas of weakness identified at the time of the initial inspection and considered that local area leaders had not made sufficient progress to improve each of the serious weaknesses identified.

Since the outcome of the re-visit, a Joint SEND Continuous Improvement Board (SENDICIB) had been established and has ensured that an Improvement Plan is in place to respond to the partner weaknesses, including action taken to recruit to vacant and additional posts created to meet the Education and EHC Plans 20-week statutory timescale for production of EHC Plans and to manage the backlog.

Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) were also invited to attend our Special Meeting, as the system supported children and young people aged 0 to 25.

At the Special Meeting, the Committee also heard from representatives of the partner agencies, including Dwayne Johnson, Chief Executive; Fiona Taylor, Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG; Lisa Cooper, Director of Community and Mental Health, Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust; and Kerrie France, Assistant Clinical Director, North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust.

The Committee agreed that the Improvement Plan would be submitted to a future meeting. Subsequent to the meeting, the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board requested this Committee to monitor progress against the Improvement Plan on a quarterly basis, commencing in January 2020.

The Health and Wellbeing Board continues to hold the system to account and this Committee provides robust challenge and additional scrutiny of the process.

Since the Special Meeting, the Committee has received information on the SEND Continuous Improvement Plan which has been agreed by the Department for Education (DfE) and has been published on the Local Offer. Progress against the Plan will continue to be monitored by the Committee on a quarterly basis, including updates on actions taken and progress made regarding the improvements required. The Improvement Notice issued to the Council by the DfE will remain in place for a minimum of 18 months.

I hope that we will see improvements to the SEND service in the months ahead.

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Working Groups

Joint Working Group – Post-16 SEND Provision Working Group

During 2018/19, the Committee had established a Joint Working Group with Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills). Councillors Dowd, Michael O'Brien, Brenda O'Brien and Spencer were appointed to the Working Group. Councillor Spencer was appointed as the Lead Member of the Working Group, and subsequently, Councillor Dowd was appointed as Interim Lead Member of the Working Group for the purpose of producing and presenting the Final Report.

The Working Group considered the home to school/college transport provision for young people with SEND, as provided by the Council's Specialist Transport Unit (STU). This enables the young people concerned to access education and training. Working Group Members also broadened the scope of the joint review from the post-19 age group, in order to consider arrangements for the wider post-16 age category and the Working Group focussed on the possibility of offering Independent Travel Training.

The link to the Working Group report is below:

<https://modgov.sefton.gov.uk/ecSDDisplay.aspx?NAME=SD2725&ID=2725&RPID=25603479>

The Committee agreed the recommendations contained within the report and I look forward to receiving an annual report/update on progress made regarding Independent Travel Training, together with up-take of Personal Transport Budgets.

Working Group – Persistent Pupil Absence

During 2019/20, the Committee established a Working Group to review the topic of persistent pupil absence. Councillors Bennett, Carragher, Keith and Mrs. Sandra Cain, Independent Advisory Member, were appointed to serve on the working group and Councillor Carragher was appointed as the Lead Member of the Working Group. The Working Group undertook a number of site visits, that included the Council's Complimentary Education Service, Formby; the Jigsaw Primary Pupil Referral Unit, Thornton; and Newfield School, Edge Lane, Thornton.

Initially, the Working Group indicated that it would like to focus on persistent absentees in primary schools as the Sefton figure exceeds the regional and national averages. It was also considered that children who are persistently absent in primary school are unlikely to improve during secondary school. However, as work progressed, the focus shifted towards the transition from primary to high schools.

Unfortunately, the progress of the Working Group was curtailed by the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic and I hope that the work will be completed during 2020/21.



Reports/Presentations from the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs)

The Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are made up of local doctors, nurses, practice staff and lay members who are well placed to know the health needs and views of people living in the area. The CCGs are responsible for planning and buying, or “commissioning”, the majority of local health services that local residents may need.

Care Quality Commission Report – Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Sefton – Presentations by the CCGs

During 2018/19, I had requested the inclusion of a report by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) on the findings of the review of health services in safeguarding and looked after children services in Sefton. The report focussed on the experiences and outcomes for children within the local authority area and reported on the performance of the health providers serving the area, including the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and Local Authority Teams. The report set out a number of recommendations for various bodies and requested an action plan.

In July 2019, the Committee received a presentation providing an update on actions being undertaken since the Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Sefton. This included progress against the 245 actions and the 23 sub-actions that remained “red”, or outstanding, together with anticipated dates for completion. We also heard that a number of Providers were involved in the delivery of the Service and that the Service and the improvements required were a priority. The position was complex regarding out-of-Borough placements and work was being undertaken on quality assurance for such placements.

In March 2020, the Committee received a further presentation providing an update on actions being undertaken since the CQC Review of Looked After Children and Safeguarding in Sefton. Progress on actions remaining “red” or outstanding; and on the task and finish group that would review the management and oversight of the action planning process, was reported.

I look forward to receiving further updates on the progress of actions being undertaken since the Review of Health Services for Children Looked After and Safeguarding in Sefton, during 2020/21.

Other Items Submitted by the CCGs

Throughout 2019/20 the Committee also received joint updates from NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, on the following issues:

- Development of the NHS Sefton Five Year Place Plan – engagement and comment;
- Sefton Community Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) – update, details of CCG commissioned services, and future developments;

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- Performance Reports for Key Children's Services – including waiting times for services;

I am grateful to Fiona Taylor, the Chief Officer for NHS South Sefton CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG, and her staff for their contributions towards the work of the Committee and their willingness to attend meetings to respond to questions put by Members.

Reports/Presentations on Children's Social Care

The Council's Children's Services aims to provide services to promote and safeguard the welfare of children.

During 2019/20 the Committee received and considered reports on the following aspects of Children's Social Care:

- Children's Social Care Annual Report;
- Fostering Service Annual Report;
- Children and Young People's Plan 2020 – 2025;
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection of the Multi-Agency Response to Children's Mental Health;
- Corporate Parenting Role of Elected Members;
- Bi-Annual Report and Review of Children's Social Care Improvement Plan; and
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Evaluation.

Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI)

In relation to the Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of the Multi-Agency Response to Children's Mental Health, representatives of the key partner agencies involved attended a meeting to present the findings of the JTAI and outline the actions required. In addition to officers representing Children's Social Care and Communities from the Council, representatives of NHS South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and NHS Southport and Formby CCG and Merseyside Police also attended. I am grateful that representatives of the key partner agencies attended our meeting to respond to questions put by Members of the Committee.

I would like to place on record my appreciation of the contribution made by Vicky Buchanan, Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education, and her Children's Social Care Teams towards the work of the Committee.

Report on Schools

The Education Excellence service within the Council provides a range of statutory and support services for schools to ensure pupils have the best opportunity to achieve.

During the year the Committee considered a report on the Children and Young Peoples Plan 2015- 2020 - Priority One – Yearly Review of Educational Attainment Level. This report set out on progress against Priority One of the four priority areas of the current Plan, namely "To ensure that all children and young people have a positive

educational experience”. The report set out educational attainment in Sefton, broken down into Nursery and Primary; Secondary and Special Schools Key Stage 4; and post-16 education. Actions undertaken by the local authority to support and challenge schools appropriately were also outlined. Although the performance of a number of secondary schools within the Borough has been a cause for concern for some time, it is pleasing to know that work does take place with most secondary academies to support and challenge them.

I am grateful to Tricia Davies, Interim Head of Education, and her Team for their contribution towards the work of the Committee.

Reports/Presentations on Public Health

Sefton Council's Public Health Team works to protect and improve health and wellbeing and to reduce health inequalities of local Sefton residents.

During 2019/20 the Committee received information on a variety of initiatives undertaken by the Council's Public Health Team that affect the children and young people of our Borough, details of which are outlined within the paragraphs below, together with some of the work undertaken with our partner organisations.

Public Health Annual Report (PHAR)

In 2019/20 the Committee received the Public Health Annual Report (PHAR), an independent annual report of the Director of Public Health, that had been produced as a short animation. The aim of this was to present complex information in an accessible, engaging and transparent format which was easy to disseminate and could reach a broad audience. This year the PHAR explored the issue of air quality in Sefton and explained the rationale for focussing on air quality; progress made to date; goals; other key people and organisations the Council needed to work with in this area; calls for action; and publication and dissemination of the finalised PHAR.

I look forward to hearing more regarding the work being undertaken to improve air quality within the Borough, particularly the important on-going work to raise awareness and to utilise our children and young people's enthusiasm within schools.

Health and Wellbeing Strategy

During the year we also received an update from the Director of Public Health on the development of a new Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy for Sefton for 2020 – 2025, that was a legal duty under the Health and Social Care Act 2012. Development of the Strategy was shared by both the local authority and the Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and was overseen by the Council's Health and Wellbeing Board. The report set out the background to the matter, together with the process and progress of the new Strategy; the policy context; public engagement; the proposed structure and content of the Strategy; areas that could benefit from further development; underlying assumptions and principles; the proposed outline; implementation, governance and oversight; and the next steps to be taken.



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Mental Wellbeing in Schools

The Committee also received a report from the Director of Public Health providing an update on mental wellbeing in Sefton schools, including activity being undertaken in schools; sharing findings of a school's wellbeing survey; and details of the new Kooth service, an early intervention resource. The report set out the background to the matter, together with key findings by the Liverpool John Moores University and the next steps to be taken. The Committee also received a presentation on the matter from the Public Health Lead, on mental resilience in Sefton schools. We heard that the Kooth service had been procured and was an early intervention resource which targeted improvements in young people's emotional and mental wellbeing. The service complimented and was part of the Borough-wide THRIVE approach, that would provide the future pathway for Children and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS). We also heard that the Amparo suicide support service had been commissioned and had worked with a variety of schools within the Borough. In addition, a wellbeing Toolkit was currently being developed for schools and colleges.

I do appreciate the contributions made by Matt Ashton, the former Director of Public Health, and his Team for the contributions they have made towards the work of the Committee and I look forward to working further with Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, during 2020/21.

Breastfeeding Update

During 2019/20, the Committee also received a presentation from Infant Feeding staff at the North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, proving an update on breastfeeding including the benefits; how Sefton compares; action being taken to improve breastfeeding rates; support available; collaboration; and local challenges.

We heard that breastfeeding was a significant public health priority; and that Sefton's breastfeeding rates were below the regional and national averages and that maintenance was an issue. Members were also concerned that there was some disparity in support services experienced by women from different local authorities at Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust, with some new mothers unable to access certain maternity services depending on where they live. The Cheshire and Mersey Infant Feeding initiative had identified this disparity and hopefully, this will be addressed.

Breastfeeding, of course, is a contributory factor of one of the four key priorities within the Children and Young People's Plan, namely to "ensure all children have a healthy start in life". Committee Members considered that it would be useful to receive a further update on breastfeeding in Sefton in about twelve months' time and I hope that this will be included within the Committee's Work Programme for 2020/21.

I am very much obliged to the Infant Feeding staff at the North West Boroughs Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust for attending the Committee and updating Members on this important piece of work. I hope they will be able to attend a Committee meeting during 2020/21 to report on improvements to Sefton's breastfeeding rates.

Reports/Presentations from Corporate Resources

Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) Select Committee Report

In 2018/19 the Committee had received a report on the Government's response to the DCLG Select Committee Report on "Effectiveness of Local Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committees. During November 2019, the Committee received a report on "Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities", on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny.

As a result of the report, the Committee agreed to the following:

- Overview and Scrutiny Working Group Final Reports and recommendations be submitted to Cabinet and then Council for final approval;
- updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Scrutiny be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting; and
- each Overview and Scrutiny Working Group consider if it is appropriate to seek the views of the general public on the matter under their consideration.

Climate Emergency

Following on from the motion to declare a Climate Emergency, as agreed by the Council at its meeting on 18 July 2019, the Committee received a joint report from the Head of Corporate Resources and the Executive Director. Work had progressed on developing a programme structure, strategy and initial implementation plan for delivery of the motion and its objectives. In order to further inform this work, a baseline position was required across the Council of work that was currently underway or planned that could contribute to the Council achieving the aims of the motion. The Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources, attended the meeting to provide a presentation to Members on the Climate Emergency. A further presentation was provided at the following meeting on climate emergency information and initial baseline results, including initial results against children's services.

I look forward to seeing further developments on this important topic during 2020/21.

Cabinet Member Reports

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board had previously agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports for the Children, Schools and Safeguarding Portfolio to be submitted to the appropriate

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Overview and Scrutiny Committee. During 2019/20, the Cabinet Member Update Reports have been included on Committee agendas for general information purposes for Members of the Committee.

Items considered within Cabinet Member reports have included issues relating to:

- Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) - Re-visit Letter / Notice to Improve;
- Office of the Schools Adjudicator Annual Return;
- Ofsted Inspection Outcome;
- Family Health and Wellbeing Centres and Early Help Update;
- Budget Monitoring – Schools Outturn 2018/19 and Forecast;
- Joint Targeted Area Inspection (JTAI) of services for children in Sefton;
- Strengthening Families;
- Education Excellence;
- Early Help Strategy;
- St. Teresa’s Catholic Infant and Nursery School – Consultation; and
- Sefton and Knowsley Youth Music Hub.

Councillor John Joseph Kelly, the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families, attended meetings of the Committee during 2019/20 to present his Update Report, and I would like to place on record my thanks to the Cabinet Member for his regular update reports to our Committee, which have greatly assisted the Committee in keeping abreast of issues within the Children, Schools and Safeguarding Portfolio. The update reports are much appreciated by all the Committee Members. I am also grateful to him for his on-going support and commitment towards the Scrutiny function.

Pre-Scrutiny and the Key Decision Forward Plan

The Key Decision Forward Plan provides the Committee with an opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decision items from the Council’s Forward Plan, as the latest Forward Plan is submitted to the Committee as part of its Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet and Cabinet Members in making effective decisions as it allows Overview and Scrutiny Committees to examine issues and make recommendations prior to the executive decision being made.

I am pleased that Committee Members were presented with an on-going opportunity to pre-scrutinise Key Decisions relating to the Children, Schools and Families Portfolio.

Front-Line Visits by Elected Members

During 2018/19 a report was considered by the Committee on Enhancing Elected Member Involvement with Children’s Social Care that called for the provision of opportunities for a wider range of Members to engage with Children’s Social Care, to enhance understanding of front-line delivery. Subsequent to this, opportunities for visits to front-line teams became available to individual Members during 2019/20. These included visits to the following service areas:

- Locality South Team and Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH);
- Locality Central Team based in Netherton Activity Centre;
- Locality North Team based in Southport Town Hall;
- Corporate Parenting Social Work Teams based in Magdalen House, Bootle;
- Corporate Parenting Fostering Team based in Magdalen House, Bootle.

These visits have provided an opportunity for individual Members to have discussions with team managers and team members that include issues such as the staffing situation (vacancies, experience, skills, attendance levels); workloads and performance monitoring (outcomes for children); and staff support systems (IT, office accommodation and communication). I have found these visits to be a very interesting and informative experience as they have proved to be an effective method of seeing services in action, first hand, and to take back any issues raised. I am pleased other Members of the Committee have agreed to undertake such visits and I am grateful to them for volunteering. I hope these visits may be able to continue in 2020/21.

Co-Opted Members

The Committee has the following representatives as part of its membership:

- 1 Church of England diocese representative;
- 1 Roman Catholic archdiocese representative;
- 2 parent governor representatives;
- 2 advisory members from Healthwatch Sefton; and
- 1 independent advisory member.

All our co-opted members regularly attend the Committee to contribute towards debates and bring additional experience and expertise to the table. I would like to thank all our Added Members for their attendance and contributions during 2019/20, as it is very much appreciated.

During 2019/20 we welcomed Maurice Byrne as our second representative from Healthwatch Sefton and I look forward to forging even greater co-operation and links with Healthwatch during the next Municipal Year. We also welcomed Claire McDonough, our new Parent Governor Representative, onto the Committee and I look forward to working more closely with her during 2020/21.

Coronavirus and the Response to COVID-19

The end of the Municipal Year saw the closure of schools for most pupils with the inevitable disruption this has brought to education and examinations. I would like to extend my thanks to schools and their staff for remaining open to receive the children of key workers and for vulnerable children, whilst providing on-line learning and support to parents and children at home. Free school meals and food vouchers continued to be provided to those who needed them. Children with special educational needs and disabilities, and also vulnerable children, continued to receive support and I am grateful to the staff within the Council and other settings for providing this. During lockdown, throughout the Borough we saw pictures of rainbows placed in windows by

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our younger children to convey a message of hope, together with teddy bears and other soft toys, in order to provide a fun activity for children undertaking a “bear hunt” during their daily walk.

As we move forward, I am pleased that children have now been able to resume their education and I hope they continue to thrive.

Thanks and Acknowledgements

I am particularly appreciative of our Democratic Services Officers for their commitment, advice and support. Our responsible officer is Debbie Campbell, Senior Democratic Services Officer, and I am grateful for the contributions she has made during 2019/20 towards the smooth running of the Committee.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all Committee Members, officers and partners for their support, hard work and contributions to our endeavours throughout the year.

Special thanks must go to Vicky Buchanan, Executive Director of Children’s Social Care and Education, for her hard work, commitment and patience in contributing towards the work of the Committee and ensuring that the service is as effective as it possibly can be.

The Year Ahead – 2020/21

I am sure that the Committee will look forward to the new Municipal Year as it works as a “critical friend” to our Cabinet Member and partners. The Committee will be examining a number of key areas during 2020/21 in order to ensure that the services we provide are continually improved to benefit all who live and work in the Borough, particularly children and young people.

I am conscious that the response to COVID-19 has dominated the way services are provided to children and we may need to take this into account in prioritising items during the new Municipal Year.

Councillor Paula Murphy
September 2020

Regeneration and Skills



Councillor John Sayers
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Regeneration and Skills)

It gives me great pleasure to introduce Sefton Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) Annual Report 2019/20.

During the year the Committee has met five times and considered matters relating to: The Annual Monitoring of Housing Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes; The Post-16 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision Working Group; The Homelessness Annual Report 2018/19; The Digital Inclusion Working Group; Sefton Economic Strategy; Refuse Collection, Recycling and Food Waste; The Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan; Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities; Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Annual; Green Sefton Update report to Overview and Scrutiny; The Review of Social Housing Allocations; Climate Emergency; and The Borough of Culture 2020

The Committee received many presentations and this enabled Members to engage with colleagues from within and outside of the Council on topics referred to later in this report.

The Committee also received regular Work Programme and Cabinet Member update reports; and I would like to take the opportunity to thank Councillor Hardy, Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing, Councillor Veidman, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control, Councillor Fairclough, Cabinet Member – Locality Services and Councillor Atkinson, Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills for their regular and informative update reports. I would like to thank Councillor Atkinson in particular for her regular attendance at meetings to answer questions from Members.

REPORTS

Annual Monitoring of Housing Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing on the annual monitoring of Housing Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes. The report indicated that three new licensing schemes came into force on 1 March 2018; that one selective licensing scheme covered the majority of Bootle that required all privately rented premises to be licensed, and two Additional (HMO)



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licensing schemes in both central Southport and areas of Waterloo, Seaforth and Brighton-le-Sands, that required all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMOs) to be licensed; that the agreed Performance Framework allowed the Council to monitor and test whether the Selective and Additional (HMO) Licensing Schemes were having an impact on improving the Licensing Neighbourhoods and private rented accommodation within them; that the Council had approved a “business case”, which set out its justification for introducing licensing schemes and that to justify the proposed schemes for Sefton it was argued that licensing of private rented homes would lead to better management of these homes.

Towards the end of the 5-year life of its schemes, the Council would need to consider whether it needed to extend the life of these schemes, and if it did, it would need to justify this through a new business case. Almost certainly, the Council would need the evidence that its schemes were having a positive impact. Therefore, the performance framework was an essential tool, both to monitor the effects of licensing and to help justify any extension of the life of its schemes, should it wish to do so.

The report also provided information on the implementation of the Licensing Schemes Performance Framework and detailed the monitoring factors and the progress made against each factor as at 28 February 2019; and detailed feedback from tenants and landlords.

Homelessness Annual Report 2018/19

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing that presented the ‘Annual Report on Levels of Homelessness in Sefton 2018/19’; and in particular, which drew attention to the sorts of data provided and how the data in the Annual Report was presented.

The report indicated that Sefton’s published Homelessness and Rough Sleeping Strategy 2018-23 contained an action to,

‘Publish an annual report explaining the current levels of homelessness, to aid elected councillor and chief officer decision making, and to,

Carry out an in-depth analysis of data collected by the Homelessness Case Level Information Classification monitoring system (H-CLIC).’

that in July 2019, the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing approved the Homelessness Annual Report 2018/19; and that the Annual Report allowed Sefton to present a picture of homelessness within the borough over the last year, and provide a baseline for future annual reports in so that Sefton could track the performance and impact on services since the introduction of the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

The report concluded that following approval of the Annual Report the Cabinet Member also recommended that it be forwarded to this Committee for further scrutiny and that it be noted as an example of good practice as to how a service area could present and report on its data.

Sefton Economic Strategy Update



The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing that updated on work relating to the production of the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan for final approval by Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills.

The report indicated that the Sefton Economic Assessment, a factual statement of the borough's strengths and weaknesses, opportunities and threats, was approved by Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills on 9 March 2017 together with a draft Strategic Framework for Action, or the building blocks of the Strategy; that a business and public consultation exercise was undertaken which produced an excellent response with a total of 189 returns received through focus groups, online surveys, telephone contacts and written returns; that the strategy's focus on inclusive growth, which encompassed wellbeing, housing and infrastructure helped generate a larger response from residents (49%) and Sefton's business community (30%) and that there was also a good geographical split of responses; and that details of the responses were outlined in paragraph of the report.

The report also indicated that the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan would focus attention on Priority Actions and Key Outcomes with the actions focussing on 7 key priorities and objectives under Places, People and Productivity with an overarching aim of achieving Inclusive Growth for the benefit of Sefton's communities; that the Action Plan would be a working document that could be reviewed, challenged and updated on a regular basis; and that it would be underpinned by a robust Performance Framework developed through the commissioned assessment work and supplemented by more up to date and ongoing analysis from the Executive Directors and officers.

The report concluded by seeking the Comments of the Committee on the Sefton Economic Strategy Action Plan.

Refuse Collection, Recycling and Food Waste - Update

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Locality Services that provide an update on refuse collection, recycling and the suspension of food waste collections during 2018 / 2019.

The report indicated that the waste collection operation within the Council's Cleansing Services Section consisted of three strands:

- Waste which cannot be recycled (collected via black sack or grey wheeled bin)
- Waste which can be recycled (collected via hessian sack or brown wheeled bin)
- Green 'Garden' Waste (collected via green wheeled bin) a seasonal operation (March to end November)

And that in February 2019 elected Members determined to suspend food waste collections from June 2019 due to falling rates of collection / tonnages.

The report also indicated that it had now been just over three years since the dry recycling service was brought in-house, and a number of interesting outcomes had become apparent since the service was changed to fully comingled operation on 1

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August 2016; one such outcome being that the anticipated extra tonnages of recycled materials had not materialised and recycling performance across the Council had somewhat slightly reversed at just over 38%. However, evidence from Merseyside recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA) showed that Sefton achieved the highest recycling rates of all other Liverpool City Region Councils. The report also indicated that the green (garden) waste service had improved dramatically over the last period and tonnages of collected waste levels were around 20,000 tonnes per year. In respect of household waste collections, in 2018/2019 the amount collected increased over the previous twelve months by approximately 900 tonnes; and that in 2018/19 the service collected just over 108,000 tonnes in total, which was approximately 1% above the total tonnage generated in 2015/ 2016.

The report also detailed current issues within refuse, recycling and green waste services and provided additional information relating to refuse collection/ recycling/green (garden) waste and food waste collections; and concluded that despite severe reductions in budget since 2010 across the waste collection service these reductions had overall been found via efficiencies alone as the Council was still required to collect refuse or empty bins from every property across the Borough; that Locality Services (Cleansing) would continue to seek ways to use its expenditure in a smarter and more efficient manner, however, given the proposed increase in new properties forecast between now and 2026, there would be considerable additional pressure placed upon the service for which solutions for the future operation and funding of the required services would be necessary; and that the service would continue to welcome observations, comments and suggestions from any interested party or parties relating to the provision or operation of any aspect of the refuse and recycling collection services.

Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Highways and Public Protection that sought consideration and approval of the revised Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan policy document for 2019/20.

The report indicated that the Council provided a Highway Winter Service to the Borough in accordance with the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan; that officers monitored the weather conditions 24 hours a day throughout the winter season and enacted the plan when weather conditions dictated; that the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003 (section 111) had inserted an additional section 41(1A) to the Highways Act 1980 which placed a duty on Highway Authorities in respect of winter conditions, and stated 'In particular, a Highway Authority was under duty to ensure, as far as reasonably practicable, that safe passage along a highway was not endangered by snow or ice'; and that in addition, the Traffic Management Act 2004 placed a Statutory Network Management Duty on all local traffic authorities in England requiring authorities to do all that was reasonably practicable to manage the network effectively to keep traffic moving.

The report also indicated that the Winter Service Policy and Operational Plan was subject to an annual review, reassessment and consultation; that as part of this and in accordance with Cabinet Member's wishes, a consultation letter was sent to every Elected Member; and that Merseytravel had also been contacted and asked if there had been any revisions to their bus routes since last year.

The report concluded that the Policy was based on guidance provided by the Government in a document entitled 'Well Maintained Highways – Code of Practice for Highway Maintenance Management.'; that a new code of practice was published in 2016 entitled 'Well Managed Highway Infrastructure' which superseded all previous codes; that Guidance relating to practical issues and delivery of the service was now contained within the National Winter Service Research Group (NWSRG) Practical Guidance Documents; that five practical Guidance Documents had been updated and released this year in respect of spread rates, salt storage, spread management, treatments for snow and ice and treatment method and technologies; and that a number of enhancements were made to the Winter Service policy last year through the provision of a new contract which included a new purpose built salt storage facility, capable of holding 3500 tonnes of rocksalt and new gritting vehicles with the latest technology to allow for optimum spread rates.

Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny.

The report indicated that the Government's Statutory Guidance was comprehensive and was set out in the following chapters:

- Culture
- Resourcing
- Selecting Committee Members
- Power to Access Information
- Planning Work
- Evidence Sessions

and that Members' attention was drawn to "Maintaining the interest of full Council in the work of the scrutiny committee" and "Communicating scrutiny's role to the public" where recommendations for change had been made.

The report concluded by detailing the up to date position regarding progress being made regarding the recent Local Government Association peer review in relation to Overview and Scrutiny receiving performance reports.

A copy of the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was attached as an appendix to the report.

Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Annual Report

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Locality Services presenting formally the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Annual Report.

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The report indicated that the Flood and Water Management Act 2010 required that arrangements had to be made to review and scrutinise the exercise by the Council as a Lead Local Flood Risk Authority of its flood risk management functions and coastal erosion risk management functions; and that this Annual Report satisfied that requirement. The report detailed key items of work in relation to:

- Duty to cooperate with other Risk Management Authorities
- Duty to have an up to date Local Flood Risk Strategy
- The undertaking of Sefton's duties as a Riparian owner
- Maintaining a public register on Flood Risk Management Assets
- Responding to major planning applications checking the sustainable drainage systems
- Flood and Coastal Erosion events
- Sefton's Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Strategy Update
- Green Sefton Service delivery
- Resilient Communities
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment
- Working with the Planning Authority
- Asset inspections
- Capital schemes
- Partnership Working
- Merseyside Strategic and Flood Risk Partnership
- North West and North Wales Coastal Groups
- Priorities for the next year including service planning; supporting the delivery of the Local Plan; Crosby Coastal Scheme; Surface Water Management Plan level 2; Fouracres flood risk scheme; Pool watercourse; and the development of a new investment programme post 2021

Appendix 1 to the report provided information on the Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Time and billing review 2018/2019.

The report concluded by seeking comments for submission to the Cabinet Member - Locality Services.

Green Sefton Update report to Overview and Scrutiny

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Locality Services that provided an update on the Green Sefton service progress after its first 18 months of operation.

Information was provided on:

- Green Sefton: a one stop shop for all issues associated with our landscape – from design and development, to management and maintenance and user engagement and community development; and that the service managed about 6,500ha of the landscape of the borough, Sefton's beautiful coast with protected sites, to a range of parks, greenspaces, outdoor sports and recreational sites, allotments, street trees etc.
- What our communities valued about Sefton and the Sefton 2030 Vision

- Sustainable aspects of Green Sefton to meet the needs and aspirations of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs
- Green Sefton values
- Positive aspects of the Green Sefton service in relation to staff working as one flexible team with a new service culture; and Innovative schemes such as insourcing cemeteries and crematoriums grounds maintenance, social investment proposals (e.g. Coronation Park)
- Income and growth issues associated with developing Sefton's golf offer; Making use of Sefton's assets; expansion of natural alternatives; and commercialisation and the approval of five growth proposals (£339k 19/20) with another 43 in the pipeline
- Key challenges affecting the Green Sefton service relating to reduced staffing levels, climate change and succession planning
- Looking forward to the future to deliver the service plan and vision which was directly linked to Sefton 2030; and to ultimately be a self-funding service by 2030,

The report indicated that Green Sefton brought together the former Coast and Countryside, Parks and Greenspaces, Flooding and Coastal Erosion and Risk Management services to ensure a joined-up approach to the vital management, development and oversight of Sefton's coastline, parks and green spaces; that the creation of Green Sefton was part of PSR 7, and its aim was to:

- Improve the way we manage Sefton's natural assets
- Provide a single point of contact and enable more efficient and effective use of resources and offer potential to create new opportunities for income generation
- Enable more community cohesion
- Offer further opportunities for volunteers, residents and other organisations
- Create a more focussed collaborative approach to the management, development and oversight of our coastline, parks and green spaces.
- Manage all land assets (excluding highways) in one portfolio

and provided an update on the development of the service since its creation in April 2018 in relation to strategy and service planning; finance; staffing; risk management; asset management; community engagement; contractual and commissioning; policy and procedures; health and safety; ICT systems; and communications.

The report concluded by seeking comments for referral to the Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member - Locality Services for consideration.

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Review of Social Housing Allocations

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing that detailed the results of an exercise to review the Social Housing Allocations policy and procedure; that provided information on the findings, recommendations and next steps arising from the review; and which sought the Committee's comments on the review.

The report indicated that the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, on behalf of the 5 Local Authorities who participate in Property Pool Plus (PPP), a sub-regional Choice Based Lettings social housing allocation scheme, and St. Helens Council (who operated Under One Roof -U1R), had commissioned Neil Morland & Co (NM&Co) to carry out a review of how social rented housing was allocated across the city region; that the PPP service went 'live' in July 2012 following the introduction of a suitable IT system; and that the local authorities and participating housing associations wished to ensure that the future allocations policy was fit for purpose and supported strategic City Region wide aspirations around access to housing.

To achieve the aim referred to above the principal drivers for undertaking such a policy review included requirements that the policy:

- was legally compliant with relevant Government legislation, in particular the recent introduction of the Homeless Reduction Act 2017, Codes of Guidance, statutory obligations and also has regard to best practice and current case law
- incorporated aims and principles which remained appropriate and relevant
- helped support and deliver good customer service and outcomes and ensured that any proposed changes improved the customer journey
- supported wider system change for homeless people, maximising the number of people in housing need who were successfully housed
- was informed by housing association partner organisation's operational and business needs, in order to promote current and future co-operation and participation in the allocation scheme

The report concluded that NM&Co had completed stage 1 of the review exercise and their report on the findings of the review were attached as an appendix to the report; and the Committee's comments on the review were sought. Neil Morland, NM&Co presented the report's findings to Committee.

Climate Emergency

The Committee considered the joint [report](#) of the Head of Corporate Resources and Executive Director that advised that at the Council, at its meeting held on 18 July 2019, agreed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency and this was attached as Appendix A to this report; that in accordance with the terms of the Council motion, work had progressed on developing a programme structure, strategy and initial implementation plan for delivery of the motion and its objectives; that in order to further inform this work, a baseline position was required across the Council of work that was currently underway or planned that could contribute to the Council achieving the aims of the motion; and that the report provided a summary of work

undertaken to date and the exercise that was required to be led through each Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to establish that baseline position.

The report also advised that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee was being asked to lead an immediate piece of work for completion by the next cycle of meetings that:

- conducted a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions that would inform a comprehensive council wide baseline position;
- Identify all projects that were currently taking place across the council that would support the delivery of the Council's Strategy; and
- Identify potential long-term issues that would need to be addressed for the Council to meet the objectives within the Council motion.

The report concluded that the output from the work referred to above should be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in March/April 2020 and be led by the respective Heads of Service in conjunction with the Committee members and Cabinet Member; and that necessary support would be available from the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Service, the Head of Corporate Resources and the Executive Director in addition to the Council wide officer working group.

The Committee also received a presentation from Stephanie Jukes, Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources and Andrew Walker, Head of Locality Services, on the background to climate change and the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration which included information on:

- Sefton's target of net zero carbon by 2030; and the establishment of a working group and its commencement of work on a strategy, action plan and partnership working
- How Sefton quantified its emissions using the scope of the "Greenhouse Gas Protocol"
- Next steps which included most departments having now received information on the issues associated with the Climate Emergency Declaration, had been tasked with completing an initial scoping exercise and to consider further options

Mr. Walker advised the Committee that in order for the Council to meet the objectives within the Council motion each Overview and Scrutiny Committee was being asked to lead an immediate piece of work for completion by the next cycle of meetings (end of April 2020) that:

- Conducted a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions that would inform a comprehensive council wide baseline position; and
- Identified all projects that were currently taking place across the Council that would support the delivery of the Council's Strategy; and Identified potential long-term issues that would need to be addressed.

and that Heads of Service were on-going with this work on behalf of the Committee.

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Borough of Culture 2020

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Executive Director advising that Sefton would be the Liverpool City Region's Borough of Culture for 2020 and that an outline programme and business plan had been developed for the year following consultation and engagement with partners and communities across the borough; that this feedback recommended a focus on local history and the environment as the two priority areas for the programme, with emphasis in all events, activities and initiatives on participation (inclusive of all communities), permanence (assets, activities and relationships lasting beyond 2020), partnerships (working with partner organisations and communities across the borough), and on engendering local pride in Sefton.

Members of the Committee made reference to the following which could be included in the Borough of Culture programme:

- Alan John Percivale Taylor FBA, a British historian who specialised in 19th and 20th-century European diplomacy; was a journalist and a broadcaster and who became well known through his television lectures, who was born in Birkdale
- the Labour Party Conferences held in Southport in 1930s, at the former Garrick Theatre (now the Mecca bingo hall) that supported a motion for the establishment of the National Health Service
- Dan Dare, a British science fiction comic hero, created by illustrator Frank Hampson who also wrote the first stories. Frank Hampson was educated at King George V School, a grammar school in Southport
- Formby's Viking connection and any assistance that could be gained in this respect from the production company responsible for the HBO series "Vikings"

PRESENTATIONS

Winter Service Operation

The Committee received a presentation from Jerry McConkey, Service Manager – Transportation and Highway Infrastructure on the Council's Winter Service Policy.

Mr. McConkey indicated:

- That the Highways Act 1980 Section 41 and 58 clearly stated that the Highway Authorities had a statutory duty to maintain the highway and must at all times take reasonable care to ensure that the highway was not dangerous and that the standard of maintenance was appropriate for a highway of that character and used by such traffic; that it must also ensure that a competent person must supervise maintenance work, having received proper training with regard to the highway; and provided information on statutory guidance that must be adhered to including the release of 5 new documents in March 2018
- That in response to the statutory guidance the Council had procured a new Winter Contract; had a state of the art gritting fleet; that the gritting fleet was



tracked; that the Council had a purpose built Winter Facility in Netherpton; and had a long term strategy to meet the statutory requirements

- Provided information on gritting statistics which included 10 carriageway gritters covering 8 carriageway routes; that 35 tonnes of salt per call out was used covering 291 miles of carriageway; the salt storage facility for 3500 tonnes, the salt restocking agreement, and the 8 snow ploughing routes and grit bin locations
- Historical data on the number of grits per financial year
- The Policy and Operational Plan and that in the event of a major disruption a regional co-ordinating arrangement would be put in place via Gold Control, chaired by Merseyside Police with senior officer input from the Council
- Technical information relating to spreading rates; and examples of forecast summaries

Climate Emergency - Update Report

The Committee received a presentation from Stephanie Jukes, Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources, on Climate Emergency Information and initial baseline results. The presentation outlined the following:

- Climate Change;
- Greenhouse Effect;
- Carbon;
- Offsetting;
- International Context;
- Quantifying Sefton's Emissions;
- Key Features;
- Scope 1 and 2:
 - Council Operations;
 - How the information was collected and what is included;
 - Big emitters, some examples;
 - What does 15,547 tonnes equate to;
- Scope 3 what is included:
 - Regeneration and Skills;
- Evaluating the Baseline;
- Next Steps;
- Contact Details;
- Why a CO2 Focus; and
- Offsetting - Diagram.

Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority - Service Delivery Plan

The Committee received a presentation and report from Carl Beer, Chief Executive – Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority (MRWA). The report highlighted:

- 162.380 tonnes of waste each year were received at the 15 Household Waste Recycling Centres (HWRC) in Merseyside and Halton. 68% currently recycled and 75% was diverted (including rubble). Target was 52.91% minimising costs by £700,000 this year.



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- The biggest waste management issue across the region, Food waste remained at 39% (148,000 tonnes).
- Textiles discarded in household bins had fallen by almost 4,000 tonnes.

The presentation explained MWRA's Climate Action Plan, and detailed:

- Initial Plan
- Carbon reduction to date
 - Moving to Energy Recovery from Landfill
 - HWRC's recycling
 - Re-use
 - Education
 - Behavioural Change and waste prevention
- Annual carbon performance
 - Metrics
 - Baseline
 - Targets
 - Energy use
 - Solar
 - Renewable supply
 - Energy efficiency – pumps
 - Ending landfill even as contingency
 - Food waste
 - Carbon sequestration project Foul Lane
 - Gas control
 - Veolia 10-year Contract Review
 - Re-use cooperative models
 - Compositional analysis
 - E vehicles
 - Targets
 - Energy use
 - Solar
 - Renewable supply
 - Energy efficiency – pumps
 - Ending landfill even as contingency
 - Food waste
 - Carbon sequestration project Foul Lane
 - Gas control
 - Veolia 10-year Contract Review
 - Re-use cooperative models
 - Compositional analysis
 - E vehicles

WORKING GROUPS

Post-16 Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Provision Working Group - Final Report

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that presented formally the final report of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Provision (SEND) Working Group.



The report indicated that Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) together with this Committee had agreed to establish a Joint Working Group to consider the provision for young people with SEND; that the terms of reference and objectives for the Working Group were "to review post-16 provision for Special Educational Needs and Disability in terms of home to school transport arrangements, as provided by the Council's Specialist Transport Unit (STU)"; and that the Working Group had appointed Councillor Spencer as the Lead Member for the review and that subsequently, it was agreed that Councillor Dowd would be the Interim Lead Member.

Digital Inclusion Working Group – Update on Recommendations The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer setting out progress made against each of the recommendations formulated by the Digital Inclusion Working Group and approved by Cabinet.

The report also indicated that the Head of Economic Growth and Housing had advised that, additional to the responses to the recommendations, Sefton was aligning itself to LCR proposed Digital Programme structure, which would allow easier and better flow of information and ideas, and allow Sefton to move the "whole" Digital agenda forward at a pace.

Cabinet Member Reports

In keeping with previous years and in order to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered the portfolios of the Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing, Cabinet Member – Locality Services, Cabinet Member – Planning and Building Control and Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills. I would like to pay particular thanks to Councillor Atkinson who has been a regular attender at meetings to answer questions from Members of the Committee.

Pre-Scrutiny – The Key Decision Forward Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also been given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Council's Key Decision Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

The Year Ahead

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities over the coming year:

- Flood & Coastal Risk – Annual Report
- Preliminary Flood Risk Assessment Review
- Review of Winter Service and Operational Plan
- Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority – Service Delivery Plan 2020/21

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- United Utilities – Update on Increase in Charges
- Refuse Collection
- Leasehold House Sales
- Sefton’s Empty Homes Strategy
- Updates on the implementation of recommendations associated with the Peer Review and Housing Licensing Performance Framework Working Groups
- Approval of recommendations arising from the Effectiveness of the Council’s Enforcement Activity Working Group
- Progression of Working Group on Accommodation for Vulnerable Adults
- Identification of topics to be the subject of Working Group reviews

Given the scale of the financial and service challenges facing the Council, the year ahead will be extremely busy for both Overview and Scrutiny Committees and the Management Board to scrutinise such challenges, including how they impact on the Council’s statutory requirement to remain financially sustainable and the desire to deliver the Sefton’s 2030 Vision and Core Purpose.

Finally, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Cabinet Members Councillors Atkinson, Fairclough, Hardy, Moncur and Veidman and officers who have attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and provided the Committee with valuable information.

Councillor John Sayers
September 2020



Regulatory, Compliance, and Corporate Services



Councillor Sue Bradshaw
Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
(Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)

On behalf of the Members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) it gives me great pleasure to introduce the 2019/20 Annual Report.

During the year the Committee has met six times and considered matters relating to financial issues and updates associated with the 2019/20 revenue and capital budget and financial management across the Council. As is the usual practice, a Special Meeting of the Committee was held prior to Budget Council in order to scrutinise budget options and proposals.

Other reports considered by the Committee related to: “Tool-Kit” for the Armed Forces Covenant; Area Committees Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations; Digital Inclusion Working Group – Update on Recommendations; Disposal of Surplus Council Owned Land/Asset Management Strategy; Members Welfare Reform Reference Group – Update; Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities; “Manage my Requests” (iCasework) System – Statistical Update Report; Air Quality Update; Public Health Annual Report; Climate Emergency; Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme 2020/21, Council Tax Base 2020/21 and Changes to Council Tax Discounts for Empty Homes; Ethical Business Practices Working Group Final Report; and Levels of Disciplinary, Grievance and Sickness Absence.

The Committee also received regular Work Programme and Cabinet Member update reports.

The Committee received many presentations and this enabled Members to engage with colleagues from within and outside of the Council on topics identified below.



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Finally, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services for her regular attendance at meetings to update Members on issues associated with her portfolio.

Financial Scrutiny

The Committee received regular budgetary update reports during the year and a Special Meeting of the Committee was held in February 2020 prior to the budget meetings of both Cabinet and Council. At this Special Meeting the Committee considered reports relating to: The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities - Prudential Indicators 2020/21; Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2020/21; Capital Strategy 2020/21 to 2024/25; Robustness of the 2020/21 Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves – Local Government Act 2003 - Section 25; Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 and Council Tax 2020/21.

At this meeting the main [report](#) for consideration was the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Corporate Resources that provided information on the following issues in connection with the Council's forthcoming consideration and approval, on 27 February 2019, of the Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2020/21 – 2022/23 and the level of Council Tax for 2020/21:

- An assessment of the Council's current financial position and approach to the 2020/21 Budget Plan and the new three-year budget period 2020/21 to 2022/23;
 - Progress that has been made during the last year within the Council's Framework for Change programme;
 - An update on the Government's announcement of resources that are available to the Council for 2020/21;
 - The Council's current financial position and the assumptions built into the Medium Term Financial Plan;
- The proposed Budget for 2020/21; and
- The proposed Capital Programme for 2020/21.

As such, the report set out the financial strategy of the Council and the national and local financial context within which it was operating; indicated that the Council had a statutory requirement to remain financially sustainable and to balance its budget every year; that the Council's Framework for Change Programme was a comprehensive and ambitious programme that sought to support the delivery of the Council's core purpose; that as would be expected with a programme of this size and complexity that spanned a number of financial years, the detailed proposals had been and would continue to be the subject of change as they were developed and ultimately implemented; that within this context, a detailed assessment of the previously approved plans for 2020/21 had been undertaken to confirm their deliverability; and that in addition, a limited number of additional savings proposals had been identified to balance the budget and ensure long-term financial sustainability.

Regarding the national context and financial environment the report indicated that 2019/20 would be the tenth year of the Government's programme of austerity and



that the impact of continuing central government funding reductions on local government since 2010 was stark and had been widely reported; that the National Audit Office (NAO) had published a report into the financial sustainability of local authorities which summarised the legacy of funding reductions and outlined the main challenges facing councils over the short and medium term; that the NAO found that local authorities experienced an average 49.1% real terms reduction in central government funding between 2010/11 and 2017/18; but that for Sefton, central government funding had reduced by 51% compared to 2010 thus demonstrating the inequality in funding reductions across the country and the disproportionate impact on this Council.

With regard to local factors and the approach to sustainable financial planning the report indicated that Sefton, like many local authorities, had found the last ten years challenging in terms of the national funding conditions and in light of significant and growing pressures across a range of council services; that the Council had a proven track record of effectively managing its finances, meeting its financial objectives and delivering financial sustainability, however this was becoming increasingly difficult particularly bearing in mind that the 10 year austerity budget reductions for Sefton had resulted in a £233 million funding gap by the end of 2019/20 with a direct loss of 51% of government funding which equated to £722 per Sefton household; however, that in the Council's recent Peer Review the approach to sustainable financial management was a key strength in the management of the overall Council.

The report also provided information on the following matters:

- Framework for Change Programme - was built on four workstreams / pillars and it is proposed that these will form the cornerstone of the new programme, namely Public Sector Reform, Growth and Strategic Investment and Economic Growth.
- the Council set a one-year budget for 2020/21. This reflected the uncertainty that exists in terms of future years' budget allocations and the lack of any meaningful information on which budget and service delivery decisions could be made by members beyond this point. It was anticipated that this information would come through over the course of 2020, therefore the Framework for Change programme needed to be developed on the principles of ensuring that the right issues were being addressed in each pillar, i.e. 'what were the right things to do to deliver the Core Purpose', that these activities Review of Public Sector Reform Projects (PSR) - the total savings planned for 2019/20 from the PSR programme was £12.882m. However, the budget planning assumptions had now been revised to £9.517m, a reduction of £3.365m
- Public Sector Reform
 - Within the new Public Sector Reform pillar, 2 projects are proposed. These are: -
 - Council of 2023; and
 - Demand Management
- Council of 2023



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As Sefton looks to 2023 and beyond it will face another period of unprecedented change. The Council like the rest of Local Government during this time, will be faced with changes to its statutory responsibilities, how it is expected to interface and partner with Health and other public bodies, the needs of its residents and communities and the financial framework within which it is to operate.

This outlook was further complicated by the national political environment which included the impact of the UK's exit from the European Union- not due to the direct implications, which could be significant but would not be possible to evaluate for some time; but by the impact that this would have on central government resources that were required to develop and consult on key issues, e.g. the Adult Social Care (ASC) Green Paper and a comprehensive spending review expected in 2020. This presented the Council with significantly higher risk in terms of its policy, performance and financial planning.

This proposed project would therefore take account of the successful work to date in the delivery of the partnership 2030 Vision and the Council's Core Purpose. This would further enable the Council to define what it would do and how (within the budget available), what outcomes were expected, how these would be measured, what resources would be allocated and where it would focus its influence. This would ensure a clear correlation between the policy objectives of the Council and its budget / resource allocation process.

The report concluded by detailing the summary of budget proposals for 2020/21; precepts; the Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23; and sought the Committee's comments to Cabinet which could be considered as part of the formal approval of the Budget Plan for 2020/21 and the Council Tax for 2020/21.

The following appendices were attached to the report:

- [Appendix A](#) Individual School Budgets 2020/21
- [Appendix B](#) Draft Council Budget Summary 2020/21
- [Appendix C](#) Fees and Charges 2020/21
- [Appendix D](#) Capital Programme 2020/21 - 2021/22

REPORTS

“Tool-Kit” for the Armed Forces Covenant

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that provided information, in accordance with the Committee's Work Programme, of the latest position regarding the “Tool-Kit” for the Armed Forces Covenant and recommending a way forward.

The report indicated that the Armed Forces Covenant was a promise from the nation ensuring that those who served or who had served in the Armed Forces, and their families, were treated fairly in recognition of the sacrifices they made on behalf of the country; that Covenant was not designed to give the Armed Forces, Veterans and their families' preferential treatment compared with other citizens but should ensure that they got a fair deal and were not disadvantaged because of their Service; that

Covenant relied on the government, communities, businesses, and individuals of the UK to actively support it in order to make a difference; and that Local Authorities were at the heart of that support group. The six councils in the Liverpool City Region had all signed the Covenant, and this review examined how they were working hard to make sure that Servicemen and women, veterans and their families got a fair deal.

The report concluded that the Committee had agreed during the last Municipal Year that a report be submitted on the “Tool-Kit” for the Armed Forces Covenant; that as reported at previous meetings the Committee had been advised that colleagues in the Liverpool City Region were preparing the tool-kit; and that this task had now been completed and the tool-kit had been circulated to Liverpool City Region local authorities. A copy of the tool-kit was attached as an [appendix](#) to the report.

Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee’s inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny.

The report indicated that the Government’s Statutory Guidance was comprehensive and was set out in the following chapters:

- Culture
- Resourcing
- Selecting Committee Members
- Power to Access Information
- Planning Work
- Evidence Sessions

The report concluded by detailing the up to date position regarding progress being made regarding the recent Local Government Association peer review in relation to Overview and Scrutiny receiving performance reports.

A copy of the Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities published by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government was attached as an [appendix](#) to the report.

“Manage my Requests” (iCasework) System – Statistical Update Report

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Strategic Support that updated on the adoption of the “Manage my Requests” iCasework system (the system) for capturing, managing and reporting all customer complaints, representations and feedback across the Council including the number and nature of complaints by Service.

The report indicated that the system had now been fully rolled-out across the Council, providing a simple web-based interface for front-line staff, case workers and responsible managers for capturing, recording and reporting information; detailed the



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new two stage complaints process; and detailed in tabular form complaints by service area.

The report concluded by detailing that there was still further work to be undertaken by individual services to ensure that the system was adopted in their performance management process and cycle, maximising the system functionality to streamline the complaints handling process and provide effective performance data; that the Strategic Support Service would continue to develop performance reporting to ensure that information and insight was shared with the Senior Leadership Board and Members; and that a number of staff had recently received complaints handling training from the Ombudsman and that the Council would continue to strive to learn from the feedback that it received.

Air Quality Update

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Highways and Public Protection that updated on air quality management and recent air quality developments in Sefton.

The report indicated that Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) was introduced under the Environment Act 1995, that evidence had shown that certain atmospheric pollutants were linked to poor health and that the Act placed a statutory duty on all Local Authorities to review and assess air quality in their areas at regular intervals; that arising from National Air Quality Standard (NAQS) Objectives 2 pollutants, Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter PM10 were still of concern in Sefton; that the ongoing review and assessment process had confirmed that in most of Sefton Air Quality was of a good standard and complied with the NAQS objectives; but that four localised areas in South Sefton had been identified where levels of Nitrogen Dioxide had exceeded or were close to the annual average standard of 40 µg/m³. Accordingly, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) had been declared in the four locations at:

- A5036 Princess Way and Crosby Road South Junction, Seaforth
- A5058 Millers Bridge and Derby Road Junction, Bootle
- A565 Crosby Road North and South Road Junction, Waterloo
- B5422 Hawthorne Road and Church Road Junction, Litherland

The report also provided information on real time automatic monitoring stations and the monitoring results in respect of Nitrogen Dioxide and Particulate Matter PM10; in accordance with a previous decision of the Committee (Minute No. 24 (4) of 22 October 2019) the report detailed the air quality impacts associated with traffic redistribution due to the opening of Broom's Cross Road; and air quality actions and developments associated with the Air Quality Members Reference Group, Clean Air Zone feasibility study, Schools Air Quality project, DEFRA Air Quality grant fund and the Taxi Electric Vehicle project.

The report concluded that air quality in the majority of Sefton was within NAQS Objectives and that action plans were in place to work towards compliance in the four AQMA areas; that there remained areas where there were major challenges to air quality including the expansion of the Port of Liverpool and the associated



increase in HGVs; that officers would continue to develop and implement air quality improvement actions under the direction of the Air Quality Members Reference Group; and a more detailed report, specifically on the development of the business case for a Sefton Clean Air Zone, would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee.

Public Health Annual Report

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Head of Health and Wellbeing that provided information about the Public Health Annual Report 2018/19 (PHAR) on the issue of Air Quality in Sefton; and advising that the PHAR was the independent annual report of the Director of Public Health and was a statutory duty.

The report indicated that the PHAR was an independent report on one or several aspects of health in the local population; that in recent years, PHARs had increasingly been used as an advocacy tool, for example, to highlight specific population health priorities and generate momentum for change and to draw attention towards the needs of specific groups, and to raise the profile of preventative approaches to improving population health; and that the PHAR for 2018/19 focused on the issue of air quality.

The report advised that the issue of air quality was selected for the reasons:

- Health problems caused by air pollution are falling in Sefton as air quality improves but this remained a significant population health issue
- Improving air quality was an ongoing top priority for Sefton Council and for many residents, particularly those living in or close to air quality management areas in the south of the borough. At the same time, that awareness-raising activity was needed elsewhere in Sefton
- Sefton Council had put in place a wide range of measures to improve air quality, often ahead of other local authority areas, but this type of work was not always visible
- Nationally, air quality had become more high profile both in the media and in national Why Air Pollution and Health? policy following publication of the National Clean Air Strategy in 2019.

Following positive feedback on the use of a film format for last year's PHAR, a decision was taken by the Air Quality Cabinet Members Reference Group, to use the same format this year; and the Committee watched the film during the meeting. The film highlighted the following:

- What do we mean by air quality and what is 'air pollution'?
- Where does pollution come from?
- It's not just the great outdoors...
- What happens when we breathe polluted air?
- How big a problem is air pollution for Sefton?
- What is air quality like in Sefton?
- Protect yourself and your family
- So, what is the Council doing to tackle air pollution?
- What can you do (walking and cycling)?



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- What can you do (drivers)?
- What's next (our goals)?
- Who are the other key people we need to work with?
- Calls to action

The report concluded that in the context of continuing work to develop a detailed proposal for a Sefton Clean Air Zone, the PHAR was a valuable resource to help local people understand the scale, nature and causes of air pollution in Sefton and why a clean air zone was being considered.

The Committee's attention was also drawn to a more detailed 'Factfile', Air Quality and Health, which accompanied the animation and provided additional information and resources to help people and organisations understand the issue of air pollution in Sefton and the changes they could make. The animation and pdf Factfile are available at: www.sefton.gov.uk/phar.

Climate Emergency

The Committee considered the joint [report](#) of the Head of Corporate Resources and Executive Director that advised that the Council, at its meeting held on 18 July 2019, agreed a motion to declare a Climate Emergency and this was attached as Appendix A to this report; that in accordance with the terms of the Council motion, work had progressed on developing a programme structure, strategy and initial implementation plan for delivery of the motion and its objectives; that in order to further inform this work, a baseline position was required across the Council of work that was currently underway or planned that could contribute to the Council achieving the aims of the motion; and that the report provided a summary of work undertaken to date and the exercise that was required to be led through each Overview and Scrutiny Committee in order to establish that baseline position.

The report also advised that each Overview and Scrutiny Committee was being asked to lead an immediate piece of work for completion by the next cycle of meetings that:

- (1) conducted a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions that would inform a comprehensive council wide baseline position;
- (2) Identify all projects that were currently taking place across the council that would support the delivery of the Council's Strategy; and
- (3) Identify potential long-term issues that would need to be addressed for the Council to meet the objectives within the Council motion.

The report concluded that the output from the work referred to above should be reported back to Overview and Scrutiny Committees in March/April 2020 and be led by the respective Heads of Service in conjunction with the Committee members and Cabinet Member; and that necessary support would be available from the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Service, the Head of Corporate Resources and the Executive Director in addition to the Council wide officer working group.

Council Tax Reduction (CTR) Scheme 2020/21, Council Tax Base 2020/21 and Changes to Council Tax Discounts for Empty Homes

The Committee considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources that provided details of the review of the local Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2019/20 and which recommended that there be no change to the scheme for 2020/21 for working age claimants.

The report would also be considered by Cabinet and Council and changes were recommended to discretionary Council Tax Empty Homes discounts following the outcome of a public consultation, and an additional increase to the Council Tax long-term Empty Homes Premium following a consultation exercise that took place in 2018; and the report also recommended an increase in the Exceptional Hardship Fund (EHF) budget from £150,000 to £170,000 from 2020/21 onwards.

The report also provided an updated Council Tax Base for Sefton Council and each Parish area for 2020/21.

Attached as annexes to the report were the Council Tax Base Report 2020/21; a summary of feedback from the consultation on changing Council Tax Empty Homes discounts and the associated equality impact assessment; and a summary of feedback from the consultation on increasing Council Tax long-term empty homes premium and the associated equality impact assessment.

Climate Emergency - Update Report

The Committee received a presentation from Stephanie Jukes, Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources, on Climate Emergency Information and initial baseline results. The presentation outlined the following:

- Climate Change;
- Greenhouse Effect;
- Carbon;
- Offsetting;
- International Context;
- Quantifying Sefton's Emissions;
- Key Features;
- Scope 1 and 2:
 - Council Operations;
 - How the information was collected and what is included;
 - Big emitters, some examples;
 - What does 15,547 tonnes equate to;
- Scope 3 what is included:
 - Corporate Resources;
- Evaluating the Baseline;
- Next Steps;
- Contact Details;
- Why a CO2 Focus; and
- Offsetting - Diagram.

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Levels of Disciplinary, Grievance and Sickness Absence

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Personnel Officer, which provided information on the levels of discipline, grievance and sickness absence within the Council (excluding schools).

The report indicated that based on current records the total number of 'available days', from 1 October 2018 to 30 September 2019, was 619,617 Full Time Equivalent (FTE) days; that total sickness absence, both long and short term, was 38,735 FTE days which equated to 6.25%; that this comprised 1.84% short term and 4.4% long term; and that the overall Corporate target was 4% (short term 2.2%; long term 1.8%).

A programme through the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) would commence shortly and would provide extra support for employees to gain further help and assistance. This would involve (at no cost to Sefton) a dedicated consultant to sign post employees to a variety of interventions. This service would be complementary to Occupational Health.

Annexe 1 to the report provided a breakdown of formal cases for October 2018 to September 2019; and the report concluded by stating that for the period October 2018 to September 2019, 11 employees were suspended from the Authority.

Annexe 2 to the report provided data across a period of 12 months to 30 September 2019 and therefore provided an analysis of absence levels across departments. Organisational change within Sefton would continue to impact on making direct comparisons across departments but support was provided across all service areas.

Work Programme 2019/20, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan

The Committee considered the reports of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought views of the Work Programme for 2019/20, the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and provided an update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

PRESENTATIONS

Climate Change Emergency

The Committee also received a presentation from Stephanie Jukes, Section Manager Energy and Environmental Management, Corporate Resources on the background to climate change and the Council's Climate Emergency Declaration which included information on:

- Sefton's target of net zero carbon by 2030; and the establishment of a working group and its commencement of work on a strategy, action plan and partnership working
- How Sefton quantified its emissions using the scope of the "Greenhouse Gas Protocol"



- Next steps which included most departments having now received information on the issues associated with the Climate Emergency Declaration, had been tasked with completing an initial scoping exercise and to consider further options

WORKING GROUPS

During the year the Committee established a Working Group and considered a Working Group Final Report and updates on previously approved Final Reports relating to:

Ethical Business Practices Working Group Final Report

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that presented formally the final report of the Council's Ethical Business Practices Working Group.

Digital Inclusion Working Group – Update on Recommendations

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that set out the progress made against each of the recommendations formulated by the Digital Inclusion Working Group and approved by Cabinet.

The report also indicated that the Head of Economic Growth and Housing had advised that, additional to the responses to the recommendations, Sefton was aligning itself to Liverpool City Region (LCR) proposed Digital Programme structure, which would allow easier and better flow of information and ideas, and allow Sefton to move the “whole” Digital agenda forward at a pace.

Area Committees Working Group Final Report – Update on Recommendations

The Committee considered the [report](#) of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that provided a monitoring report setting out progress made in respect of the recommendations formulated by the Area Committees Working Group and approved by Cabinet.

The report indicated that Area Committees ceased to operate and were replaced with Community Forums; that Constituency Forums were subsequently replaced with “Community Chats”; that the Head of Communities supported the operation of the Community Chats; and that the first round of Community Chats were held at 6.30 p.m. on the dates set out below and were advertised on the Council's website and via press releases to local news websites and newspapers.

Bootle - 27 February 2019 – Bootle Town Hall
Sefton Central – 7 March 2019 – Formby Professional Development Centre
Southport – 13 February 2019 – The Atkinson

[Appendix 1](#) to the report provided information compiled by the Head of Communities on the operation of the Community Chat events whilst [Appendix 2](#) detailed views of Members of the Council on the first round of the events.

Agenda Item 9

Members Welfare Reform Reference Group - Update

The Committee considered [update](#) of the Head of Health and Wellbeing on the operation of the Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group.

The update provided information on the purpose of the Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty (WRAP) Cabinet Member Reference Group and in particular on activities associated with:

- The WRAP Conference
- Action Plan and next steps
- The Emergency Limited Assistance Scheme
- Summer Holidays Food Programme
- A project to provide winter coats

The update concluded by providing a narrative that had been developed and agreed by WRAP that would be used as a factsheet with the purpose of describing to other Members the services available in support of welfare reform; and it was emphasised that the focus was on sharing information about services available which included:

- ELAS
- Sefton Foodbank Network
- Welfare Rights Team
- Sefton Helping Hands
- Citizens Advice
- Sefton CVS
- Credit Unions

Members Welfare Reform Reference Group - Update

The Committee considered an [update](#) of the Head of Health and Wellbeing on the operation of the Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group.

The update provided information on the purpose of the Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty (WRAP) Cabinet Member Reference Group and in particular on activities associated with:

- Holiday Food Programme
- Material Matters Programme
- Fuel Poverty Awareness
- Sefton Community Marketplace / Community Shop
- ELAS update summary performance data for the period 1 April 2019 – 30 September 2019

Cabinet Member Reports

In keeping with previous years and in order to keep Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees. The Terms of Reference of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee covered the portfolio of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.



Pre-Scrutiny – The Key Decision Forward Plan

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has also been given the opportunity to pre-scrutinise items from the Council's Key Decision Forward Plan. The Forward Plan is submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of the Work Programme update. The pre-scrutiny process assists the Cabinet to make effective decisions by giving the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the opportunity to examine issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.

The Year Ahead

The Committee will continue to make progress on the following priorities over the coming year:

- The consideration of budget proposals and savings and the Medium Term Financial Plan
- Review the Council Tax Reduction Scheme during the seventh year of operation
- Social Media Use and Effectiveness
- the Update on the Progress of the LCR Digital Inclusion Strategy
- Monitoring the operation of the Procurement Strategy
- Update on the disposal of surplus council owned land
- Monitoring reports on the implementation of recommendations arising from Overview and Scrutiny Working Group reviews
- Other service operational reports as deemed appropriate by the Committee

I envisage the forthcoming year to be extremely busy and challenging for the Committee due to the impact of Covid-19, which will be felt for many years to come, the difficult budgetary position and financial savings that have to be met in Sefton. The Committee will have to oversee the development of a three-year budget from 2020/21 to 2022/23 with an estimated shortfall over the three-year period of £45m; this being on top of the £233 million budget reductions identified since 2010.

Finally, and on behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to our work over the past year. I would personally like to thank all Members of the Committee, Councillor Paulette Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services and officers who have attended meetings for their support to me over the past year and provided the Committee with valuable information.

Councillor Sue Bradshaw
September 2020

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Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	28 May 2020 17 September 2020
Subject:	Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy		
Report of:	Executive Directors, Corporate Resources & Customer Services and People	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Sefton Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030. As such the Council at its meeting in July 2019 declared a climate emergency. Following that declaration work has progressed within the council on the agreed actions that were contained and approved by Members. As part of that work a Strategy for the delivery of the motion has been developed and this report seeks approval of that Strategy.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is asked to:-

- Recommend to Council the approval of the 'Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy'

Council is asked to

- Approve the 'Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy'

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

This Strategy will provide the framework for the delivery of the council motion that declared a climate emergency

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)
There are no alternative options to this

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue implications arising from the approval of this strategy. As the council develops its 3 year implementation plans all proposals will be fully evaluated and any resource requirements identified. There is currently no additional budget provision for the delivery of the strategy therefore at this stage all proposals will need to be met from within the councils approved budget.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital implications arising from the approval of this strategy. As the council develops its 3 year implementation plans all proposals will be fully evaluated and any resource requirements identified. There is currently no additional budget provision for the delivery of the strategy therefore at this stage all proposals will need to be met from within the councils approved budget.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
There are no resource implications arising from this strategy
Legal Implications:
Equality Implications:
There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

This strategy will facilitate the delivery of the Council motion that declared a climate emergency and in doing so support the delivery of each objective as set out below in the councils core purpose

Protect the most vulnerable:
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

Commission, broker and provide core services:
Place – leadership and influencer:
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 Corporate Resources & Customer Services (FD5953/20) is the author of the report and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4136/20) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

In addition the Climate Emergency Member Reference Group has reviewed and endorsed the Strategy in March 2020

(B) External Consultations

Engagement with key Stakeholders and other Public Bodies has taken place with regard to the councils approach to the delivery of the motion. In addition the Liverpool City Region and Combined Authority have also been engaged on the programme.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

Contact Officer:	Stephan Van Arendsen/ Andrea Watts
Telephone Number:	0151 934 4082
Email Address:	Stephan.vanarendsen@sefton.gov.uk/ Andrea.watts@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A- Sefton Council Climate Emergency Strategy

Appendix B- Council Motion July 2019

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 In July 2019, the Council agreed a motion that declared a climate emergency. The full motion that was agreed at the meeting is included to this report at Appendix B and in declaring a Climate Emergency, it was agreed that:

Sefton Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, and therefore commits to:

- *Declare a 'Climate Emergency' that requires urgent action.*
- *Make the Council's activities net-zero carbon by 2030.*
- *Commit to municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate*
- *Ensure that all strategic decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.*
- *Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Sefton area Zero Carbon within the same timescale.*
- *Achieve 100% clean energy across Sefton Council's full range of functions by 2030.*
- *Convene an assembly of interested groups not directly represented on Council in 2020 to oversee and feed into the development of related action plans and budgets across the City.*

- 1.2 Since that point a number of immediate activities have taken place that will inform the council's work on this long-term project. As stated within the recent reports to each overview and scrutiny committee, the proposed approach to the delivery of the motion has been agreed and will be facilitated by the following groups:-

- Sefton Climate Change Member Reference Group (cross -party);
- Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Management Board;
- Council wide officer working group;
- Expert Panel; and
- Citizens Forum

- 1.3 These groups are now having their terms of reference agreed with the first member reference group meeting being held on 17 March 2020. Alongside this, the council has been working to develop its strategy for the delivery of the motion and this report provides that Strategy for Council approval.

2.0 Climate Emergency -Strategy

- 2.1 The proposed Climate Emergency Strategy for the Council is included at Appendix A (together with a more concise outward facing document) to this

report and has been developed having taken into account the key issues that the council wishes to address and importantly the learning that can be taken from other local authorities and partners who are already on this journey or are addressing similar issues.

- 2.2 As such the strategy covers the following key areas:-
- The Sefton vision
 - International Context
 - National and Regional Context
 - Local Context
 - Opportunities for Local Authorities
 - Measuring Success
 - Acknowledging limitations
 - Financial resources
 - Review and Reporting
 - Governance; and
 - Our Approach
- 2.3 The Strategy is the councils overriding document that provides the strategic vision for the delivery of the Council motion. As such it will owned by the cross party member reference group, with delegation for implementation provided to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services who will be supported by the Executive Directors for People and Corporate Resources and Customer Services.
- 2.4 Having approved the Councils Strategy, 3 year implementation plans will be developed that will detail how the council will seek to meet its objectives. Separate plans will be developed for 2020-2023, 2024-2027 and 2028-2030. These will be informed by the baseline exercise that is currently being undertaken by the council that will lead to a prioritisation and sequencing of activity and will also take account of changes to the role of Sefton as a local authority over time, government guidance and legislation and developments in technologies.
- 2.5 Progress in the delivery of both the council's strategy and its 3 year implementation plans will be via an annual report to council in July of each year. The first of these annual reports will be provided in July 2020 together with detail of the first 3 year implementation plan.
- 2.6 As the Council has developed the enclosed Strategy it has done so as the world responds to the COVID 19 pandemic. It has been widely reported and indeed it is acknowledged that there will be significant changes to both personal behaviour and how society operates both in the immediate aftermath of the pandemic and on a permanent basis going forward. This will include but will not be limited to travel (both personal and business), how large organisations operate taking account of the successful agile working that has been undertaken across the world in recent months, how individuals socialise and what environments they do this within and how such issues support and enhance the well being of the population. This reporting has also focussed on

the dramatic environmental changes that have taken place in the recent 'lockdown' period especially in respect of air pollution.

As such the delivery of the enclosed strategy will include a number of measures that the Council will develop and implement as a direct result of the pandemic which will support residents and business and thus contribute to the delivery of the councils core purpose, will enable staff to conduct their roles in a more efficient and flexible manner that supports their health and well being and in doing so directly contribute to the delivery of the climate emergency declaration

3.0 Conclusion

- 3.1 Following the Council declaring a climate emergency in July 2019, its response is now fully mobilised and a number of workstreams are now in place. These workstreams are being directed by the overriding strategy that has been developed in recent months and this will provide the direction to activity together with being the key reference document to measure both progress and the success of the council in meeting its overall aspirations

APPENDIX A

Sefton's Climate Change Emergency Plan

What Sefton Council
are doing about
Climate Change

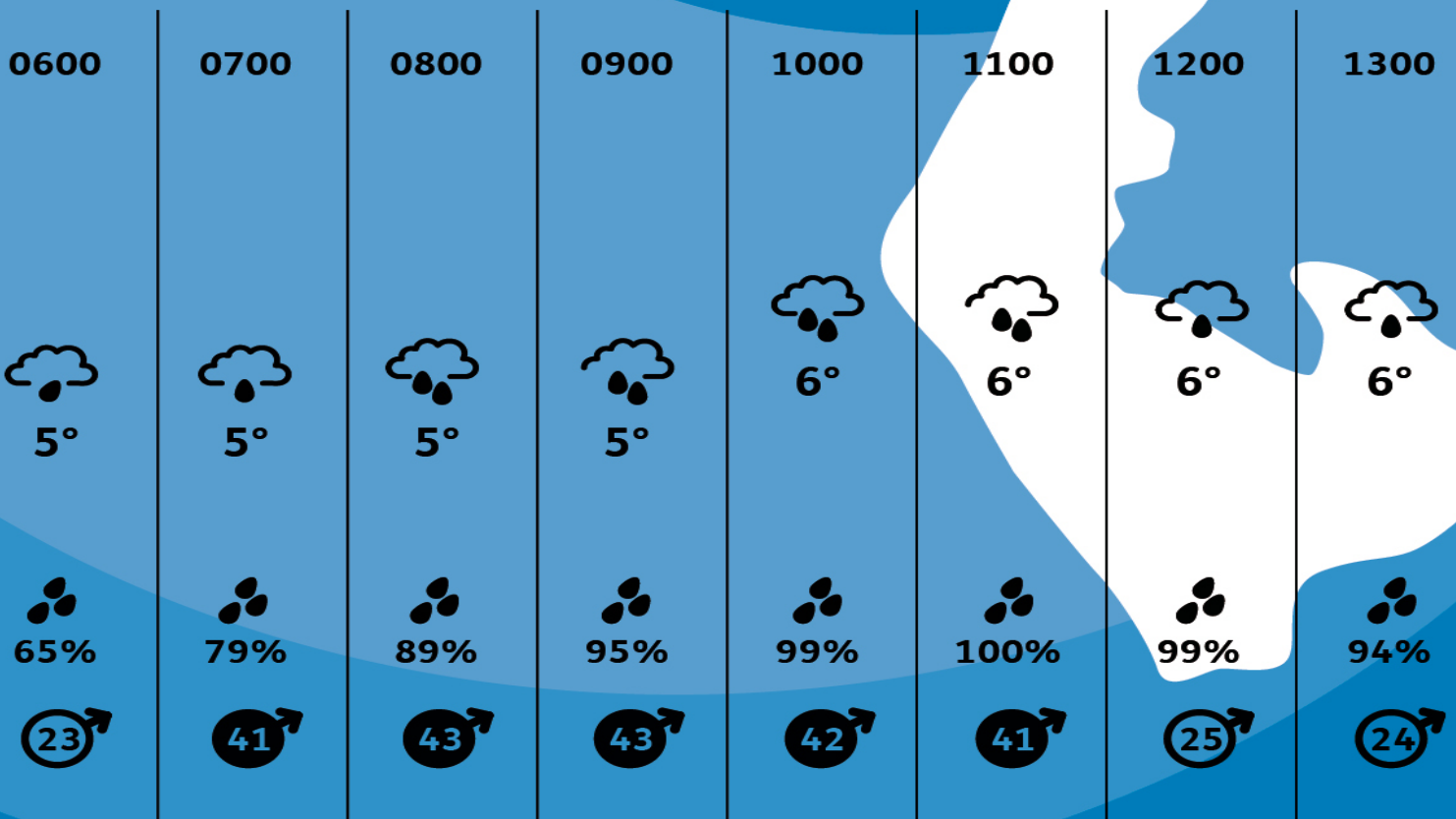


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Foreword

Climate change represents a significant threat to our future and preventing and protecting ourselves from climate change is a top priority.

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Sefton area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide.

The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely if we take no action on reducing our carbon emissions; the main driver of man-made climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”, published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Children in Sefton will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Sefton. We must act now to ensure this. Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved wellbeing for people locally and worldwide.

Work on reducing carbon emissions does not start from a zero base. Sefton has been involved with numerous projects aimed at reducing emissions and will continue to do so, in the context of the climate emergency and with increased urgency.

This strategy sets out our vision and broad aims and objectives and represents our commitment to maximise the opportunity within climate action and to protect our communities from that damage already caused by climate change.

It will be followed by a series of implementation plans which will detail our journey towards net zero carbon operations by 2030.

We will report our progress in a series of Annual Reports, detailing actions taken so far and progress towards our 2030 net zero carbon target. The first of these will be available in July 2020.

We are committed to taking responsibility for our carbon emissions and playing our part in limiting global average temperature rises. Business as usual is no longer an option.

Cllr Paulette Lappin

Vision

Introduction

Climate change represents a major threat to our planet, its people and its wildlife and the vast majority of the scientific community agree that urgent action must be taken to halt this change.

The climate of the planet has always been changing and until recently, this change was a natural process. The change in the climate occurred at a rate that allowed for natural adaptation.

The rate at which we burn fossil fuels results in a damaging build-up of greenhouse gases, so much so, that in just over 200 years, there has been a significant increase in the levels of greenhouse gases. These gases, carbon dioxide primary among them, have an insulating effect on our planet, trapping heat and causing global temperatures to rise.

This has resulted in anthropogenic (man-made) climate change which is not a natural process and must be eliminated. There are opportunities to do this in energy reduction, green infrastructure and off-setting. The tools and expertise to make significant, positive progress already exist, we simply need to use them.

This is not a prospect for our distant future, this change is happening now. The planet has already experienced abnormal heating of 1oC and the damaging impacts of climate change are already being felt across the world by animals and humans alike.

This strategy aims to ensure that Sefton plays its part in limiting global average temperature rises and responding to this significant threat to our planet.



Vision

The Sefton Council Climate Emergency Strategy has been developed in response to the declaration of a Climate Change Emergency on the 18th July 2019 by Sefton Council. It will provide the basis for the development of future plans and represents a commitment from Sefton Council to taking on the Climate Change Emergency.

We will take action to address the 'Climate Emergency' across our organisation and to encourage staff, partners, communities and businesses to do the same.

Sefton is particularly vulnerable to the effects of climate change, given its 22-mile coastline and areas of vulnerable, less resilient populations across the borough.

However, Sefton as a borough has vast areas of natural beauty and there is, therefore, lots of opportunity for green infrastructure, offsetting and altering the way we operate and use our landscape.

We are taking action now to combat climate change in order to protect our wildlife, our communities and our environment for future generations.

Sefton Council will focus its efforts on energy reduction as well as green infrastructure and offsetting. In this way, Sefton hopes to maximise the opportunity that the climate emergency represents and to ensure our whole community reaps the benefits of climate action.

This balanced approach marks a change in priorities and outlook; we will approach this as an opportunity, not a challenge.

This work will be aligned to the delivery of the Sefton 2030 Vision and the Council's Core Purpose with the aim of making Sefton a better place to live and work.

Focus

Sefton Council will become net zero carbon by 2030 across all council functions, drastically reducing our impact on global emissions and controlling our environmental impact as a service provider.

Sefton Council will go beyond our own targets in our role as a community leader, encouraging and supporting partners and community to make their own contribution to emissions reduction.

All work related to our Climate Emergency will follow the principles of our CLIMATE strategy and each action will be carried out with one or more of these crucial principles in mind.

This document sets out seven key principles which make up our CLIMATE strategy:

Carbon Reduction

Leadership

In These principles will provide guidance and focus for future works and ensure that all work is strategically aligned.

Ad Below, these principles are expanded

Transformation

Engagement

Carbon Reduction

We will achieve 100% clean energy by 2030 and reduce demand across our organisation to work towards becoming net carbon zero by 2030.

Leadership

We will provide clear direction and leadership when tackling the Climate Emergency.

Innovation

We will consider and adopt innovative approaches to tackling climate change.

Mobilisation

We will mobilise the workforce to ensure that all strategic decisions that support the delivery of the Sefton 2030 Vision and Core Purpose are in line with the shift to net carbon zero by 2030.

Adaptation

We will assess and implement adaptation measures to ensure resilience to known climate change impacts.

We will assess and adapt the way we use and manage our landscape and our services.

Transformation

We will transform the way we live and work in response to this serious threat and change our culture and behaviours

Engagement

We will take views from the community to inform the development of our plans and engage with the wider community.

We will ensure all key stakeholders are aware of the climate emergency and encourage action across the borough.

Sefton 2030

Imagine Sefton 2030 is the result of a community engagement programme to create a borough wide vision to promote prosperity and help Sefton flourish.

The Climate Emergency strategy interlinks with Sefton 2030 across three key ambitions:

- Resilient People and Places- “Sefton is a place where businesses, buildings, transport, the environment and housing are sustainable and resilient in 2030.”
- Image and Environment- “It sets the bar in cutting edge green solutions, integrating renewable energy, housing and attractions in a way that protects local nature and wildlife.”
- Accessible and Linked- “An eco-friendly borough, travel in Sefton is green, safe and affordable.”

Ultimately, the Climate Emergency strategy envisions a future in which Sefton is climate resilient, energy efficient, eco-friendly and net carbon zero by 2030.

Sefton Council’s Core Purpose

The Sefton 2030 Consultation prompted Sefton Council to outline its own role and responsibility in ensuring the 2030 vision becomes a reality. This became Sefton Council’s Core Purpose.

The Climate Emergency Strategy addresses all elements of our core purpose:

Protect the Most Vulnerable

The impacts of climate change will be felt most keenly by the most vulnerable, who are often the least able to respond. We already know that there will be climate change impacts such as more severe weather events, (heatwaves, flooding) that would affect the elderly, infirm and those unable to afford insurance. Taking action on carbon mitigation and adaptation will help to protect those people and will also positively affect air quality and the associated health benefits.

Facilitate Confident and Resilient Communities

This work will seek to ensure council services can support communities to enjoy a better quality of life through being more resilient to climate change.

Commission, Broker and Provide Core Services

To effectively deliver services in the future, we will be required to respond to this threat through the work being undertaken. Climate change represents a threat to our ability to deliver core services.

Place- Leadership and Influencer

In response to this global issue, the Council is demonstrating its role locally as a leader and driver for positive change. The Council will use its role as a community influencer to urge others to take action.

Drivers of Change and Reform

The Council has the potential to affect change in many key areas including planning, procurement, building, public health, green spaces. Work on reducing our carbon impacts and adapting to a changing climate will help to protect services & communities, going forward.

Facilitate Sustainable Economic Prosperity

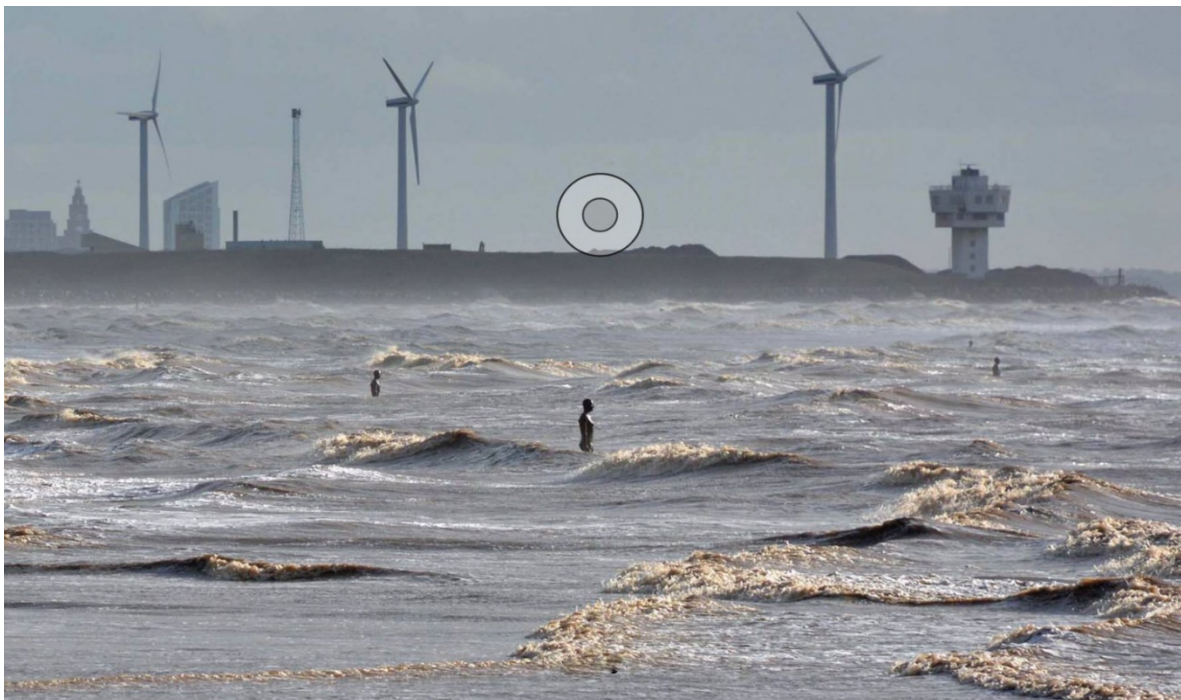
The 'green' economy has potential to generate local, sustainable jobs on a large scale. This could include large scale retrofit of homes and businesses, renewable energy, transport updates, development of green spaces.

Greater Income for Social Investment

Developing more local opportunities for carbon reduction schemes, would offer opportunities for income/profits to be directed to local, social schemes rather than to large scale corporations not based in the area.

Cleaner Greener

Reducing our carbon footprint is a key environmental, social and economic priority. Additionally, it has the potential to reduce air pollution, encourage modal shift to cycling/walking, enhancement of green spaces and reduce waste. We have an opportunity to introduce clean and green initiatives into the urban space.



Context

International Context

Climate change is a global issue and Sefton will play its part within the international context.

In the scientific community, over 97% of climate scientists agree that climate-warming trends over the past century are due to human activities. In addition, most of the leading scientific organizations worldwide have issued public statements endorsing this position.

The United Nations Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the leading global authority on climate change.

In 2015, the IPCC outlined the serious harm that a 2oC or above rise in global temperature would cause.

At the 2015 Paris Climate Change COP conference, the international target was agreed to limit temperature rise to 1.5oC and many industrialised nations signed up to it.

However, to limit global temperature rises to 1.5 oC urgent action is required and a business as usual approach will not suffice. Much of the work being done on a national level by signatories of the Paris Climate Agreement is insufficient to meet the target that they agreed.

Due to this lack of urgency, in 2018, the IPCC produced a report which stated that governments had 12 years to make significant changes in order to limit average global temperature rise to 1.5oC.

The scientific community is generally united around the view that governments and individuals need to make rapid changes if we are to avoid irreversible damage to the planet.

Prompted by this scientific consensus, governments throughout the world have declared 'Climate Emergencies' in response to this threat. Up to November 2019, these governments include UK, Ireland, Canada, Portugal, France and Argentina, among others.

Not only have governments taken stock, but so too has the population. 2019 seen something of a sea change in attitudes towards climate change. Climate issues are on the international agenda thanks to a myriad of factors, including the ongoing Extinction Rebellion activity worldwide and the rise of school strikes around the globe led by Greta Thunberg.

This activism paired with the harsh reality of climate change in some of the world's poorest countries has prompted a renewed urgency.

Sefton Council joins many local authorities, states and national governments in its declaration of a climate emergency.

It is hoped that these declarations will represent a commitment to making climate change issues a top priority.

National Context

The UK is a signatory of the 2015 Paris Climate Agreement and has a long-standing awareness of the climate change and the threat it poses. This is evident from the Climate Change Act 2008.

This act legislates primarily for assessing and reporting climate risks and suggesting measures for addressing these risks.

The UK Committee on Climate Change states that a rapid increase in UK climate action is necessary to reach the UK target of net carbon zero by 2050.

Such measures would include large scale carbon capture and storage (sequestration) and quadrupling low carbon electricity. There is debate within the scientific community about whether a target date of net carbon zero by 2050 is sufficient to meet targets agreed at the 2015 Paris IPCC Summit.

All main political parties in the UK commit to becoming net zero carbon in future which suggests that net zero carbon is almost certainly the direction of travel over the coming decades.

There are a number of schemes and strategies at the national level aimed at tackling climate change.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) 25 Year Environment Plan, 2018 sets out the framework for protecting and enhancing the environment for future generations. The target within this plan aligns with the outcomes of this strategy, specific targets are set for mitigating and adapting to climate change. Targets include:

- Continue to cut greenhouse gas emissions including from land use, land use change, the agriculture and waste sectors and the use of fluorinated gases.
- Ensure that all policies and investment decisions consider the possible extent of climate change this century
- Implement a sustainable and effective second National Adaptation Programme.

There are various other strategies, policies and projects at a national level that feed into the activity around the Climate Emergency including, for example, the Flood and Water Management Act 2010.

Sefton will make best use of those national resources available and lobby for additional resources and promote the importance of climate issues and actions.

Work around lobbying and promoting the importance of climate issues will be important to increase support and resources available to enable us to reach our target.

Regional Context

Sefton Council is one of six members of the Liverpool City Region. The other members are Halton, Knowsley, St Helens, Liverpool and Wirral. Sefton will work closely with our counterparts across the combined authority to make significant progress towards our net zero carbon by 2030 target.

There is significant difference across the combined authority between targets for net zero carbon.

- Halton: Commits to net zero carbon for council wide operations but does not set target date
- Wirral: Commits to net zero carbon by 2050 for council wide operations
- St Helens: Commits to net zero carbon by 2030 for council wide operations
- Liverpool: Commits to net zero carbon for city wide operations
- Knowsley: Climate Emergency not declared as of November 2019
- Liverpool City Region: Commits to net zero carbon by 2040 across region
- Sefton: Commits to net zero carbon by 2030 for council wide operations

This variation across the region results in mixed levels of urgency and action. This will no doubt make collaboration more challenging, however huge progress can be made in working with the combined authority and our counterparts across Merseyside.

There is significant work being done at the Liverpool City Region level which will contribute to Sefton achieving its goals both in the short term and the long term.

Such work includes:

- £0.5m fund for local climate action and environmental projects
- Mersey Tidal Power Project which on completion will power up to 1 million homes with clean energy
- New fleet of trains for MerseyRail
- New 600km walking and cycling network
- New fleet of hydrogen buses

Sefton will maximise the potential of partnership with the Liverpool City Region which will have particular significance for our ambitions to have an impact on those emissions not directly in our control.

Local Context

Tackling climate change is particularly important for Sefton due to the coastal nature of our borough. We are already aware that we must adapt to deal with the effects of climate

change as well as mitigate against future impacts. This work is vital to protect our borough and our planet for future generations.

The impacts for Sefton from a changing climate include, more extreme weather events. This could include warmer and wetter winters, hotter and drier summers, more frequent and intense storms and increased coastal flooding and erosion.

Sea levels could rise by almost 1 metre by the end of the century which would have an impact on Sefton's coastal communities if we do not reduce emissions globally. The Shoreline Management Plan sets the coastal defence policy for up to 100 years and the deliverability of these policies will be affected by the changes in the climate.

The Sefton Coast Plan outlines the threat of climate change to our coastal landscape, biodiversity and communities. Both accretion and erosion are issues for Sefton's coast and climate change is likely to change these processes resulting in an increase in erosion. This will be a significant problem in future. For context, Formby Point has been eroding around its central section at around 3-4 metres per year since 1900.

Extreme heat or cold weather will have an impact on the health of many residents and present significant risks for certain groups with health conditions. The elderly, particularly those over 85 years of age, are much more vulnerable to extreme heat and cold compared with younger age groups. Future health burdens may be amplified by an aging population in Sefton.

Health effects due to changes in air pollution and potentially a longer duration of exposure to aeroallergens, combined with hotter, drier summers, will have a negative effect on our communities, particularly those with respiratory conditions.

Sefton is a low-lying area and surface water flooding, from intense rainfall, already impacts communities across the whole of Sefton and this is likely to increase under current future predictions. For some communities who are less resilient due to lack of available resources, impacts are likely to translate into increased demand for council services.

Our position as a coastal authority and member of the Liverpool City region also brings opportunities. During hotter, drier summers we are likely to enjoy lower temperatures due to our coastal location, which means we are likely to attract more visitors. However, this may bring more conflict with our designated coastline.

We are also well placed to generate energy from tidal power and wind power which will assist us to generate our energy needs locally. This also opens way for increasing local employment and investment opportunities.

Sefton has a wealth of open space that can be adapted to mitigate some of the predicted climate impacts using the principles of green and blue infrastructure. The opportunities exist, not only to mitigate climate impacts but also contribute to biodiversity and human health and wellbeing

However, this has to be balanced with our obligation to preserve protected habitats in certain, designated locations in our borough; for example, the sand dunes at Formby.

Significant work has already taken place and is ongoing across Sefton Council. We hope to build on this in future.

Previous work in this area includes:

- Carbon Management Plan 2011-2016
- Sefton Coastal Plan
- Single Use Plastics Strategy

A full assessment of current action will be captured through a baselining exercise to establish our baseline position over the next 12 months.

Climate change represents a problem for all communities and all departments in the council. All departments therefore will be involved in baselining and projects going forward.

Opportunities for Local Authorities

Climate change represents a serious threat, however, the approach to mitigation and adaptation does not have to be isolated; there are a wealth of opportunities to deliver projects which will have a positive impact, right across our organisation.

Reducing Impacts

Demand for council services is likely to increase if we continue to follow a business as usual approach to climate change. Sefton has an ageing population and multiple areas of vulnerable residents. Air quality, extreme temperatures and extreme rainfall are likely to lead to a rise in demand for council services. It is difficult to plan for such events as there is often very little notice and requires a complex variety of services to respond to it. Extreme weather events also have an impact on supply chains, slowing down the delivery of our services.

Reducing Financial Costs

Although adaptation and mitigation action may be expensive initially, if whole life costs are considered, often such measures tend to be cheaper than business as usual in the long term. Short term costs are often worth the savings across multiple departments and levels in the long term. These indirect or long-term savings are important to local authorities striving to provide value for money to the taxpayer.

Delivering Co-Benefits

In tackling climate change, local authorities can address a range of different issues under the umbrella of climate change. These co-benefits often include: improved health and wellbeing, improved property values, skills and employment for the local area and a vibrant, green local economy.

The Climate Emergency not only represents a challenge for local authorities, but also an opportunity to tackle a wide range of issues and this work spans a wide range of council departments.

The Sefton Approach

Definitions

Sefton Council will consider carbon dioxide as the priority emission to focus on. However, we will be mindful that other greenhouse gases, for example, methane, have an insulating effect on our planet and must be addressed in the long term.

Sefton Council will define its emissions according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This is the standard mechanism by which governments and local authorities measure and define their emissions.

Scope 1: Direct emissions which occur from sources that are owned or controlled by Sefton Council. For example, emissions from combustion in owned or controlled boilers, furnaces, vehicles.

Scope 2: Indirect emissions from the generation of purchased electricity. Emissions generated when fuel is burned for the benefit of Sefton Council.

Scope 3: Optional reporting category that allows for the treatment of all other indirect emissions. Scope 3 emissions are a consequence of the activities of the organisation but occur from sources not owned or controlled by the organisation. For example, the extraction and production of purchased materials; transportation of purchased fuels; staff travel.

Sefton Council's Climate Emergency Declaration instructs the Council to make 'council operations' net zero carbon by 2030. This translates directly to Scope 1 and 2 against the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. However, elements of Scope 3 are relevant in this case.

The declaration calls for wider action beyond the boundaries of our organisation. Therefore, work begins on measuring and addressing the emissions in Scope 3 and engaging with our community to encourage vital individual action.

Measuring Success

In our action plan development, we will outline a series of interim targets. This will set out how we will be successful in our climate action. We must identify what success looks like in Sefton. Our broad measures of success will be:

- To have established a clear baseline and full audit of all ongoing work that can contribute to the achievement of our net zero target.
- To have developed ambitious yet achievable targets for each of our proposed action plans based on our baseline evidence.
- To have achieved net carbon zero by 2030 and ensure all strategic decisions are in line with this target.
- To have raised awareness of the issues across the Council, our partners and our communities.
- To have engaged with young people and the wider community.
- To have embedded climate action and value into our decision making across the organisation.

Acknowledging Limitations

Addressing climate change will be challenging for local authorities across the UK, not least because resources from the national level to carry out this essential work are currently insufficient.

However, Sefton Council are determined to make significant progress despite the pressures and challenges.

Our action plan going forward will be measured, rational and achievable whilst remaining ambitious and proactive.

There are numerous measures that Sefton Council might adopt on the journey to achieving net zero carbon. Some measures will be appropriate for the Council to adopt; however, certain measures are not suited to the finances or capacity of Sefton Council.

A range of measures will be considered throughout the development of our action plans with full acknowledgement of our limitations and barriers.

Financial Resources

The Climate Emergency Strategy is currently being co-ordinated by an Officer working group. The Team are utilising officer time and materials available without incurring additional costs to the council.

However, as this strategy moves forward into developing an Action Plan and implementing measures, financial resources are likely to be required. The council will need to take into account the financial implications arising from changes and proposals. This will be embedded in the decision-making process of the Council.

Review and Reporting

Progress on the Climate Emergency Strategy will be compiled into an annual report for the Overview and Scrutiny committees and will also be reported to Council annually starting July 2020.

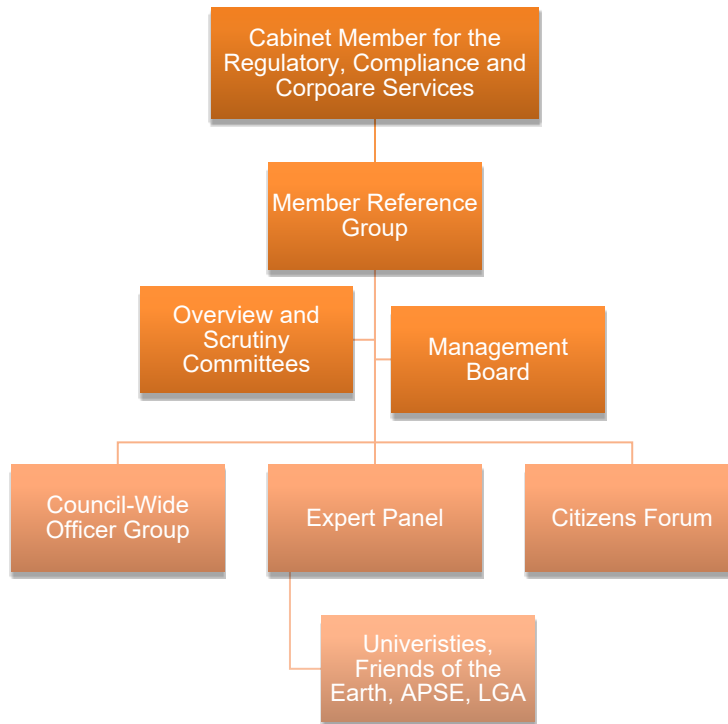
The review process will be undertaken by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, with any changes being included in the annual report mentioned above.

The review of the strategy will consider the following:

- Progress made against the strategy's objectives
- Overall impact and effectiveness of the strategy
- Any new legislation or local concern that must be considered

Governance

The proposed governance structure is as follows:



The project will be led by the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

The Head of Corporate Resources will be leading the council-based activity and the Executive Director will be leading on external engagement and alignment with the Liverpool City Region.

The terms of reference for new groups will be determined in due course and will be in place by January 2020.

The expert panel and citizens forum will be comprised of a wide range of voices and will be in place by January 2021.

Our Approach

This strategy represents our broad direction of travel over the next decade on the journey to achieving net zero carbon by 2030 for council wide activities. Following this strategy, action plans will be produced detailing action to be taken to achieve our aims and strategic objectives.

Decisions will be taken relating to scope, definitions and terms of reference in due course in order to define our actions going forward.

Our immediate tasks are as follows:

- Determine the scope of the action plan.
- Prepare report for each O&S committee and request a stock take of all activity in relation to carbon emissions to inform a council wide baseline position
- Identify all current projects that are taking place across the council that will support the delivery of the Council's Strategy
- Address immediate issues in the council motion around new policies and strategies, forthcoming budget proposals, Treasury Management Strategy and all cabinet and council decisions
- Consider and define how the Sefton Strategy and implementation plan will align with the Liverpool City Region work being undertaken and that of key partners, for example, MerseyTravel, Merseyside Pension Fund
- Develop a 12-month immediate plan for 2019/2020
- Develop and resource the first 3-year implementation plan (2020-2023)
- Provide the first Annual Report to Council in July 2020.
- Set up workshops for decision makers and those involved in development of plans so participants can make an informed choice when presented with options for decision making.



Glossary

Term	Definition
Accretion	Accretion is the process of coastal sediment returning to the visible portion of a beach or foreshore following a submersion event.
Adaptation	the process of adjustment to actual or expected climate change and its effects
Afforestation	Planting of new forests on lands that historically have not contained forests.
Anthropogenic Greenhouse Emissions	Greenhouse gas emissions which come from human activities.
Biodiversity	The diversity of flora and fauna in a habitat, it is best when biodiversity is high.
Carbon neutrality	Net zero carbon emissions by obtaining a balance between a measured amount of carbon released with an equivalent amount of carbon which has been offset or sequestered.
Carbon Reduction	Any activity that reduces carbon emissions. This can include: decreasing energy use or shifting to renewable energy use
Carbon Sink	Any process, activity or mechanism which removes a greenhouse gas, an aerosol or a precursor of a greenhouse gas from the atmosphere. Forests and other vegetation are considered sinks because they remove carbon dioxide through photosynthesis.
Climate	Climate describes the average weather over a long period of time

Climate Change	A change in the state of the climate that can be identified over an extended period of time.
UK Committee on Climate Change	The UK Committee on Climate Change is an independent body established under the Climate Change Act (2008) that advises the UK Government on setting and meeting carbon budgets and on preparing for the impacts of climate change.
Greenhouse Gas	The atmospheric gases responsible for causing global warming and climate change, eg. Carbon Dioxide (CO ₂) and Methane (CH ₄)
UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change	Panel made up of global network of scientists convened to advise politicians on climate change.
Mitigation	Human intervention to reduce the sources or enhance carbon sinks for greenhouse gases.
Net zero carbon	achieving zero carbon emissions by balancing carbon emissions with carbon removal
Sequestration	This is the process of removing carbon from the atmosphere and trapping it in a carbon sink.
Weather	The conditions of the atmosphere over a short period of time in a particular place.
Zero Carbon	Eliminating all carbon emissions

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APPENDIX B

33. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR LAPPIN - CLIMATE CHANGE EMERGENCY

Climate Change Emergency

Recent extreme weather events over several years have presented severe challenges to property, transport, agriculture and other services in the Sefton area and have led to the deaths and displacement of thousands of people worldwide. The Meteorological Office clearly states that these kind of extreme weather events are significantly more likely on a planet with human-caused climate change.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) is the United Nations body for assessing the science related to climate change. In their report “Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change 1.5C report”^[1], published in October 2018, they conclude that humanity has 11 years for “ambitious action from national and sub-national authorities, civil society, the private sector, indigenous peoples and local communities” to deliver the “rapid and far reaching transitions in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport, and cities” needed to turn this around, so we can avoid reaching tipping points where we would no longer have the ability to avoid extreme weather events.

Business as usual is no longer an option.

Children in Sefton will be in their teens and twenties in 11 years’ time. They deserve a liveable Sefton. We must act now to ensure this.

Bold climate action can deliver economic benefits in terms of new jobs, economic savings and market opportunities, as well as improved well-being for people locally and worldwide.

Over 40, and increasing, local councils, together with the Mayor of London, have passed motions declaring a ‘Climate Emergency’. Many local authorities, including Sefton Council, have also signed up to the UK100 Agreement^[2], pledging to achieve 100% ‘clean energy’ usage by 2050 in their area, but the IPCC report shows it is imperative that this target is reached much, much sooner.

Sefton Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030, and therefore commits to:

Declare a ‘Climate Emergency’ that requires urgent action.

Make the Council’s activities net-zero carbon by 2030.

Commit to municipalisation of energy supply by utilising public sector sites to generate energy where appropriate

Ensure that all strategic decisions are in line with a shift to zero carbon by 2030.

Support and work with all other relevant agencies towards making the Sefton area Zero Carbon within the same timescale.

Achieve 100% clean energy across Sefton Council's full range of functions by 2030.

Convene an assembly of interested groups not directly represented on Council in 2020 to oversee and feed into the development of related action plans and budgets across the Borough.

And to take the following actions:

1. Ensure that political groups and Strategic Leadership Board embed this work in all areas of Council activity and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council's activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that a Task and Finish group be established to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;
2. Request that Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies and charge Task and Finish groups to also consider those impacts in any report and every topic;
3. Work with, influence and inspire partners across the Borough and City Region to help deliver this goal through relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops;
4. Set up a Sefton Climate Change group, drawing on the expertise from Councillors, local communities, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, skills providers, and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a Borough-wide strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030, by engaging with other anchor institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will also recommend ways to maximise the local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy;
5. Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future-their future;
6. Review the Council's Treasury Management Strategy to give due consideration to climate change targets in the investment decision making process and in doing so request a report within 6 months from the Head of Corporate Resources on the investment strategies of all financial institutions where Council funds are or could be held;

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7. Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency;
8. Add the voice of Sefton Council to the calls on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible;
9. In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, that Sefton's local MPs be called upon to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and that the Leader and Chief Executive jointly write to them to seek their commitments;
10. Consider other actions that could be recommended (but are not restricted to): low carbon energy production and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraging the use of electric vehicles within the fleet, workforce and wider community, integrating low carbon technologies into operational assets and projects, increasing the efficiency of buildings, prioritising these measures for housing to address fuel poverty; proactively using our powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise awareness and share good practice;
11. Where needed, officer reports to the Council, Cabinet and all other Committees contain impact assessments on climate change that include carbon emission appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible; and
12. Note the Liverpool City Region Deal which will have a direct effect on Sefton's climate and ensure that all partners are aware of Sefton's ambition.

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Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	30 July 2020 17 September 2020
Subject:	Sefton Climate Emergency Implementation Plan		
Report of:	Executive Directors, Corporate Resources & Customer Services and People	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Sefton Council is committed to reducing carbon emissions and resolves to go further than the UK100 Agreement and to act in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030. As such the Council at its meeting in July 2019 declared a climate emergency. Following that declaration work has progressed within the council on the agreed actions that were contained and approved by Members and its Strategy was considered by Cabinet in June 2020 and will be presented to a forthcoming meeting of full Council.

As part of the governance approach to the overall programme a 3 year implementation plan is to be developed for the period 2020-2023 together with detail of the work undertaken during the last 12 months.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet are recommended to :-

1. Note the progress made on the actions contained within the original council motion of July 2019;
2. Approve that further work be undertaken in respect of Scope 3 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol with the output being reported to the overview and scrutiny management board from December 2020; and
3. Consider the first 3 year implementation plan for the period 2020-2023 that will support the delivery of the Councils Climate Emergency Strategy and recommend its approval by Full Council.

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Council are recommended to:-

1. Approve the Councils 3 year Implementation Plan for the period 2020-2023.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The proposed implementation plan for the period 2020-2023 and progress made on the key actions agreed in July 2019 are key documents that will support the delivery of the council motion that declared a climate emergency

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

There are no alternative options to this

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue implications arising from the approval of this strategy. Any proposals that are developed as part of the 3 year implementation plan will be fully evaluated and any resource requirements identified. There is currently no additional budget provision for the delivery of the strategy therefore at this stage all proposals will need to be met from within the council's approved budget.

(B) Capital Costs

There are no capital implications arising from the approval of this strategy. Any proposals that are developed as part of the 3 year implementation plan will be fully evaluated and any resource requirements identified. There is currently no additional budget provision for the delivery of the strategy therefore at this stage all proposals will need to be met from within the council's approved budget.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
--

There are no resource implications arising from this strategy
Legal Implications: There are no legal implications arising from this strategy
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

This strategy will facilitate the delivery of the Council motion that declared a climate emergency and in doing so support the delivery of each objective as set out below in the councils core purpose

Protect the most vulnerable:
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
Commission, broker and provide core services:
Place – leadership and influencer:
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 Corporate Resources & Customer Services (FD6051/20) is the author of the report and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4234/20) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

In addition the Climate Emergency Member Reference Group has reviewed and endorsed the contents of the documents referenced in this report in June 2020

(B) External Consultations

Engagement with key Stakeholders and other Public Bodies has taken place with regard to the councils approach to the delivery of the motion. In addition the Liverpool City Region and Combined Authority have also been engaged on the programme.

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Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

Contact Officer:	Stephan Van Arendsen/ Andrea Watts
Telephone Number:	0151 934 4082
Email Address:	Stephan.vanarendsen@sefton.gov.uk/ Andrea.watts@sefton.gov.uk

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the meeting of 28th May 2020, Cabinet received and approved the Council's Climate Emergency Strategy. This will subsequently be presented for approval to Full Council.
- 1.2 Within that Strategy, the Council's aims and objectives are set out together with the governance structure and the approach that will be followed in order for the Council to achieve its 2030 target.
- 1.3 This approach is based upon:-
- Approval of a strategy for the period to 2030
 - Establishing and refining a baseline position- ie what is the councils seeking to achieve; and
 - Development of 3 year implementation plans.
- 1.4 As such this report follows the production of the Council's Strategy, and reflects both the work undertaken to date and the inclusion of the first 3 year implementation plan for the period 2020-2023.
- 1.5 As with most areas of the Council's activity within the first half of 2020, some progress and engagement has been limited due to the COVID 19 pandemic however significant progress has been made that will enable the council to move forward with delivering its strategy, indeed there may be opportunities to accelerate some of that work as society changes and moves through the reset and recovery phases

2.0 Work Undertaken to date

- 2.1 On the rise of the Council declaring a climate emergency in July 2019, there were 4 key elements that needed to be developed during the initial 12 months:-
- Responding to the actions included in the original declaration;
 - Establishing a baseline position for the council;
 - Development of a strategy; and
 - Reflecting each of the above develop a 3 year implementation plan for the period 2020-2023

Actions contained within the original declaration

- 1.2 Members will recall that within the motion considered by Council in July 2019 a number of actions were detailed that should be undertaken within the first 12 months of the programme of work. These ranged from establishing the appropriate governance groups, to how the aims and objectives of the climate emergency should be reflected within council decision making and engagement across the city region and with residents of the Borough.

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2.3 A significant amount of work has been undertaken across each of these actions during that period and this is reflected in the Action Tracker that is shown at Appendix A to this report. This is the key output from the first 12 months of activity (and includes the production of a strategy for the Council) together with establishing a baseline position and the first implementation plan. It can be seen from the attached document that significant progress has been made in all areas identified in the original motion meaning that the Council is in a robust position to move forward.

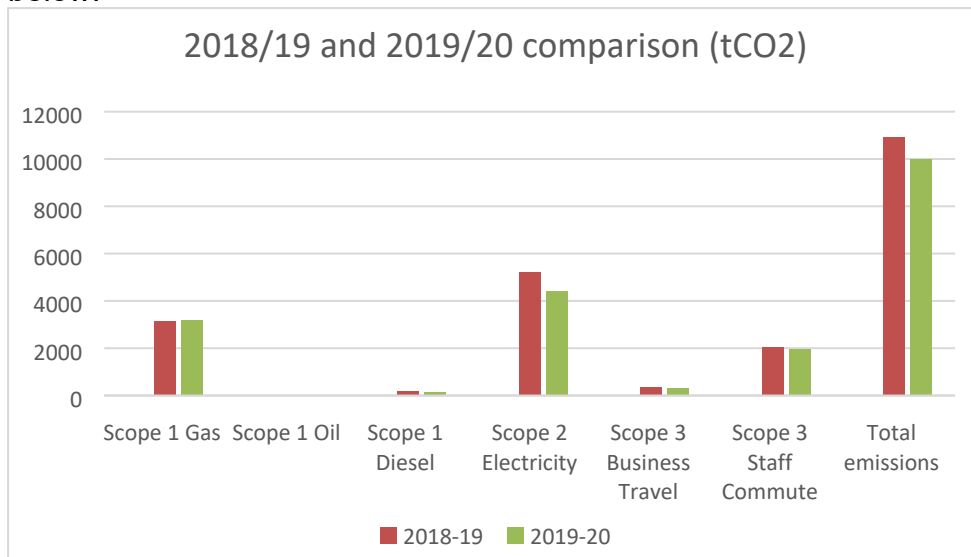
Establishing a Baseline Position for the Council

2.4 A key feature of the original council motion was the desire for each Overview and Scrutiny Committee to review its activities in order to inform a baseline position for the council.

2.5 Following consideration it was recommended that the Greenhouse Gas Protocol be used in order to quantify the relevant elements. This protocol is based on an assessment under 2 scopes:-

- Scope 1 – Gas and Vehicles (Council wide Assessment)
- Scope 2 – Electricity (Council wide Assessment)
- Scope 3 – 15 Other indirect areas (staff travel, procurement, waste, investments etc.)

Overview and Scrutiny Committees commenced this work in Q1 of 2020 and naturally focussed their activity on those areas that were perceived to have the biggest impact namely Scopes 1 and 2. Since then, work has been undertaken to review the scope 1 & 2 data and to quantify the travel elements of scope 3. The Government has also published revised emission factors for 2019 (published in June 20). This has led to our basic footprint reducing to a lower level than that previously reported. The breakdown is shown in the table below.



- 2.6 In terms of Scope 3, work was undertaken in respect of staff travel (business travel and commuting) as this was considered another area where significant gains could be made in the short to medium term and this is included in the above analysis. There is however further work required in respect of Scope 3 that will cover specific areas such as procurement. Work to quantify these emissions will form part of the action plan, and will be tracked as part of the future annual reporting process.
- 2.7 Establishing a baseline position allows the Council to start to develop its strategy and identify those areas that should be the subject of review as part of its implementation Planning

Development of a 3 year Implementation Plan

- 2.8 Within the Council's Strategy it is established that 3 year implementation plans will be developed that will detail the action plan and key areas that the Council will review during that period Following approval of this strategy and the initial work on the baseline position for the council, the first 3 year plan has been developed and this is provided at Appendix 2.
- 2.9 As stated, within this document a range of areas have been identified for development. These include:-
- The reduction in Gas and Electricity usage across the council estate via a series of reduction scheme eg in corporate buildings;
 - Improving the thermal efficiency of all areas of council activity;
 - Key investment projects that will improve gas /electricity usage eg street lighting, LED retrofit;
 - Exploring the opportunities with regard to sustainable transport for example through the greater use of cycleways ;
 - Reduction in fuel consumption and travel during work hours and travel to and from work- agile/home working
 - Explore the potential to move to a low carbon fleet
 - Improve Partnership working across the Borough
 - Develop a Community Engagement programme that will support the aims and objectives of the motion via behaviour change; and
 - Continue to engage, work with and align with the Liverpool City Region on the delivery of the motion
- 2.10 Once agreed, these workstreams will be developed with detailed project plans and will be the subject of reporting to both the senior level officer group and each meeting of the now established Member Reference Group. This output will be reflected in subsequent annual reports.
- 2.11 As previously reported the council has a clear ambition and strategy but it is also cognisant that some of its ambitions maybe limited by the availability of funding. This is understood, however the Council will continue to both explore different funding sources that maybe available and will continue to lobby central government as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review for additional support. Similarly, the pace of change that is being experienced

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with regard to climate change may mean that certain elements that may not be affordable at this time may become affordable in the later stages of the programme as either funding becomes available or the cost reduces. In such circumstances it is important that the council (especially for the more significant issues) is ready with its proposals and ambitions.

Impact of COVID 19

2.12 As previously referenced in this report COVID 19 has had an impact on progress during the last 6 months , however it has offered up a number of areas both within society and the council that should be leveraged as part of the response to the original council motion and should form part of the 3 year implementation plan. During the 'lockdown ' that was in place a number of key issues came to the fore that improved air quality and the impact on the environment. These included

- Significant Air quality improvements across all areas and locations globally, within the UK and within Sefton
- Reduced gas and electricity usage across council estate inc corporate buildings (up to 35%)
- Reduced staff travel in work and to and from work- agile/ home working
- Improved and enhanced partner working, with organisations across the Borough, the Liverpool City Region, with residents , communities and business

As such it is considered that the implementation plan should seek to retain all of these benefits and leverage them further.

3.0 Conclusion

3.1 Following Full Council declaring a climate emergency in July 2019, much work has been conducted by members and officers that resulted in the Council's Strategy being approved in June 2020 by Cabinet. This will be considered by the next meeting of Council. Alongside this work has been undertaken on a number of immediate actions that were contained within that declaration and establishing the council's baseline position in a number of critical areas. This information has been collated and is presented within this report and provides the basis for the councils first 3 year implementation plan.

3.2 At this point in time the world and society is coming to terms with the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. It is forecast that this will have a permanent impact on how society operates, how we all live our lives and all sectors including local government. This will present both opportunities and challenges for the council in how it delivers its objectives as set out in the climate emergency, however it has never been more important in terms of how it supports residents , communities and business within the borough.

Sefton's Climate Change Emergency Implementation Plan

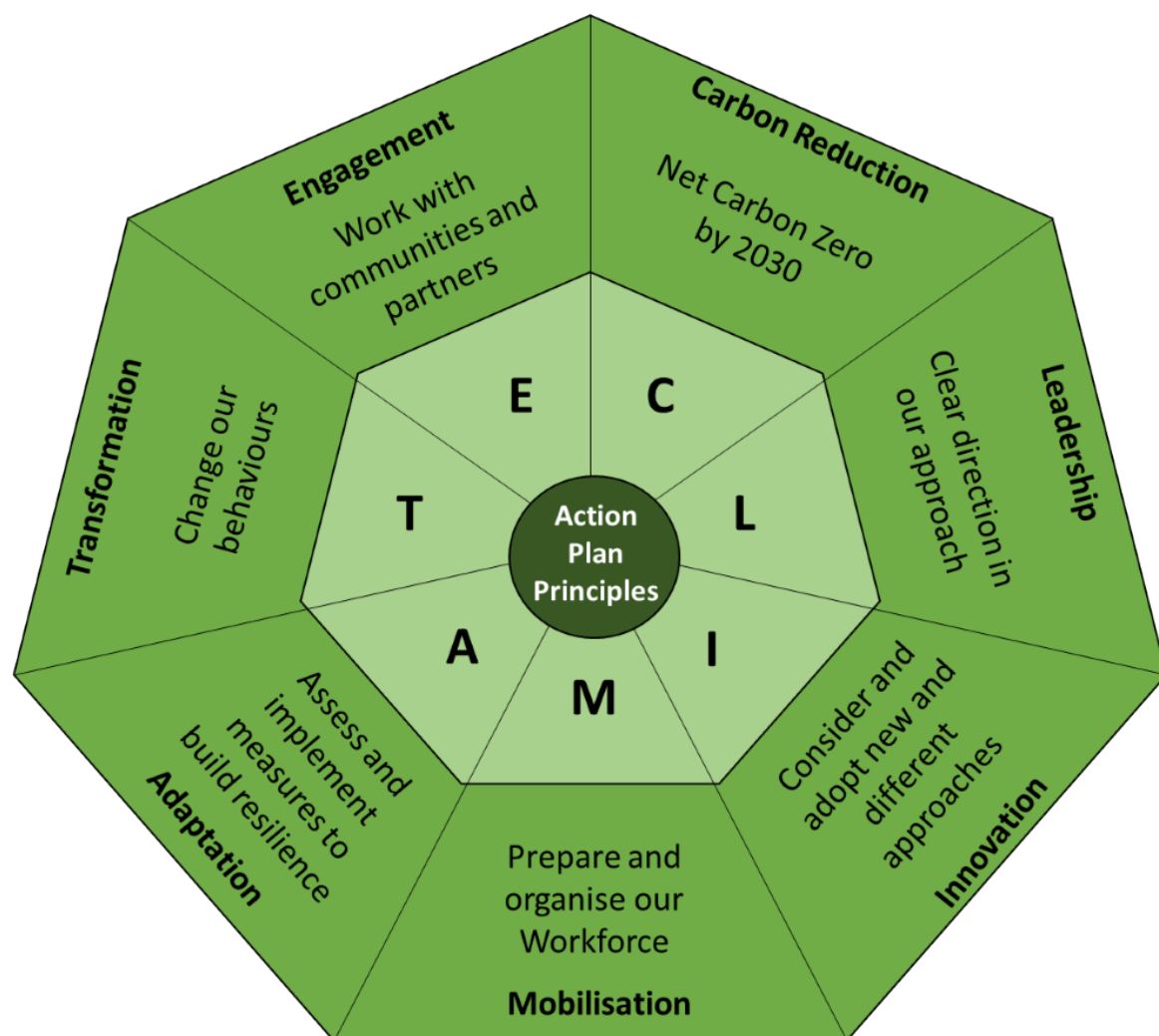
This document sets out Sefton Council's delivery of the commitment made within our climate strategy "Sefton's Climate Change Emergency Plan".

Sefton Council joins over 60% of UK local authorities in declaring a climate emergency and a growing consensus worldwide that urgent action is needed.

We will look at both the challenges and opportunities and engage with our communities to ensure we undertake actions to adapt to and mitigate the effects of climate change now and into the future.

This work will be aligned to the delivery of the Sefton 2030 Vision and the Council's Core Purpose with the aim of making Sefton a great place to be.

We will achieve this by following the below principles as set out in our climate strategy:



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Action Plans will cover three 3 year phases in order to align with the Council's financial planning cycle (shown below), supplemented by annual progress reports. This provides us with the opportunity to review and revise our approach as opportunities arise.

Phase 1 2020 – 2023;

Phase 2 2023 – 2026; and

Phase 3 2026 -2029.

Our action plan will include both mitigation and adaptation measures. This recognises that some impacts of a changing climate cannot be changed in the short/medium term. We must recognise that impacts, such as future sea level rises and an increase in summer temperatures will pose risks and opportunities to how we live and work, so we must alter our approach via adaptation measures. Offsetting is included within mitigation and is the practice of increasing carbon capture to compensate for carbon release that cannot be avoided.

COVID-19 was an unexpected interruption to the timetable of Sefton Council's Climate Emergency response. We do not see this as a major setback, rather, a challenge to keep to our original targets and to learn from one global crisis in response to another. Global carbon emissions have fallen in all countries and will help us to meet the global Paris accord target to limit warming.

This demonstrates a valuable lesson, that there is no quick fix and reduction in carbon emissions has to be sustained and long term to have a significant impact.

We can also learn valuable lessons on a Sefton basis

- COVID-19 has forced teams to work from home without adversely affecting delivery of services. Future flexibility in agile working will be a key element of reducing employee commuting and office energy consumption.
- COVID-19 has prompted a rapid response to a short term crisis; this mindset and sense of urgency can be redirected to tackle a climate crisis that is perceived to be long term, but in reality, is causing problems for communities now.

In order to meet the net zero carbon target, we will develop detailed a carbon reduction trajectory for the period 2020 – 2030, during phase 1. We will also explore options to introduce Carbon budgeting alongside corporate financial models.

We have defined our organisation as, all our depots, leisure centers, libraries, fleet vehicles and office spaces. We will define our emissions according to the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. This will include the most direct emissions Scope 1 and Scope 2, with some additional emissions captured within Scope 3, namely business travel and commuting.

Sefton's Carbon Baseline / Footprint

Here is a summary of the Council's carbon footprint in CO₂. The total emissions from the scope we have defined is **10,017 Tonnes**.

Activity	Emissions (tCO ₂)
Scope 1 Gas	3,173
Scope 1 Oil	0
Scope 1 Diesel	142
Scope 2 Electricity	4,411
Scope 3 Business Travel	313
Scope 3 Staff Commute	1,978
Total emissions	10,017

Here is a summary of the Council's carbon footprint in CO₂e. (CO₂e means carbon dioxide equivalent and is a measure that takes into account the emission of other greenhouse gases associated with the activity undertaken). CO₂e allows other greenhouse gas emissions to be expressed in terms of CO₂ based on their relative *global warming potential* (GWP). This means that this measure will be slightly higher than CO₂, because it captures additional emissions causing global warming/climate change.

The total emissions from the scope we have defined is **10,077 Tonnes**.

Activity	Emissions (tCO ₂ e)
Scope 1 Gas	3,180
Scope 1 Oil	0
Scope 1 Diesel	144
Scope 2 Electricity	4,451
Scope 3 Business Travel	351
Scope 3 Staff Commute	1,988
Total emissions	10,077

The Carbon Baseline/Footprint will be regularly monitored and used to assist in the prioritisation of the carbon mitigation elements of our action plan.

Following our Climate Strategy principles C.L.I.M.A.T.E., our action plan outlines the key areas of work we will undertake over the next 3 phases of our journey to 2030. This will be revised and updated each year in order to capture achievements, opportunities, technological developments and additional challenges.

Local Commitment “We will..”	Local Action “by..”	Impact H/M/L	Phase
Carbon Reduction			
work towards becoming net carbon zero by 2030.	Maintain (and refine) the carbon baseline for Council emissions	High	Phase 1-3
	Identify all current/planned projects and evaluate their contribution/risk to the climate emergency agenda	High	Phase 1
	Explore options to improve thermal efficiency at council sites through retrofit.	High	Phase 1
	Reduce electricity and gas usage : no/low cost energy saving and reduction schemes e.g. Education and awareness campaigns	Low	Phase 1
	Reduce electricity and gas usage : medium / high cost energy saving and reduction schemes e.g. Street lighting LED upgrade	High	Phase 1 & 2
	Explore the opportunities and feasibility for expanding sustainable transport networks and facilities such as cycle routes.	Medium	Phase 1 - 3
	Reduce fuel consumption through promoting ecodriving, and reduced travel via agile working etc.	Medium	Phase 1
	Move to low carbon fleet vehicles	Medium	Phase 3
achieve 100% clean energy by 2030	Investigate self-supply of Biogas (generation) - e.g. through use of municipal waste streams and agricultural waste stock.	High	Phase 2 -3
	Develop renewable energy (electricity) generation across Sefton – solar, on shore wind.	Medium	Phase 1 -2

	Supply of Biogas via Gas purchase agreement / renewable electricity - purchase REA & REGO certificates with a direct agreement between company generating and Sefton.	High	Phase 2 (elec.) Phase 3 (gas)
	Investigate Carbon offsetting options – local then global	Low	Phase 3
Leadership			
Provide clear direction in our approach	Lobby central government for increased funding for climate related projects	High	Phase 1
	Review new policies and strategies, forthcoming budget proposals, Treasury Management Strategy and all cabinet and council decisions to ensure they have considered climate change adaptation and mitigation issues.	Medium	Phase 1
	Sharing expertise and advice with our community, providing details of the Council's commitments and encouraging behaviour change in local homes, businesses and schools.	High	Phase 1 - 3
	Work with local partners across the LCR to a co-ordinated approach and to identify areas for collaboration and resource.	High	Phase 1 - 3
	Use our role as a large organisation to encourage change in the borough, by requiring large suppliers to report on climate impact of activities carried out on our behalf.	High	Phase 1 - 3
	Assess the impacts of local events and activities via the Southport Master Plan and seek to mitigate where necessary	High	Phase 1
Innovation			
consider and adopt new &	Explore options for investment in low carbon energy & innovative technology and seek innovative low carbon options for any new	High	Phase 1 - 3

different approached	developments.		
	Approach the climate emergency with a long term mindset, exploring 'spend to save' methods of climate action.	High	Phase 1 - 3
	Explore options for local offset via climate adaptation programmes and local landscape enhancement	Medium	Phase 1 - 3
	Identify and channel the existing enthusiasm for climate action in the workforce	High	Phase 1
	Continue to invest in Sustainable IT systems to allow for flexibility for agile and home working	Medium	Phase 1
	Develop a Green Sefton membership scheme for our communities to inspire them to take action and buy into the approach being taken by the Council	Medium	Phase 1
<u>Mobilisation</u>			
prepare and organize our workforce to support climate change action	Develop and deliver training & awareness raising for staff at all levels, to encourage low carbon and adaptation measures and informed decision making, among our workforce.	High	Phase 1
	Support departments to assign responsibility and actively contribute to the officers/members working group(s)	High	Phase 1
	Provide timely reporting to members (Cabinet and Overview & Scrutiny Committees) and staff on progress and other developments	High	Phase 1 - 3
	Improve knowledge and understanding of how the Council is affected by extreme weather events in terms of providing its	High	Phase 1 - 3

	services and financial impacts.		
Adaptation			
Access and implement measures to build resilience	Complete a full risk assessment of Climate Change impacts, identifying threats and how they can be managed as well as realising the opportunities (such as offsetting emissions and assessing carbon capture).	High	Phase 1
	Develop a place based strategy/framework for Sefton's landscape portfolio for the delivery of any carbon offsetting, adaptation and mitigation measures whilst working with natural processes.	Medium	Phase 1
	Identify and quantify opportunities for carbon offsetting, urban greening and improved site sustainability; through local landscape management	Medium	Phase 1
	Review impacts of measures on air quality outcomes.	Medium	Phase 1
	Work with the Planning Authority on developing guidance for development, that includes climate benefits, for the built and natural environment.	Medium	Phase 1
Transformation			
Change our behaviour	Align our climate work with the 2030 vision and other transforming principles.	High	Phase 1 - 3
	Utilise existing groups and tools internally to engage staff and raise awareness of low carbon & adaptation activities and encourage action.	Medium	Phase 1
	Reducing commuting and business travel impacts through the implementation of a council travel plan and associated policies.	High	Phase 1
	Embed responsibility for delivery this agenda at all levels. Support	High	Phase 1

	those people to fully understand the expectations of their position in relation to the climate emergency.		
Engagement			
work with communities and partners	Ensure all information on our climate emergency is available in an easy read format and is accessible to all our residents	High	Phase 1
	Establish and engage with an expert panel and a diverse citizens panel (including youth)	High	Phase 1
	Work with partners (Schools, New Directions, Businesses etc) to adopt low carbon & adaptation measures	High	Phase 1 - 3
	Engage our communities to raise awareness of the Council's commitments and encourage appropriate behaviour change	High	Phase 1 - 3

APPENDIX A – SEFTON CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION TRACKER

1	<p>Ensure that political groups and Strategic Leadership Board embed this work in all areas of Council activity and take responsibility for reducing, as rapidly as possible, the carbon emissions resulting from the Council’s activities, ensuring that any recommendations are fully costed and that a Task and Finish group be established to review Council activities taking account of production and consumption emissions and produce an action plan within 12 months, together with budget actions and a measured baseline;</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All party member reference group has been established with defined terms of reference and ultimate responsibility for the delivery of the climate emergency motion - Overview and Scrutiny committees supported the development of a council baseline position in January-March 2020 in order to inform implementation plan - Strategic Leadership Board engaged on overall approach and supported Overview and Scrutiny Committees in developing baseline and subsequent implementation plan - All parties engaged in development of council strategy via Member Reference Group
2	<p>Request that Overview and Scrutiny Management Board consider the impact of climate change and the environment when reviewing Council policies and strategies and charge Task and Finish groups to also consider those impacts in any report and every topic</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Cabinet and Council decision papers are to include a section that requires the impact of policy proposals on climate changes to be defined.
3	<p>Work with, influence and inspire partners across the Borough and City Region to help deliver this goal through relevant strategies, plans and shared resources by developing a series of meetings, events and partner workshops</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This action is underway. Engagement with the combined authority and Liverpool City region partners has commenced. In addition, the Sefton Leadership Collaborative has been engaged in order to take account and align planning where possible. Some of this work has been delayed due to competing priorities of the Covid-19 pandemic.
4	<p>Set up a Sefton Climate Change group, drawing on the expertise from Councillors, local communities, residents, young citizens, climate science and solutions experts, businesses, skills providers, and other relevant parties. Over the following 12 months, the Group will consider strategies and actions being developed by the Council and other partner organisations and develop a Borough-wide strategy in line with a target of net zero emissions by 2030, by engaging with other anchor institutions and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). It will also recommend ways to maximise the local benefits of these actions in other sectors such as employment, health, agriculture, transport and the economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sefton Climate Emergency Strategy was approved by Cabinet in May 2020 and will be presented to Council - The council has identified the governance groups that are to be established in order to deliver the strategy. These are: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1.Sefton Climate Change Member Reference Group (cross - party); 2.Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Management Board; 3.Council wide officer working group; 4.Expert Panel; and 5.Citizens Forum

5	Request that the Council and partners take steps to proactively include young people in the process, ensuring that they have a voice in shaping the future-their future	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - This action will be achieved via the citizens forum and through the Council's SYMBOL group
6	Review the Council's Treasury Management Strategy to give due consideration to climate change targets in the investment decision making process and in doing so request a report within 6 months from the Head of Corporate Resources on the investment strategies of all financial institutions where Council funds are or could be held	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed . The 2020/21 Treasury Management Strategy reflects the Council's aspirations with regard to this
7	Ensure that all reports in preparation for the 2020/21 budget cycle will take into account the actions the Council will take to address this emergency	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Completed. There were no issues arising from specific policy proposals however some of the proposed capital works over the next 3 years will need to reflect the councils aims and ambitions with regard to climate change
8	Add the voice of Sefton Council to the calls on the UK Government to provide the powers, resources and help with funding to make this possible	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Central Government led fair funding review and comprehensive spending review have been deferred from 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic however the council will continue to lobby for additional funding to support the delivery of the motion.
9	In recognition of the seriousness of the financial constraints that the Council faces, and the expectation that both the development and implementation of many measures above are likely to be contingent on securing significant additional extra funding, that Sefton's local MPs be called upon to ensure that Central government provides the powers, resources and funding to make this possible, and that the Leader and Chief Executive jointly write to them to seek their commitments;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Letters will be drafted to align with the central government fair funding and comprehensive spending reviews
10	Consider other actions that could be recommended (but are not restricted to): low carbon energy production and storage, providing electric vehicle infrastructure, encouraging the use of electric vehicles within the fleet, workforce and wider community, integrating low carbon technologies into operational assets and projects, increasing the efficiency of buildings, prioritising these measures for housing to address fuel poverty; proactively using our powers to accelerate the delivery of net carbon new developments and communities, coordinating a series of information and training events to raise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Following completion of the baseline exercise in March 2020, the first 3 year Implementation Plan will be developed will be presented to Cabinet in July 2020 and will then progress to Council. This plan and subsequent activities and strategies will take account of these actions in order to ensure successful delivery

	awareness and share good practice;	
11	Where needed, officer reports to the Council, Cabinet and all other Committees contain impact assessments on climate change that include carbon emission appraisals, including presenting alternative approaches which reduce carbon emissions where possible;	-This action is underway. All Cabinet and Council decision papers are to include a section that requires the impacts of policy proposals on climate changes to be defined
12	Note the Liverpool City Region Deal which will have a direct effect on Sefton's climate and ensure that all partners are aware of Sefton's ambition.	The City Region have been and will continue to be engaged in the delivery of Sefton's ambition

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Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	30 July 2020 17 September 2020
Subject:	Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2020/21 including the Financial Impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 Budget		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To inform **Cabinet** of:

1. The current estimated financial impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 Budget;
2. The current forecast revenue outturn position for the Council for 2020/21;
3. The current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for 2020/21;
4. The monitoring position of the Council's capital programme to the end of June 2020:
 - The forecast expenditure to year end;
 - Variations against the approved budgets and an explanation of those variations for consideration by Members;
 - Updates to spending profiles and proposed amendments to capital budgets necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of capital projects are also presented for approval.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

Revenue Budget

- 1) Note the current estimated impact of COVID-19 on the 2020/21 Budget together with the key issues that will influence the final position and that further government guidance is awaited on the additional support that will be provided to the council which will inform the councils strategy for delivering financial sustainability
- 2) Recognise the financial risks associated with the delivery of the 2020/21 revenue budget and the material variations that are to be expected to the current estimates contained in this report, and agree that subsequent reports provide updates and where appropriate remedial actions plans as appropriate;

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- 3) Approve that the Leader of the Council approve any further expenditure from the Emergency Fund following advice from the Chief Executive and s151 officer with any decisions being reported to future Cabinet meetings;
- 4) Note the government grant funding that has been received that has been used to support the response to the pandemic and which has been distributed in accordance with central government guidance;
- 5) Note the current forecast revenue outturn position for 2020/21;
- 6) Approve the implementation of a remedial action plan to partially mitigate the forecast outturn position, and the principles to be adopted to meet the remaining forecast deficit;
- 7) Approve the temporary additional resources required as part of the demand management programme in respect of fostering, family finder and direct payments and that this provision be reviewed at the end of Q1 in 2021/22 to confirm that the savings identified are being delivered; and
- 8) Acknowledge that the forecast outturn position will continue to be reviewed to ensure a balanced forecast outturn position and financial sustainability can be achieved;

Capital Programme

- 9) Note the spending profiles across financial years for the approved capital programme (paragraph 7.1).
- 10) Approve the proposed updates to the School's Programme (paragraph 7.2).
- 11) Recommend to Council to approve the revised Transport Allocations as shown in paragraph 7.3.
- 12) Note the latest capital expenditure position as at 30 June 2020 of £2.423m (paragraph 7.4.2) with the latest full year forecast of £35.825m (paragraph 7.5.1).
- 13) Note explanations of variances to project budgets (paragraph 7.5.2).
- 14) Note that capital resources will be managed by the Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services to ensure the capital programme remains fully funded and that capital funding arrangements secure the maximum financial benefit to the Council (paragraph 7.6).
- 15) Approve that in order to comply with the guidance set out by MHCLG in respect of the offer from central government of £1m to Southport as part of the Towns Fund, that the Southport Towns Fund Board will advise the Council of the project(s) that it is recommending will be completed with the grant allocation and that this will be communicated to MHCLG via the Council's s151 officer as per the guidance. Following approval this will be the subject of a recommendation to Members in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules (paragraph 7.7).

Council is recommended to:

Approve the revised Transport Allocations as shown in paragraph 7.3 of the report

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure Cabinet are informed of the forecast outturn position for the 2020/21 Revenue Budget as at the end of June 2020, including delivery of a remedial action plan, and to provide an updated forecast of the outturn position with regard to the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates.

To keep members informed of the progress of the Capital Programme against the profiled budget for 2019/20 and agreed allocations for future years.

To progress any changes that are required in order to maintain a relevant and accurate budget profile necessary for effective monitoring of the Capital Programme.

To approve any updates to funding resources so that they can be applied to capital schemes in the delivery of the Council's overall capital strategy.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The report indicates that for 2020/21 there is currently a forecast deficit of £0.664m. Mitigating measures have been identified in order to arrive at this deficit. If this remains at the end of the financial year this will be a call on the Council's General Balances, therefore further remedial action will be required.

(B) Capital Costs

The Council's capital budget in 2020/21 is £35.766m. As at the end of June 2020 expenditure of £2.423m has been incurred and a full year outturn of £35.825m is currently forecast.

Implications of the Proposals:

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

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):

There is currently a budget shortfall of £0.664m forecast for 2020/21. However, it should be noted that significant pressure and risk remains in four key business areas, namely Children's Social Care, Children with Disabilities, Education Excellence and Locality Services. These budgets may experience further demand pressure during the remainder of the year in which case corresponding savings will need to be identified. If this cannot take place there will be a call on the Council's General Balances.

Legal Implications:

None

Equality Implications:

None

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Effective Financial Management and the development and delivery of sustainable annual budgets support each theme of the Councils Core Purpose.

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<u>Protect the most vulnerable:</u> See comment above
<u>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</u> See comment above
<u>Commission, broker and provide core services:</u> See comment above
<u>Place – leadership and influencer:</u> See comment above
<u>Drivers of change and reform:</u> See comment above
<u>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</u> See comment above
<u>Greater income for social investment:</u> See comment above
<u>Cleaner Greener:</u> See comment above

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Customer Services is the author of the report (FD 6063/20)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and has no comments on the report (LD 4246/20).

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting.

Contact Officer:	Paul Reilly
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4106
Email Address:	paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

APPENDIX A – Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23

APPENDIX B – Proposed Education Capital Schemes

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In February 2020, Council approved the budget for 2020/21. This report provides an update on the forecast revenue outturn position for 2020/21, including the significant impact of COVID-19 on the Council's 2020/21 budget.
- 1.2 The report also outlines the current position regarding key income streams for the Authority, namely Council Tax and Business Rates. Variations against expected receipts in these two areas will also affect the Council's financial position in future years.
- 1.3 The capital section of the report informs Members of the latest estimate of capital expenditure for 2020/21 and forecast expenditure for 2021/22 and 2022/23. The capital budget to date is presented in section 7.1. Sections 7.4 and 7.5 review progress of the capital programme. Finally, section 7.6 confirms that there are adequate levels of resources available to finance the capital programme.

2. Impact of COVID 19 on 2020/21 Budget

- 2.1 At the last Cabinet meeting on 25 June 2020, Members received a comprehensive report that outlined the full range of financial issues that were being faced by the Council (and all other councils within the country). This focussed on:-
 - Cost of the Council responding to the Pandemic;
 - Reduction in Income collected from services as a result of the pandemic;
 - Reduced Council Tax Income;
 - Reduced Business Rates Income;
 - Impact on Cashflow during the year;
 - Impact on the bad debt provision; and
 - Potential impact on the development of the Council's 2021/22 to 2022/23 budget.
- 2.2 At that meeting members were provided with details that based on the monthly return to central government (MHCLG) the Council would have an income shortfall of £27.3m in 2020/21 when these issues had been taken into account and the use of the £17.5m emergency fund from central government had been applied. These figures reflected actual expenditure and receipts as at the end of May and estimates until the end of the year. It was acknowledged that these figures would be the subject of material change depending on when lockdown measures were relaxed, social behaviour and the conditions within the local economy that drive employment and business activity.
- 2.3 That report outlined that for Sefton, government guidance and advice was required at the earliest opportunity on how to approach each issue and that significant further direct financial support was required in order for the Council to be able to balance its budget in year and to support cash flow. This could not be done through the use of

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Council reserves. In the absence of this, the Council would have to commence planning for how each of these issues would be addressed in order that it would meet its statutory obligations and financial sustainability be maintained.

Latest Submission to MHCLG - July 2020

- 2.4 As Members will be aware each month the Council has been required to outline its cost pressures in its return to MHCLG. The latest submission is due to be provided on 31 July 2020. At the time of this report being published work is ongoing on the return however an estimate of the latest figures that will be provided are detailed below.

	June 2020 £'m	July 2020 £'m
Forecast cost of responding the pandemic	15.9	14.2
Loss of income from fees and charges	15.6	15.7
Reduced Council Tax receipts	7.8	6.4
Reduced Business Rates receipts	5.5	7.0
Sub Total	44.8	43.3
Government Funding Received	(17.5)	(20.1)
Current Shortfall	27.3	23.2

Central Government Advice and Guidance

- 2.5 On Thursday 2 July 2020, central government issued a press release that provided headlines for its next phase of financial support to local government and this was focussed on 3 areas:
- An unringfenced grant for LA's totalling £500m;
 - In year support will be provided for loss of income from fees and charges. This will be based on Local Authorities having to fund the first 5% (to reflect natural volatility) of total fees and charges to be collected in year. This is to be taken from the total income that can't be collected-central government will then meet 75% of the remaining balance with councils having to fund the remaining 25%; and
 - For next year the budget shortfall that would have been experienced due to lower council tax and business rates being collected can be 'smoothed' over 3 years. Central Government have advised that they will look at this area and its impact as part of the Spending Review which will be announced in October/November 2020.
- 2.6 On Thursday 16 July 2020, further advice and guidance was provided - this included the announcement that the Council's share of the £500m grant would be £2.570m. This takes the total grant received by central government to £20.124m.

Potential Impact for Sefton

2020/21

- 2.7 As stated, there are two primary issues that need to be addressed in the current year for the Council:-

- The Council has a statutory responsibility to balance its budget, therefore needs to meet the loss of fees and charges of £15.7m (This assumes that the approved budget for the year is balanced); and
- The Council needs to have sufficient cash within its bank account to meet its ongoing costs throughout the year, i.e. cashflow.

Additional Direct Allocation

- 2.8 Central Government has announced a further £500m of unringfenced grant for local authorities with the Sefton allocation being £2.570m. This follows an initial 2 tranches of support that have previously been received and were intended to be used to respond to the pandemic (tranche 1) and to meet potential income shortfalls in addition to responding to the pandemic (tranche 2). This initial support was also unringfenced.

Cost of responding to the pandemic

- 2.9 It can be seen from the table presented earlier in this report that in June the Council had commitments totalling £15.9m from its emergency fund budget. This reflected spend to date and some initial estimates from the start of the pandemic of what maybe incurred. At this point in time it is estimated that some of these initial allocations will not be required to the level previously assumed and that the revised commitments now amount to £11.2m.
- 2.10 As a result of this, a balance would remain in this emergency fund. There is of course huge uncertainty within the country at present in respect of the potential for local outbreaks and a second wave of the pandemic and indeed as lockdown releases further pressure maybe experienced in Council services. It is therefore proposed that an indicative sum of £3.0m be held to support such an eventuality. This sum can be changed depending on developments over the coming months which as stated are not known at this stage. It is proposed that the Leader of the Council approve any further expenditure from the Emergency Fund following advice from the Chief Executive and s151 officer with any such allocation being reported to future Cabinet meetings.

Fees and Charges

- 2.11 As stated, within the latest MHCLG return, the Council has estimated that it will experience a reduction in fees and charges income of £15.7m.
- 2.12 This sum represents known and expected losses to the end of August 2020 and then further reductions from that point as some services are re-opened. This is obviously an estimate at this stage and will be determined by two key issues:-
- The actual level of income that is generated over the remainder of the year; and
 - Social behaviour post lockdown.
- 2.13 Based upon the central government initial guidance received on 16 July 2020 of how the support in this area will work, the Council estimates that it may be required to fund approximately £5.0m to £7.0m of these income losses, however as stated this will depend on the final guidance received and the final losses experienced by the Council. It is important to note that as a 'cost sharing' approach has been set by

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central government, decisions made by the Council in respect of its income generating activity will bear a cost that will need to be met.

Potential Options for Balancing the 2020/21 Budget

- 2.14 The financial implications for the current year are both complex and significant in financial value. As stated, the final financial impact of the pandemic is not yet known and there remains uncertainty as to the level of government support that will be made available. Therefore, in developing a proposal for how the Council will balance its budget, it needs to be aware of the factors that could lead to it needing to update or refine its plans.
- 2.15 Based upon the initial estimates at this stage (and assuming that the previously approved Council budget is balanced), the Council will need to meet an additional funding shortfall of approximately £5.0m to £7.0m in this year, however this will be subject of change. It is clear that the potential to make further in year savings of this level from this point would be extremely difficult without changes to services and/or service levels, neither of which are desirable at this stage in the financial year, with the pandemic ongoing and pressure on Council services mounting as lockdown eases.
- 2.16 Similarly, the Council does not have 'surplus' reserves that it could utilise on a one-off basis for a deficit of this size. Any such use would have to be undertaken on a risk-based basis and would require repayment in future years which would add to the funding gap in the Medium-Term Financial Plan.
- 2.17 The Council will therefore need to maximise the use of the central government grant that it has received and has not been spent in directly responding to the pandemic at this stage (should any balance remain) while using but as far as possible limiting the potential use reserves or other balances held.
- 2.18 This approach however is predicated on the following:-
- Final government guidance on the proposed approach to funding fees and charges being received and the estimates within this paper being revised;
 - No further commitments being agreed at this stage in respect of the emergency fund;
 - Previous estimates in respect of emergency fund allocations being 'revised down' as set out to reflect actual expenditure incurred-this will take place following approval of this report;
 - An initial contingency of £3.0m being established from the emergency fund for potential future commitments in respect of additional support being required to fund a local outbreak or a second wave of the pandemic or additional demand for Council services/funding. It is proposed that the Leader of the Council approve any such allocations having taken advice from the Chief Executive and the s151 officer;
 - The impact of a local outbreak or second wave of the pandemic meaning a response is required from the Council that exceeds the proposed £3.0m sum that is to be set aside;
 - The final estimated shortfall on fees and charges within the Council during the year which will be dependent on when services resume, additional cost of re-opening, reduced income levels and social behaviour; and,

- Central government remaining consistent that the use of emergency funding is unringfenced and at the discretion of local councils and that any funds not used in responding to the pandemic will not be directed by central government as part of their contribution to the fees and charges shortfall.

2.19 In the event that these options cannot be delivered for the reasons set out, the Council will need to review further expenditure commitments that are due to be incurred between now and the end of the year and the use of all of its available cash balances, including potential capital receipts and earmarked reserves, to meet any funding shortfall. Such a scenario comes with a number of risks and issues to the future financial sustainability of the Council and is thus not the preferred approach at this stage. Discussions with the Council's External Auditor will form part of the final strategy.

2.20 The Council, as reported at Budget Council in February, outlined that its level of reserves is low compared to that of similar authorities and for a council of this size. Any use of cash balances (including capital receipts) and earmarked reserves will increase the financial risk to the Council in both current and future years and will need to be repaid as part of the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

Cashflow

2.21 At this time, it is unclear as to when the additional grant from central government will be received and when support for fees and charges is due. It is therefore not possible at this stage to refine the estimate of when the Council will require additional support to its cashflow position that was previously reported to Cabinet at the previous meeting. This will be refined as this information becomes available.

2021/22

2.22 Central Government has recognised that what councils collect in council tax and business rates in one year directly informs what it has available to spend in the following year through its Collection Fund.

2.23 All councils are experiencing reductions in council tax and business rates income at present and are reporting this to MHCLG. These estimates will obviously be the subject of change through the year but will have a material impact on next year's budget.

2.24 Central government have been advising in recent weeks that the previous austerity programme has come to an end, that councils should not be developing plans for significant service cuts as a result of the pandemic or government policy as they are working on a sustainable financial settlement for the sector and that they are hoping to provide certainty to aid planning.

2.25 Sefton is currently estimating that it will experience a reduction in council tax and business rates income of around £13.4m, with this estimate having the potential to vary considerably before the year end as the true impact of the pandemic on employment levels and business becomes apparent.

2.26 Government have advised that instead of experiencing the impact of this in one year, i.e. 2021/22, as required by the current regulations, such a deficit can be 'smoothed'

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over the next three years. Based on the current figure this would mean a shortfall in each of the next three years of £4.5m.

- 2.27 Such figures are significant; therefore, government has advised that it will revisit this as part of the Spending Review, when the financial position will become clearer for councils, but this is the best planning total that the Council has at this stage.
- 2.28 The Government have now announced that the Spending Review will be finalised this autumn, covering years from 2021/22 to 2023/24. However, the implications of this for individual councils will not be known until the Local Government Finance Settlement which is expected to be announced just before Christmas. As it has in previous years, the Council will be making representations to the Government on the Spending Review.
- 2.29 Developing next year's budget and a revised Medium-Term Financial Plan is therefore extremely difficult at this stage, due to the uncertainty that exists both within existing budgets and what government guidance and support can be expected. The council is clear on the issues that need to be reflected in this Medium-Term Financial Plan therefore a set of potential ranges are set out for each of these. These will need to be refined over the forthcoming months.
- 2.30 A summary of these potential issues is summarised below that takes account of this and other factors that will influence the Council's Medium-Term Financial Plan that will be updated and presented to Cabinet in October 2020:

Medium Term Financial Plan- Planning Assumption 2021/22	Lower range Estimate (£'m)	Upper Range Estimate (£'m)
'Smoothing' of Collection Fund deficit	1.0	4.5
Loss of income from sales, fees and charges until economy recovers	1.5	4.5
Increase provision for Children's Social Care	2.0	2.0
Contingency provision to reflect significant budget uncertainty within existing services arising from the pandemic	1.0	1.0
Potential Impact from Spending Review – grant distribution based on population as per previous MTFP	0.0	4.5
Repayment of reserves and balances if required to support loss of income in the current year	0.0	1.7
Total	5.5	18.2

Note :all of these estimates will be the subject of change as the Council moves through the financial year for the reasons set out in this report

- 2.31 From this table it can be seen that there are a diverse range of issues that will impact upon the funding that the Council has for next year with the most significant of these not being within its control. As such the funding gap for next year arising from the pandemic could be between £5.5m and £18.2m based on current estimates.

2.32 As such the planning detailed within the Cabinet report of June 2020 will continue and be reported to Members in due course and the MTFP planning assumptions which will be the subject of change throughout the year will also be updated.

2.33 As stated in the Cabinet report of June 2020 and this report, the situation the council finds itself in is one that is reflective of all councils in England. The Council is engaged individually and collectively with other city region authorities in lobby both MHCLG and BEIS on the issues faced, the need for sustainable funding solutions and timely advice and support in order that it can meet its statutory responsibilities both financially and in respect of providing services to residents.

3. **Central Government Grant Programmes in Response to COVID-19**

3.1 As part of its role in responding to the pandemic, Central Government has requested that all councils administer a number of grant programmes that have been designed to support residents, businesses and care homes. These are:-

- A Council Tax Hardship Fund
- Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund
- Business Rates relief; and
- Infection Control Fund

3.2 For each of these programmes, government advice and guidance has been prescriptive with no flexibility offered to local government on how to apply them. A summary of each of the programmes, key details and their value is included below.

Council Tax Hardship Fund

3.3 The Government announced in the Budget on 11 March that it would provide local authorities in England with £500 million of new grant funding to support economically vulnerable people and households in their local area. Sefton's allocation was £3.037m.

3.4 The Council was required to give all residents of working age who receive a discount under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) a further discount of £150. Approximately 15,500 residents have their bill reduced and amended Council Tax bills showing this reduction have been reissued (total cost £2.359m). New claimants will automatically receive this discount and funding has been set aside for this purpose as a rise is expected.

Small Business Grant Fund and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund

3.5 The Government announced there would be support for small businesses, and businesses in the retail, hospitality and leisure sectors in the form of two grant funding schemes for 2020/21, the Small Business Grant Fund (SBGF) and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund (RHLG).

3.6 Under the SBGF all businesses in England in receipt of either Small Business Rates Relief (SBRR) or Rural Rates Relief (RRR) in the business rates system were eligible for a payment of £10,000 in line with the eligibility criteria. To 10 July 2020 Sefton had made payments of £31.730m to 3,173 businesses.

3.7 Under the RHLG, businesses in England that would have been in receipt of the Expanded Retail Discount (which covers retail, hospitality and leisure) on 11 March

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2020 with a rateable value of less than £51,000 will be eligible for the following cash grants per property:

- Eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of up to and including £15,000 will receive a grant of £10,000.
- Eligible businesses in these sectors with a property that has a rateable value of over £15,000 and less than £51,000 will receive a grant of £25,000.

3.8 To 10 July 2020 Sefton had made payments of £16.825m to 901 businesses.

Discretionary Business Grant Fund

3.9 A discretionary fund has been set up by the Government to accommodate certain small businesses previously outside the scope of the business grant funds scheme. Sefton's allocation was £2.237m.

3.10 This additional funding is aimed at small businesses with ongoing fixed property-related costs. However, awards of funding could be made to other businesses based on local economic need.

3.11 As at 10 July 2020 payments of £0.552m had been made to 123 businesses. A report providing an update on the scheme is presented elsewhere on today's agenda.

Business Rates relief

3.12 In the Budget on 11 March the Government announced that it would increase the Business Rates Retail discount to 100% and extend it to include the leisure and hospitality sectors. Following the announcement on 23 March 2020 of further measures to limit the spread of coronavirus, the Government confirmed that some of the exclusions for this relief had been removed. To 10 July 2020 Sefton had applied £39.755m of relief to the Business Rates bills of 1,640 eligible businesses. This is £37.007m more than estimated under the previous Retail scheme.

3.13 In addition, on 18 March 2020 the government announced that many childcare providers would pay no business rates in 2020/21. To 10 July 2020 Sefton had applied £0.371m of relief to the Business Rates bills of 37 eligible businesses.

Infection Control Fund

3.14 The Government has also provided £600m nationally to help support adult social care providers with the costs of infection control; the Council has been allocated £4.858m. An initial allocation of 50% of this figure has been received, with local authorities being mandated to pay 75% of this directly to care homes based on the number of CQC registered beds. The initial allocation to care homes was £482.59 per bed with total payments of £1.822m made to 131 individual care homes. The remaining 25% of the initial allocation will be allocated to care homes and domiciliary care providers to support infection control measures, primarily for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE).

3.15 It is expected that once received by the Council, the second 50% tranche of funding will be required to be allocated in a similar way but may also be utilised for wider Infection, Prevention and Control activities.

4. Summary of the Forecast Outturn Position as at the end of June 2020

- 4.1 Members are provided with updates of the Council's forecast financial position each month during the financial year from June onwards.
- 4.2 Given the unprecedented financial challenges faced by the Council in relation to COVID-19, it is vital that the Council is able to achieve a balanced forecast outturn position for its normal activities, ignoring the impact of COVID-19 pressures. Therefore, the Council undertook initial budget monitoring during April and May to get an earlier indication on the likely pressures to be incurred.
- 4.3 As in previous years, significant pressures have been identified in several service areas at this early stage of the year, particularly Children's Social Care, Communities (Children with Disabilities) Education Excellence (Home to School Transport) and Locality Services. Initial indications of the budget pressures are shown below:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Budget Pressure</u>
	£m
Children's Social Care – Placements & Packages	4.100
Communities – Children with Disabilities / PSR2	1.050
Education Excellence – Home to School Transport	0.200
Locality Services – Security Force	0.350
	5.700

- 4.4 Given the uncertainty around COVID-19 it is vital that the Council ensures the 2020/21 budget does not overspend. Therefore, following the April monitoring position being determined, it was identified that a remedial plan needed to be developed. This has initially focussed on vacancy management with external recruitment being prioritised in Children's Services, Family and Well Being Centres/Early Help and SEND, stopping all non-essential expenditure within the Council, with the exceptions of Children's Social Care (due to the budget issues in that service) and Public Health (due to the current pandemic) and as per the Budget Report of February 2020, bringing through savings from the Framework for Change programme - these will be developed and shared with Members as per the Council's established governance processes. A budget shortfall of £5.7m equates to needing to identify savings to the value of 3.5% of the Council's remaining budget and as this pressure is permanent long-term savings to this value are required moving into next year.
- 4.5 As a result of this work undertaken, the latest forecast of service expenditure indicates an overspend of **£0.664m** however this represents the forecast at this early stage of the year and both each services outturn forecast and those savings that are being developed will vary in value over the next nine months. It is however critical that in the event that budget pressure increases, corresponding savings are identified within the Council's existing budget. The table below highlights the variations:

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance

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	£m	£m	£m
Services			
Strategic Management	3.140	2.972	-0.168
Strategic Support	2.460	2.367	-0.093
Adult Social Care	97.634	94.335	-3.299
Children's Social Care	34.717	39.362	4.645
Communities	18.463	19.176	0.713
Corporate Resources	4.499	3.670	-0.829
Economic Growth & Housing	5.664	5.583	0.081
Education Excellence	9.925	9.851	-0.074
Health & Wellbeing	18.972	18.913	-0.059
Highways & Public Protection	10.710	10.362	-0.348
Locality Services	12.153	12.187	0.034
Total Service Net Expenditure	218.337	218.778	0.441
Budget Pressure Fund	1.000	0.000	-1.000
Council Wide Budgets	17.124	18.347	1.223
Levies	34.701	34.701	0.000
General Government Grants	(46.456)	(46.456)	0.000
Total Net Expenditure	224.706	225.370	
<u>Forecast Year-End Deficit</u>			<u>0.664</u>

4.6 The key forecast variations in the outturn position (excluding savings) are as follows:

-

- **Children's Social Care (£4.645m net overspend)** – Based on the numbers of Looked After Children at the beginning of the year, the Placement and Packages budget is forecast to overspend by £3.241m in 2020/21. Assuming a further increase in the number of Looked After Children in line with the increase seen in 2019/20, the forecast overspend will increase by a further £0.960m, i.e. a total forecast overspend of £4.201m.

In addition, there is a forecast overspend on staffing costs relating to social workers and agency staff of £0.483m. A review of the level of staffing will be undertaken, including the use of agency staff, to refine the forecast and determine if any of the increased costs are as a result of COVID-19 and the pressure that has brought to the service.

As has been regularly reported over the last two years, the cost of Placements and Packages is the largest risk to the Council's budget position, and it is expected that the position will be the subject of further change between now and the year end. The Council is currently working on developing a range of options to address the inherent demand and costs of Looked After Children whilst supporting the most vulnerable residents, but this budget remains under pressure and purely from a financial point of view this is likely to continue during this year and into the next financial year.

- **Communities – (£1.260m overspend)** – The cost of placements and packages for Children with Disabilities is forecast to overspend by £0.583m (excluding the estimated additional costs relating to COVID-19). This budget has been under increasing pressure in recent years but overspends have previously been offset by underspends elsewhere on the service.

In addition, there is a residual savings target from PSR2 of £0.633m for which specific savings have yet to be identified. In 2019/20 these were achieved by vacancy savings and a number of one-off measures which aren't available in 2020/21.

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- **Education Excellence (£0.163m overspend)** - Home to School transport external provision has a projected overspend of £0.207m due to an increase in the number of children being transported plus an increase in the number of children in receipt of personal travel budgets. These demand pressures have meant the budget has overspent for a number of years, despite increases being made to the budget, including £0.200m in 2020/21.
- **Locality Services (£0.350m overspend)** – Some of the service pressures experienced in 2019/20 have continued into 2020/21.
 - Security Service (£0.615m overspend) – The forecast deficit is a reflection of an under recovery of income to support the cost base. The forecast overspend is based on a prudent view of the income due. The Service is to undertake a full review as part of the saving proposals below.
 - Cleansing (£0.351m underspend) – The underspend is mainly due to the reduced costs of vehicles as the purchase of the new fleet will occur later than originally anticipated, resulting in lower prudential borrowing costs.

Measures to close the residual gap in 2020/2021

- 4.7 The forecast budget deficit as at June 2020 is **£0.664m**. This reflects the risks that are inherent in the Council's financial position, particularly around demand for Children's Social Care and other demand led services. With a budget gap remaining and further pressure likely based on experience in previous years and the need to manage the impact of COVID on the Council's financial sustainability, financial principles utilised over the last decade will once again be maintained:
- All Heads of service as a minimum should contain expenditure within the budget forecast that has been made at the end of June - if there is to be any budget pressure above this, remedial measures will be required to meet the pressure or further savings being required across all services.
 - To that end expenditure should only be incurred on essential activities during the year and a targeted approach to vacancy management as set out.
 - Heads of Service and senior managers to place an increased emphasis on budget monitoring throughout the year to ensure all financial forecasts are robust and can be substantiated.
 - The remedial action plan and mitigations proposed by Services be tracked for the remainder of the financial year to ensure they are being achieved.
- 4.8 As has been discussed previously, the financial landscape for local government this year is uncertain – it is hoped based on some briefings that central government will support the sustainability of the sector but this budget position will not be helped by that process so as a minimum this in year budget must be balanced as this also directly impacts the councils reserves and cash flow position which are two of the biggest risk areas arising from the current pandemic. As the year progresses monthly reports will be provided to members on all financial issues and proposals for how financial sustainability can be maintained and the decisions that are required to enable this. It should also be noted that the pressures identified this year will be permanent, i.e. will exist next year. These will need to be funded from that point therefore an assessment will be needed as to whether the measures included in the

remedial plan can be extended into next year or this pressure will add to the potential funding gap detailed in paragraph 2.29.

Framework for Change 2020

- 4.9 Budget Council on 27 February 2020 approved the commencement of all appropriate activity within the Framework for Change 2020 programme. Work has progressed on each of the workstreams for both Council of 2023 and Demand Management. As part of Demand Management, and following work undertaken with external support, savings have been identified in respect of a number of projects within the Children's Social Care and Adult Social Care workstreams.
- 4.10 Due to the impact of COVID-19 there have been delays in progressing some of the activities required in order to achieve the forecast savings. Part year savings have been included within the 2020/21 forecast outturn figures where appropriate and savings will be built into the 2021/22 budget.
- 4.11 In order to deliver some of the savings the following additional resources are required:
- Family Finder Team (£0.140m)
 - Fostering Team (£0.170m)
 - Direct Payments Team (£0.070m staff)

The cost of these additions has been netted off the savings included in the current forecast and will be reviewed after 12 months to confirm that they have resulted in those financial benefits having been generated.

5. Council Tax Income – Update

- 5.1 Council Tax income is shared between the billing authority (Sefton Council) and the three major precepting authorities (the Fire and Rescue Authority, the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Combined Authority – Mayoral Precept) pro-rata to their demand on the Collection Fund. The Council's Budget included a Council Tax Requirement of £139.830m for 2020/21 (including Parish Precepts), which represents 84.1% of the net Council Tax income of £166.267m.
- 5.2 The forecast outturn for the Council at the end of June 2020 is a deficit of +£1.574m. This variation is primarily due to: -
- The deficit on the fund at the end of 2019/20 being higher than estimated (+£0.047m);
 - Gross Council Tax Charges in 2020/21 being lower than estimated (£0.010m);
 - Exemptions and Discounts (including a forecasting adjustment) being higher than estimated (+£1.517m). This is mainly as a result of a significant increase in the number of claimants for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS).

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- 5.3 It should be noted that the deficit is expected to increase due to an increasing number of CTRS claimants (the current estimated deficit is a further £0.7m in addition to the figure quoted in paragraph 4.2) and the impact of a reduction in the amount of Council Tax being collected (currently estimated at £4.2m).
- 5.4 Due to Collection Fund regulations, the Council Tax deficit will not be transferred to the General Fund in 2020/21 but will be carried forward to be recovered in future years.
- 5.5 A forecast deficit of £2.348m was declared on the 23 January 2020 of which Sefton's share is £1.975m (84.1%). This is the amount that will be recovered from the Collection Fund in 2020/21. Any additional surplus or deficit will be distributed in 2021/22 and future years.

6. Business Rates Income – Update

- 6.1 Since 1 April 2017, Business Rates income has been shared between the Council (99%) and the Fire and Rescue Authority (1%). The Council's Budget included retained Business Rates income of £66.169m for 2020/21, which represents 99% of the net Business Rates income of £66.838m. Business Rates income has historically been very volatile making it difficult to forecast accurately.
- 6.2 The forecast outturn for the Council at the end of June 2020 is a deficit of £35.591m on Business Rates income. This is due to:
- The surplus on the fund at the end of 2020/21 being higher than estimated (-£1.119m);
 - Increase in the gross charge on rateable properties (-£0.083m);
 - Other reliefs (including a forecasting adjustment) being lower than estimated in 2020/21 (-£0.110m);
 - A number of additional reliefs were announced after January 2020 to support businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. These include expanded retail discount, pub relief, newspaper relief, and private nursery relief. The loss of income as a result of these reliefs will be covered by Section 31 grant payments. Due to the timing of these announcements the impact of these reliefs could not be incorporated into the budget figures reported in the NNDR1 return (+£36.903m).
- 6.3 When taking into account the additional Section 31 grants due on the additional reliefs, a net surplus of £1.407m is forecast. However, it should be noted that this doesn't take account of the impact of the number of appeals being registered by businesses in response to the pandemic or the reduction in the amount of Business Rates being collected. A significant forecast deficit is therefore anticipated with the current estimate being a £7.0m deficit.
- 6.4 Due to Collection Fund regulations, a Business Rates deficit will not be transferred to the General Fund in 2020/21 but will be carried forward to be recovered in future years.

6.5 A forecast surplus of £0.622m was declared in January 2020. Sefton's share of this is £0.616m. This is the amount that will be distributed from the Collection Fund in 2020/21 and any additional surplus or deficit will be distributed in future years.

7. Capital Programme 2020/21 – 2022/23

7.1 Capital Budget

7.1.1 The Capital Budget and profile of expenditure for the three years 2020/21 to 2022/23 is as follows:

2020/21	£35.766m
2021/22	£20.481m
2022/23	£1.081m

7.2 School's Programme

7.2.1 The Council had a provisional allocation of funding available at the beginning of 2020/21 of £4.163m to allocate to school's schemes. In developing the programme for 2020/21 and reviewing the existing school's schemes, the following allocations have been made from this available allocation due to cost price increases and changes in scope:

- Freshfield Primary Boiler Replacement £0.007m
- Grange Primary Boiler Replacement £0.040m
- Grange Primary Rewiring £0.145m
- Lydiate Primary Rewiring £0.159m

7.2.2 A greater focus and need under Special Educational Needs and Disabilities has also been identified for sixth form provision at Rowan High School. It is therefore proposed to support the development of three classrooms with an additional £0.368m from the provisional funding available above.

7.2.3 The remaining balance of £3.444m funding available will be allocated to new education schemes and a programme of works has therefore been developed. A breakdown of these new schemes can be found at Appendix B and is now presented for approval.

7.3 Highways Programme

7.3.1 The Capital Programme approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2020 included an allocation of £2.298m for Highway Maintenance and an additional sum for maintaining the Key Route Network (KRN) of £0.405m based upon previous years allocations.

7.3.2 Subsequently the Combined Authority (CA) agreed to increase the proportion of highway maintenance funding for the Key Route Network with a proportionate decrease in the direct allocations to Local authorities. Sefton was subsequently

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awarded £1.882m for the Highways Maintenance block, with the KRN allocation to be allocated in due course. This was the figure subsequently used in the Transport Capital schemes approved by Cabinet Member for Localities in June 2020.

7.3.3 On 7th July 2020 the Council was informed that our allocation from the CA for the KRN for 2020/21 will be £0.898m. In addition, we will receive further allocations of £1.995m and £0.630m from the Highways Challenge Fund distributed by the government to the CA in response to COVID-19. Alongside this a further £0.167m has been allocated via the Pot hole Fund, together with £0.590m of Active Travel Funding to implement pop up cycle lanes as part of the COVID-19 response. Consequently, the revised 2020/21 Transport Capital allocations presented for approval are as follows:

	Revised Allocations July 2020
LTP - Highways Maintenance Block	£1,880,000
LTP - Integrated Transport Block	£990,000
LTP - Additional Key Route Network	£898,000
Highways Challenge Fund (Formulaic distribution)	£1,995,000
Highways Challenge Fund (as per Bid)	£630,000
Pot Hole Fund	£167,400
Active Travel Fund	£590,460
Sustainable Urban Development Fund	£1,085,000
Merseyside Local Growth Fund STEP	£1,067,000

7.4 Budget Monitoring Position to June 2020

7.4.1 The current position of expenditure against the budget profile to the end of June 2020 is shown in the table below. It should be noted that budgets are profiled dependent upon the timing of when works are to be carried out and the anticipated spend over the financial year. For example, Education Excellence will typically carry out most of its capital works during key school's holiday periods such as the summer recess (quarter two), whilst Highways and Public Protection will complete most of its programmed works during quarters two and four. The budget to date in the table below reflects the profiles of each individual scheme.

7.4.2 Due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis, delivery of schemes during the first quarter (April to June) has been relatively low and the budget has been profiled accordingly, similarly the opportunity to conduct large elements of the schools' programme during summer 2020 will also have been lost. It is anticipated that spending will increase towards the end of quarter two as contractors return on site to complete scheduled works. The budgets will therefore reflect increases in activity later in the year. It may also be necessary to reprofile allocations to future years where schemes have been delayed and cannot be completed in the current year. These schemes will be kept under review and any adjustments to the budgets will be reported to Cabinet on subsequent monitoring reports.

Service Area	Budget to Jun-20	Actual Expenditure to Jun-20	Variance to Jun-20
	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care	0.332	0.259	-0.073
Communities	0.018	0.021	0.003
Corporate Resources	0.009	0.007	-0.002
Economic Growth & Housing	0.021	0.021	-
Education Excellence	0.589	0.588	-0.001
Highways & Public Protection	1.173	1.135	-0.038
Locality Services	0.346	0.392	0.046
Total Programme	2.488	2.423	-0.065

7.5 Capital Programme Forecast Outturn 2020/21

7.5.1 The current forecast of expenditure against the budget profile to the end of 2020/21 and the profile of budgets for future years is shown in the table below:

Service Area	Full Year Budget 2020/21	Forecast Out-turn	Variance to Budget	Full Year Budget 2021/22	Full Year Budget 2022/23
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care	2.614	2.574	-0.040	7.992	-
Communities	0.255	0.258	0.003	0.265	-
Corporate Resources	1.489	1.489	-	1.399	-
Economic Growth & Housing	6.100	6.100	-	1.377	-
Education Excellence	3.689	3.689	-	5.749	-
Highways & Public Protection	12.547	12.547	-	-	-
Locality Services	9.072	9.168	0.096	3.699	1.081
Total Programme	35.766	35.825	0.059	20.481	1.081

A full list of the capital programme by capital scheme is at **Appendix A**.

7.5.2 The current 2020/21 budgeted spend is £35.766m with a budgeted spend to June of £2.488m. The full year budget includes an exceptional item of £7.3m for vehicle replacement. Typically, on an annual basis the capital programme spends in the region of £20m. Given this typical annual level of spend it is likely that reprofiling of spend into 2021/22 will occur as the year progresses. This will be compounded by the effect of COVID-19 which may mean that some works scheduled for completion in 2020/21 will be rescheduled to 2021/22.

7.5.3 Analysis of significant spend variations under budget profile in 2020/21:

7.6 Programme Funding

7.6.1 The table below shows how the capital programme will be funding in 2020/21:

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Source	£m
Grants	22.368
Contributions (incl. Section 106)	0.763
Capital Receipts	1.953
Prudential Borrowing	10.682
Total Programme Funding	35.766

7.6.2 The programme is reviewed on an ongoing basis to confirm the capital resources required to finance capital expenditure are in place, the future years programme is fully funded, and the level of prudential borrowing remains affordable.

7.6.3 The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services will continue to manage the financing of the programme to ensure the final capital funding arrangements secure the maximum financial benefit to the Council.

7.7 Southport - Towns Fund

7.7.1 Members will recall that Southport has been identified and invited to submit a bid for £25m of government funding via the Towns Fund. As part of central government's response to the COVID 19 pandemic it is bringing forward £5bn of capital investment projects that aim to support jobs and economic recovery with the Towns Fund being part of this strategic approach. As such, government is bringing forward funding to this financial year to support projects that will make an immediate impact in towns across the country.

7.7.2 On 1 July 2020, MHCLG wrote to the Council advising that they are offering Southport a grant of £1million now to fund capital projects that can be delivered this financial year. This funding is to be used to encourage projects that will support towns in responding to immediate challenges, including:

- Improvement to or new parks and green spaces and sustainable transport links;
- Improvements to town centres including repurposing empty commercial properties; or
- Demolition or site remediation where this will have an immediate benefit.

7.7.3 In order for this funding to be released, the Council's s151 officer will need to advise MHCLG by 14 August 2020 of how the funding will be used, how it will meet the requirements as included within the Towns Fund intervention framework, will achieve good value for money and that the project can be delivered this financial year.

7.7.4 There is a Southport Towns Fund Board in place that is currently developing the overall bid that will be submitted in October 2020 and it is this body that will advise the Council of the project(s) that it wishes to be completed with the available funding. This will be reflected in the minutes of the relevant board meeting in order that a sufficient audit trail exists.

7.7.5 It is recognised that once the grant funding is allocated, the Council will be the accountable body for that funding therefore approval of the projects that will utilise this funding will progress through the Council's agreed governance route to ensure

compliance with Financial Procedure Rules. This will therefore mean that subsequent approval will be sought by Cabinet or if the value of the project exceeds £1m a Council decision will be required.

APPENDIX A – Capital Programme 2020/21 to 2022/23

Capital Project	Budget		
	2020/21 £	2021/22 £	2022/23 £
Adult Social Care			
Care Homes - Fire Alarms & Emergency Lighting	102,000	-	-
Core DFG Programme	666,000	1,158,000	-
Wider Social Care Programme	1,845,787	6,833,923	-
Communities			
Libraries - Centres of Excellence	80,000	265,088	-
Bootle Library	42,372	-	-
S106 - Derby – South Park Hut Extension	50,614	-	-
S106 - St Oswalds – Marion Gardens Play Equip	3,022	-	-

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S106 - Netherton & Orrell – Abbeyfield Park Play Area	11,942	-	-
S106 - Cambridge – Hesketh Park Improvement Works	15,016	-	-
S106 - Netherton & Orrell – Zebra Crossing, Park Lane West	19,540	-	-
S106 - Linacre - Strand Living Wall	33,000	-	-
Corporate Resources			
Corporate Maintenance	17,799	-	-
STCC Essential Maintenance	-	1,398,634	-
Victoria Baths Essential Works	541,247	-	-
St John Stone Site - Infrastructure Works	623,210	-	-
Magdalen House Alterations	90,234	-	-
Southport Town Hall Community Base	22,882	-	-
Family Wellbeing Centres	193,317	-	-
Economic Growth & Housing			
Marian Square, Netherton CCTV	-	37,162	-
REECH Project	-	13,173	-
Southport Commerce Park - 3rd Phase Development	-	40,405	-
Housing Investment (HMRI)	18,078	36,180	-
Southport Pier Project	179,920	-	-
Strategic Acquisitions - Land at Bootle	748,500	-	-
Town Centre Fund	500,000	250,000	-
Cambridge Road Centre Development	1,252,000	-	-
Crosby Lakeside (CLAC) Development	3,100,000	-	-
Strategic Acquisitions - Ainsdale	301,859	1,000,000	-
Education Excellence			
Healthy Pupils Fund	26,241	-	-
Schools Programme	2,839,213	1,294,152	-
Planned Maintenance	405,000	3,444,300	-
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	419,001	1,010,699	-
Highways and Public Protection			
Accessibility	287,320	-	-
Completing Schemes/Retentions	20,000	-	-
	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23
	£	£	£
Healthy Lifestyles	2,885,200	-	-
Road Safety	140,000	-	-
A565 Route Management and Parking	2,020,000	-	-
Strategic Planning	348,000	-	-
Traffic Management and Parking	1,004,350	-	-
Highway Maintenance	1,838,380	-	-
Bridges & Structures	233,670	-	-
Drainage	225,000	-	-
Street Lighting Maintenance	300,000	-	-
UTC Maintenance	112,660	-	-
Winter Service Facility	2,632,000	-	-
Major Transport Schemes	500,000	-	-
Locality Services			

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Burials & Cremation Insourcing - Vehicles & Equip	135,210	-	-
Formby Strategic Flood Risk Management	21,926	21,925	-
Merseyside Groundwater Study	31,508	-	-
Four Acres Multi Agency Flood Options	1,570	-	-
CERMS	603,213	75,000	-
Natural Flood Risk Management	10,000	-	-
The Pool & Nile Watercourses	38,179	-	-
Crosby Flood & Coastal Scheme	105,000	-	785,839
Seaforth & Litherland Strategic Flood Risk	30,000	-	-
Hall Road & Alt Training Bank - Rock Armour	15,000	35,000	-
Ainsdale & Birkdale Land Drainage Scheme	29,340	-	-
Surface Water Management Plan	134,478	-	-
Surface Water Modelling & Mapping	20,020	-	-
Parks Schemes	256,917	25,650	-
Tree Planting Programme	30,597	38,600	181,936
Golf Driving Range Developments	256,080	280,280	-
Vehicle Replacement Programme	7,352,905	3,223,000	113,000
TOTAL PROGRAMME	35,766,317	20,481,171	1,080,775

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APPENDIX B – Proposed Education Capital Schemes		
Site / Location	Nature of work	Estimated Cost £
Christchurch Primary	High level hall windows & Classroom windows/doors - roof refurbishment - Playground surfaces.	271,392
Farnborough Road Site	Repairs to Boundary walls and brickwork in general - Roof refurbishment - Felt to corridors/parapets/verges - Pitch - rain water goods/soffits & Facias	150,437
Grange Primary	Roof refurbishment - Hall - Carpark (safety)	93,925
Hatton Hill	Roof refurbishment to infants - remaining roof	67,425
Hudson Primary	Replacement windows - Roof refurbishment x 4 areas.	272,797
Larkfield Primary	Refurbishment of Various toilets	38,332
Linacre CP	Repairs to Brickwork and re-pointing	30,000
Lydiate Primary	Replacement Windows - Roof & roof light refurbishment - repairs to concrete frame and brickwork - Playground surfaces - Sanitary appliance repairs	315,550
Marshside Primary	Roof refurbishment - rear - kitchen - LH side - RH side - Hall - Playground and Car Park surfaces (safety)	207,400
Melling Primary	Repairs to Concrete Flue - Roof refurbishment - Playground and verge repairs (safety)	35,000
Meols Cop	Roof refurbishment x 3 - Car park surface (Safety)	210,280
Merefield Special school	Roof refurbishment - various areas Playground surfaces (safety)	58,962
Netherton Moss	Roof refurbishment - remaining areas - Toilets - various refurb - Brickwork repairs - Replacement Windows	326,000
Northway Primary	Hall floor refurbishment x 2no Infant & Juniors - Toilet Refurbishment - Various	62,000
Oakfield	Re-surface car park and re-lay footpaths	28,000
Redgate Primary	Brickwork and paving repairs	16,000
Waterloo Primary	Roof refurbishment - Brickwork Repairs	34,000
Woodlands Primary	Repointing brickwork & flue repairs	30,000
Farnborough Road Junior	Upgrade fire alarm system to meet BS 5389 - Install new lighting protection system	39,000
Freshfield Primary	Replace wiring systems	222,000
Grange Primary	Install new lightning protection system	15,000
Jigsaw - Thornton Family WB	Upgrade fire alarm system to meet BS 5389	18,500
Kings Meadow Primary	Replace wiring systems	248,000
Marshside Primary	Emergency Lighting	40,000
Norwood Primary	Upgrade fire alarm system to meet BS 5389	40,000
St. Philip`s CEP (Litherland)	Replace boilers, including control panel and pumps.	130,000
Summerhill Primary	Replace wiring systems	332,000
Birkdale Primary	Replace Fire Alarm System	46,000
Marshside Primary	Replace Fire Alarm System	24,000
Sand dunes	Replace Fire Alarm System	10,000
Lander Road	Replace Fire Alarm System	32,000
	Total New Schemes	3,444,000

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Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	30 July 2020 17 September 2020
Subject:	Financial and Corporate Performance 2019/20		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To inform Cabinet of the revenue and capital outturn position in relation to the 2019/20 financial year. In doing so the report will outline any key variations and where appropriate any impact on future years' financial performance. In addition, it provides details of the Council's Corporate Performance for 2019/20.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to: -

Revenue Outturn

1. Note the General Fund net deficit of £0.555m for 2019/20 that will reduce the Council's General Balances;
2. Note the reduction in Schools' balances of £2.773m for 2019/20 and the net reduction of non-schools centrally retained DSG balances of £4.155m;
3. Approve the utilisation of £0.620m of the Council's allocation of COVID-19 emergency funding to offset income losses experienced during 2019/20 as a result of restrictions imposed by the Government in response to the pandemic (paragraph 3.3.8);
4. Approve the temporary utilisation of £0.653m from the Transforming Sefton Reserve to fund increased Debt Charges in 2019/20 relating to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) and note that this will be repaid from future reductions in the MRP charge (paragraph 6.5c); and,
5. Recommend to Council that the balance on the Business Rates Reserve (£1.976m) be released back to the General Fund in 2019/20 to support the outturn position (paragraph 6.5e).

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Capital Outturn

6. Note the total capital outturn of £25.175m for the financial year 2019/20
7. To note the successful delivery of a number of schemes as set out in section 11 that have supported the delivery of the core purpose

Corporate Performance

8. Note the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2019/20

Council is recommended to:-

1. Approve that the balance on the Business Rates Reserve (£1.976m) be released back to the General Fund in 2019/20 to support the outturn position (paragraph 6.5e).

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The production of a revenue and capital outturn report is a key feature of effective financial management and will allow Members to make informed decisions that will support service delivery and medium-term financial sustainability.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

N/A

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

All financial implications are reflected within the report

(B) Capital Costs

All financial implications are reflected within the report

Implications of the Proposals:

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

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):
--

None

Legal Implications:

None
Equality Implications: None

Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:

Effective Financial Management and the development and delivery of sustainable annual budgets support each theme of the Councils Core Purpose.

<u>Protect the most vulnerable:</u> N/A
<u>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</u> N/A
<u>Commission, broker and provide core services:</u> N/A
<u>Place – leadership and influencer:</u> N/A
<u>Drivers of change and reform:</u> N/A
<u>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</u> N/A
<u>Greater income for social investment:</u> N/A
<u>Cleaner Greener:</u> N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services is the author of the report (FD 6061/20)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report (LD 4243/20).

(B) External Consultations

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N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

Contact Officer:	Paul Reilly
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4106
Email Address:	paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

Appendix A - Corporate Performance Report 2019/20

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The report details the revenue outturn position for the financial year 2019/20 and provides details of the major variations within that position for the General Fund and Schools' Delegated Budgets. The report also provides details of the Capital Outturn position for 2019/20.
- 1.2 In addition, the report includes the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2019/20 (Appendix A).

Revenue Outturn 2019/20

2 Overall Position 2019/20

2.1 The Council has completed the closure of the Authority's Accounts for 2019/20. In previous years, by the end of May, the Council would have submitted the Statement of Accounts to our external auditors, Ernst & Young, for audit. However, due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government has worked with CIPFA, the LGA and external auditors to revise the regulations for publishing, auditing and approving the Statement of Accounts. The new timeframe for the overall closure of accounts process is as follows:

- Draft Statement of Accounts issued – 31 July 2020 (statutory deadline is 31 August 2020)
- Audit & Governance Committee receive draft accounts – 16 September 2020
- External Audit Review – Planned completion early November 2020
- Audit and Governance Committee receive Final Accounts - late November 2020
- Final audited Statement of Accounts published – 30 November 2020

2.2 The outturn figures for 2019/20 are explained in more detail in section 3 but can be summarised as follows:

<u>Net Revenue Expenditure</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>Actual</u>	<u>Variance</u>
	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>	<u>£m</u>
<u>Services</u>			
Strategic Management	3.082	2.909	-0.173
Strategic Support Unit	2.696	2.573	-0.123
Adult Social Care	95.778	95.707	-0.073
Children's Social Care	33.251	37.212	3.961
Communities	19.457	19.327	-0.130
Corporate Resources	6.855	6.420	-0.435
Economic Growth & Housing	5.967	6.011	0.044
Education Excellence	9.652	10.098	0.446
Health and Wellbeing	18.060	17.811	-0.249
Highways & Public Protection	11.039	10.756	-0.283

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Locality Services	13.680	14.022	0.342
Public Sector Reform Projects - Budget Planning Assumptions not allocated to Services	-0.950	0.000	0.950
Other Services	3.122	3.134	0.012
Total Service Net Expenditure	221.689	225.980	4.291
Corporate Items	4.273	0.779	-3.494
Levies	34.156	34.156	-
Parish Precepts	1.073	1.073	-
Total Net Expenditure	261.191	261.988	0.797
Financed by:			
Council Tax Payers	-134.095	-134.095	-
Business Rates Top-Up	-19.628	-19.628	-
Retained Business Rates	-66.489	-66.489	-
General Government Grants	-40.979	-41.221	-0.242
Total Financing	-261.191	-261.433	-0.242
Amount Funded from General Balances	0.000	0.555	0.555

3 General Fund Revenue Outturn 2019/20 – Variation Analysis

- 3.1 As shown in section 2, the outturn for 2019/20 shows that there was a transfer required from General Balances of £0.555m to fund the year end overspend.
- 3.2 This reflects service expenditure exceeding the approved budget by £4.291m, however, with a surplus of £3.736m on the Council's corporate budgets only £0.555m of General Balances were required to support the budget. This is broadly in line with the budget monitoring report to Cabinet on 5 March 2020 which forecast a deficit of £0.429m.
- 3.3 As would be expected, during the financial year, there has been a number of significant variations in individual services. The major variances are highlighted in the following paragraphs: -
- 3.3.1 **Children's Social Care** - Children's Social Care overspent in 2019/20 by £3.961m. This level of overspend was forecast consistently through the year. Major variations included overspending of £4.241m on Placements and Packages. This budget is demand led, and as such, is particularly volatile, depending on the increasing numbers of children becoming looked after and where they are placed (the number of looked after children increased from 525 at the start of the year to 578 by the end of the year). There were particular pressures on Residential Agency Placements (£1.431m overspend), Fostering (£1.337m overspend) and

Leaving Care (£1.126m overspend). The overspend position on placements and packages was partially offset however, by other variations across the service of -£0.280m.

3.3.2 Corporate Resources – The surplus of £0.435m for Corporate Resources primarily relates to savings made against staffing budgets which is due to posts being held vacant in order to contribute to the overall budget pressures faced by the Council.

3.3.3 Education Excellence – Education Excellence overspent in 2019/20 by £0.446m. This deficit position was primarily due to the Home to School specialist transport budget being overspent by £0.561m due to the full year effect of the increased costs of new external transport contract. This was partially offset by net underspends across other areas of the service totalling £0.115m.

3.3.4 Health & Wellbeing – A net surplus of £0.249m was brought about primarily due to a surplus of £0.153m being achieved as a result of the Substance Misuse contract being recommissioned, with savings on other contracts and vacancy savings of £0.096m.

3.3.5 Highways and Public Protection – There was an overall surplus of £0.283m on this service, mainly relating to an underspend on highways maintenance expenditure due to lower winter maintenance costs than in previous years.

3.3.6 Locality Services – The service ended the year with a deficit of £0.342m. The main variations affecting these services were as follows:

- The deficit within the Security Service (£0.665m deficit) was a reflection of an under recovery of income to support the cost base. This aspect will be addressed in 2020/21.
- The Burial and Cremation service (£0.165m underspend) has achieved additional income in the year.
- Cleansing (£0.194m underspend) – The underspend is mainly due to increased forecast recycling credits and a reduction in vehicle maintenance costs of the cleansing fleet.

Due to the size and diverse nature of this overspend a full base budget review has been undertaken to reduce the inherent budget issue. This has significantly reduced the overspend from £0.712mm in 2018/19. This area of the Council's budget will continue to be the subject of robust financial management and monitoring during the year to confirm the deliverability of remedial actions and this will be reported to Members.

3.3.7 Public Sector Reform (PSR) Projects - Budget Planning Assumptions not allocated to Services - The 2019/20 Budget included £9.803m of savings from PSR projects. Of this, £8.853m of savings were deliverable in the year (90%). There was a shortfall of £0.950m relating to the following projects:

- PSR1 – Acute Wrap Around (£0.230m).

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- PSR10 – Commissioning (£0.720m).

3.3.8 **Corporate Items / Other Government Grants:** Budget Monitoring reports presented to Cabinet during the year highlighted various items that were being used to support the budget pressures that were being experienced. A net surplus of £3.736m has mainly been achieved from the following:

- Business Rates Reserve increase not required (previously noted by Cabinet on 5 September 2019) - £1.753m surplus;
- Release of Business Rates Reserve no longer required - £1.976m surplus (see paragraph 6.5e)
- Budget Pressures Fund - £1.000m surplus;
- Additional Debt Charges re. Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP) - £0.653m deficit;
- Temporary utilisation of Transforming Sefton Reserve to fund additional MRP charge - £0.653m surplus (see paragraph 6.5c);
- Increase in Corporate Provisions for Bad Debts - £0.653m deficit;
- Reduction in Housing Benefit Subsidy. Re. overpayments - £0.427m deficit.

In addition, the Council experienced a loss of income at the end of the financial year as a result of the restrictions implemented by the Government in response to COVID-19 (£0.620m). The Council received emergency funding from the Government to offset the initial costs of responding to the pandemic and any losses of income. An element of the funding has been utilised to offset these income losses with the balance being carried forward to be utilised in 2020/21 (see paragraph 6.5f). **Cabinet is asked to approve the utilisation of £0.620m of the Council's allocation of emergency funding to offset these income losses during 2019/20.**

- 3.4 As a result of the variations detailed within this report the overall Council-wide deficit recorded for the year of £0.555m represents the outcome of stringent financial management through the year as the Council continues to meet the extreme challenges of national government policy and the volatility that is presented in its demand led services.
- 3.5 As was detailed within the Budget report presented to Council in February 2020, in addition to the need to respond to the decade long austerity programme, the Council continues to face unprecedented financial pressure particularly within Children's Social Care, Home to School Transport and Locality Services. This position is not unique to Sefton; however, the challenge is significant and will require very careful financial management throughout 2020/21 and beyond.
- 3.6 The Council acknowledged these risks in its budget report and additional resources were built into 2020/21 budget in recognition of these additional demands. The first budget monitoring report of 2020/21, relating to the first quarter of the year, is presented separately on today's agenda and provides an initial assessment of the Council's financial position as it enters the first year of the current three-year budget period.

3.7 In addition to the financial pressures being experienced by the Council, there is considerable uncertainty around the future funding of local government and the impact this will have on Sefton. As detailed in the budget report, the Government has committed to the biggest review of local government finance in a generation with a Fair Funding Review, Adult Social Care Green Paper on future funding and the reform and full roll out of the business rates retention scheme. The Council continues to contribute to consultations and lobby on each of these areas, to help develop what is hoped will be a genuine long-term plan to deliver financial sustainability to local government in general, and Sefton in particular. However, due to the implications of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, the implementation of any changes may be delayed beyond 2020/21 bringing more uncertainty in the Council's funding position.

4 Schools' Delegated Budgets Outturn 2019/20

4.1 The level of schools' balances as at the end of 2019/20 is £10.823m a reduction of £2.773m compared to 2018/19 (£13.596m 2018/19). The table below show the breakdown across the main school funds.

	2019/20 £m	2018/19 £m	Movement £m
Direct School Balances	10.553	13.137	(2.584)
School Supply Funding Pool	(0.108)	0.020	(0.128)
Schools Rates Pooled Account	0.378	0.439	(0.061)
Overall School Balances	10.823	13.596	(2.773)

4.2 Analysis of the Schools Balances shows that 40 schools saw an increase in their balances totalling £0.930m; whilst 51 schools experienced a fall in balances of £3.244m giving a net reduction in the year of £2.584m. Of the 52 schools with falling balances, there were 39 Primary schools and 5 Local Authority Maintained Secondary schools with a fall in balances of £1.660m and £0.967m respectively. In addition, there were 3 Special/AP schools and 2 Maintained Nursery Schools with reducing balances of £0.445m and £0.040m respectively.

4.3 The level of schools' balances also fell by £0.402m, following the conversion of 2 Primary schools to Academies early in 2019/20, where any residual balances have to be paid over by the Local Authority to the new Academy Trusts.

4.4 The Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) is a ringfenced grant from the Department for Education (DfE) to fund education provision. In addition to funding for schools there are three other funding "blocks". At year-end, in addition to maintained schools' balances, the local authority must report the latest balances on DSG retained reserves.

- **High Needs Block** – Funding for the education of pupils with an identified special educational need and normally subject to an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The funding is for pupils from ages 0-25 in a range of provision including special schools, mainstream schools, alternative provision and independent specialist provision. It also contributes to council expenditure for High Needs support services.

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- **Early Years Block** – Two-Year old Funding; Early Years Funding in Schools and Private, Voluntary and Independent provision (PVI); and local authority retained expenditure for under five-year olds.
- **Central School Services Block** – Funding for LAs to carry out central functions on behalf of pupils in state-funded maintained schools and academies.

4.5 High Needs budgets were overspent by £4.5m in 2019/20 (£2.3m in 2018/19), and efforts started in September 2019 to identify rising demands and pressures across High Needs, in an effort to bring costs down. In particular, an examination around expensive out of Borough day placements is being conducted, and a review of in-house sufficiency of places to meet the needs of these children.

4.6 In the 2020/21 High Needs funding settlement, Sefton received an extra £3.8m, which should help alleviate the spending position during the year alongside a recovery and improvement programme which will develop a model built on meeting the needs of children with SEND within the annual funding grant allocation.

4.7 Early Years underspent during the year, due mainly to the fluctuation in 3-4-Year-old take up of the free entitlement across the year, compared against the headcount census numbers taken in January 2019, when the Early Years funding was determined for 2019/20. 2-Year-old costs were overspent, where funding did not prove sufficient to meet extra costs of provision. During the year a new Early Years Development Group of Schools Forum has been established and is examining the use of Early Years funding towards training facility and other issues, including sustainability issues in 2020/21, following the Covid19 outbreak and lockdown. Plans are in place to support settings during this difficult period, to ensure sufficiency of childcare through the year. It is expected that additional funding, due to an increase in headcount at January 2020 will be given for 2020/21, and this may help in several ways, towards the added costs of support due to the Coronavirus. Early Years balances have been assisting in this respect to date, during 2020.

4.8 The Council's Centrally Retained DSG reserves are separate to its Maintained Schools' balances. These are in respect of Schools' Central Support services; Early Years (non-schools) provision and High Needs (non-schools) provision. The net opening balance of these reserves, as at 1 April 2019, was a deficit of £0.230m. During 2019/20, this deficit has grown considerably, mostly due to the significant overspending of High Needs. This has taken the reserves into a net deficit position of £4.385m (see below).

<u>Centrally Retained DSG Balances</u>	<u>1 April 2019</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>Reallocation</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>Movement 2019/20</u> <u>£m</u>	<u>31 March 2020</u> <u>£m</u>
Schools Block	-0.375	0.000	-0.169	-0.544
Early Years Block	-3.038	2.700	-0.167	-0.505
High Needs Block	3.643	-2.700	4.491	5.434
	0.230	0.000	4.155	4.385

4.9 DfE permit Local Authorities to carry forward a deficit on their DSG Centrally retained balances, without any obligations on behalf of Local Authorities to support a deficit position out of core Council balances.

4.10 They DfE have offered to work more closely and in cooperation with Local Authorities, to support them in trying to reduce spending, particularly across High Needs, where most Authorities have been struggling to manage. First priority will be for the Authority to have plans to balance their in-year spending. They will also still be required to provide evidence, at the DfE's request, that overspending issues have been reported regularly to Schools Forum; and that measures are in place to arrest the situation, at least, over a three-year planned period. It has been acknowledged that the full recovery of accumulated deficits however, may not be possible, even over many years, and it is not certain at this stage, whether the DfE may consider, on a case by case basis, some extra funding, to write down some, or all, of their accumulated deficits in this respect.

4.11 With the review of High Needs underway, and the actions being taken as explained above, together with the increased settlement for High Needs funding in 2021/22, work will continue to bring expenditure in line with the budget available and then start to repay the existing deficit so as to reduce the financial risk to the Council.

5 Council Balances

5.1 The change in the level of Council and School Balances as at 31 March 2020 are set out in the tables below:

<u>Non-School General Fund Balances</u>	£m	<u>£m</u>
Actual Non-School General Fund Balances at 31 March 2019		-7.539
Less underspend in comparison to the 2019/20 Base Estimate:		
- Assumed Use of Balances 2019/20	0.000	
- Overspend in 2019/20	0.555	
Actual Reduction in Balances in 2019/20		0.555
Actual Non-School General Fund Balances at 31 March 2020		-6.984

<u>Schools' Balances</u>	£m
Schools' balances as at 1 April 2019	-13.596
Overspend on Schools' Delegated Budgets	2.773
Schools' balances at 31 March 2020	-10.823

6 Earmarked Reserves

6.1 Unlike General Fund balances, Earmarked Reserves are held for a specific purpose. These purposes may be determined by the Council to coincide with its policy objectives, dictated by statute (e.g. Schools Earmarked Reserves) or relate

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to revenue grants and contributions that haven't been fully applied by the end of the financial year.

- 6.2 Those Earmarked Reserves determined by the Council to coincide with its policy objectives are created, and occasionally increased, in accordance the Council's Financial Procedure Rules. Approval limits are as follows:

Amount	Approval
Up to and including £250,000	Section 151 Officer
In excess of £250,000 up to and including £500,000	Section 151 Officer in consultation with the Chief Executive
In excess of £500,000 up to and including £1,000,000	Cabinet
Over £1,000,000	Council with recommendation from Cabinet

- 6.3 Once approved, expenditure incurred in accordance with the reserve's purpose is funded by applying the reserve, without any need for further approval. If the reserve is no longer required for the originally intended purpose it is released back into the General Fund.

- 6.4 An analysis of the Council's Earmarked Reserves, and the movement during 2019/20 is shown in the table below:

	Movements in 2019/2020	1 April 2019 £000s	Transfers in £000s	Transfers Out £000s	31 March 2020 £000s
(a)	Environmental Warranty	-11,000	0	2,000	-9,000
(b)	Insurance Fund	0	-1,371	0	-1,371
(c)	Transforming Sefton	-8,603	0	3,137	-5,466
(d)	Redundancy Reserve	-2,162	-2,000	2,162	-2,000
(e)	Capital Priorities Fund	-76	0	34	-42
(f)	Community Transition Fund	-889	0	230	-659
(g)	Contamination Clearance	-1,500	0	0	-1,500
(h)	Rating Appeals / Reduction in NDR Income Reserve	-2,254	0	2,254	0
(i)	MRP Adjustment Reserve	-399	0	399	0
(j)	Regeneration Schemes Reserve	-663	-30	500	-193
(k)	Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied	-6,677	-11,202	3,263	-14,616
(l)	Schools' Earmarked Reserves	230	-336	4,491	4,385
(m)	Other Earmarked Reserves	-5,752	-480	806	-5,426
	Total	-39,745	-15,419	19,276	-35,888
(n)	Temporary Use of Earmarked Reserves to Fund Pension Deficit Payment	10,154	-10,154	0	0
		-29,591	-25,573	19,276	-35,888

6.5 The main changes in Earmarked Reserves are as follows:

- a) **Environmental Warranty** – Budget Council in February 2020 approved the transfer of £2.000m from the Environmental Warranty Reserve to the Redundancy Reserve to fund the costs of any exit packages required as part of Framework for Change 2020 proposals.
- b) **Insurance Fund** – Some elements of the Council's Insurance Fund have been reclassified having previously been accounted for as a Provision.
- c) **Transforming Sefton** – £2.484m has been utilised to fund previously approved expenditure, primarily involving the Cost of Change budget relating to Framework for Change 2017. In addition, **Cabinet is asked to approve the temporary utilisation of £0.653m from the reserve to fund increased Debt Charges in 2019/20 relating to the Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP)**. MRP costs are forecast to fluctuate over the next five years, resulting in an overall saving to the Council. It is proposed to smooth out the impact of the charges by utilising the Transforming Sefton Reserve and then contributing to the Reserve as charges reduce. It is forecast that by 2024/25 the Reserve will have been fully repaid and an ongoing saving will be available to the Council.
- d) **Redundancy Reserve** – As mentioned above, Budget Council in February 2020 approved the transfer of £2.000m from the Environmental Warranty Reserve to the Redundancy Reserve to fund the costs of any exit packages required as part of Framework for Change 2020 proposals. The balance on the reserve at the start of the year has been fully utilised to fund redundancy and pension strain costs resulting from Framework for Change 2017.
- e) **Rating Appeals / Reduction in Business Rates Income Reserve** – This Reserve was created when Business Rates Retention was introduced to smooth out any variations in income due to the implications not being fully known. Now the implications are known it is considered that the original purpose of the Reserve is no longer required, and any balance can be released back to the General Fund. **Cabinet is asked to recommend to Council that the balance on the Reserve (£1.976m) be released back to the General Fund in 2019/20 to support the outturn position.**
- f) **Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied** – There has been a large increase due to the receipt in March 2020 of emergency funding to support the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. This has been reserved to fund the costs that are being incurred in 2020/21.
- g) **Schools' Earmarked Reserves** – See Section 4 for an explanation of the movements in these reserves.
- h) **Other Earmarked Reserves** – Cabinet in December 2019 were informed that a full review of Earmarked Reserves had taken place and identified £1.483m of reserves that were no longer required for their originally intended purpose. Cabinet acknowledged that these released reserves would be transferred to the following new reserves – Clean Air Zone (£0.530m); Children's Social Care – additional staffing resources (£0.500m); Local Government Association – Graduate Training Programme (£0.140m); and, Litherland Sports Park – Improvements to Facilities (£0.250m). The balance of £0.063m would be released back into the General Fund to help support the in-year outturn position.

6.6 In addition, there has been an increase of £10.154m to “repay” the temporary use of Earmarked Reserves to fund the upfront payment of the Pension Deficit in April 2017. This is a cash-flow adjustment to enable the Council to make a significant saving across the period of the three-year budget plan.

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7 Revenue Outturn 2019/20 - Conclusion

- 7.1 In March 2017, the Council set a three-year budget that would through its Framework for Change programme would meet the overall £64m shortfall estimated for the period. 2019/20 represented the third year of that budget and from the financial results reported in this paper it can be seen that this three-year budget was achieved.
- 7.2 Whilst the position reported is largely favourable, in addition to meeting the funding shortfall that has arisen primarily due to central Government's austerity programme, the Council is also facing significant financial pressure from some of its main demand led budgets, Children's Social Care, Home to School Transport and Locality Services. The experience in Sefton is currently similar to most local authorities across the country and as a result will require careful financial management in the forthcoming year. This approach and pressure was identified within the Budget report of February 2020 and significant additional resources were included in the budget for 2020/21.
- 7.3 The Council's accounts will be completed by the end of July 2020. They will then be subject to review by the external auditor, Ernst & Young, and following final completion of the audit, the Accounts will be presented to the Audit & Governance Committee in November 2020 for consideration, together with the ISA 260 report that will reflect their findings and conclusions.

Capital Outturn 2019/20

8 Overall Position for 2019/20

- 8.1 The approved capital budget for 2019/20 was £20.537m against which capital expenditure of £21.034m has been incurred at the year end. This has resulted in a year end variance of £0.497m. A service by service breakdown is shown in the following table:

Service Area	Budget 2019/20	Actual Expenditure 2019/20	Variance to Budget
	£m	£m	£m
Adult Social Care	2.914	2.730	-0.184
Communities	0.288	0.308	0.020
Corporate Resources	0.935	0.857	-0.078
Economic Growth & Housing	0.146	0.414	0.268
Education Excellence	2.876	2.858	-0.018
Highways & Public Protection	10.983	11.681	0.698
Locality Services	2.395	2.186	-0.209
Total Programme	20.537	21.034	0.497

8.2 In addition to the core programme, capital expenditure totalling £4.141m was incurred by the Council. This included Schools Devolved Formula Capital which is provided directly to and managed by schools and capitalisation of Highways & ICT expenditure. Total capital expenditure in 2019/20, including this was £25.175m.

9 Programme Funding

9.1 The table below shows how the capital programme has been funded in 2019/20:

Source	£m
Grants	19.396
Prudential Borrowing	4.615
Section 106	0.673
Capital Receipts	0.310
Contributions	0.171
Revenue Contribution	0.010
Total Programme Funding	25.175

10 Key Explanations of Full Year Outturn Variance 2019/20

10.1 Highways and Public Protection (£0.698m)

The variance was mainly due to:

M58 Junction 1 improvements (£0.826m)

This scheme has incurred additional costs due to protracted land negotiations resulting in delays to works commencing, additional earthworks costs and construction delays due to wet weather. Negotiations are continuing with the contractor to agree a final cost.

However, the Council was successful in securing an additional funding contribution from the Combined Authority. This was granted on the understanding that sufficient expenditure was incurred within the financial year to enable the entire Combined Authority contribution to be claimed and as such significant expenditure was incurred towards the end of the year.

Strategic Planning (-£0.123)

This budget is set aside to support scheme development. In 2019/20 much of the strategic planning work was covered by separate development funding secured from the Combined Authority. This funding will be carried forward to 2020/21.

10.2 Locality Services Provision (-£0.209m)

The variation was mainly due to the Vehicle Replacement Programme (-£0.256m). Following consultation with user departments regarding operational changes the replacement of some vehicles was deferred to 2020/21.

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10.3 Adult Social Care (-£0.184m)

The variation was mainly due to Disabled Facilities Grant (-£0.162m). The underspend is due to reduced occupational therapist resource available to assess claims. This issue has been addressed and in future will ensure the grant is utilised effectively.

10.4 Economic Growth & Housing (£0.268m)

The variance is due to the acquisition of the Post Office in Bootle (£0.250). The budget for this scheme was included in the 2020/21 capital programme however, expenditure was incurred at the end of 2019/20. This was slightly earlier than anticipated and has been funded from 2020/21 budget resource

11 Programme Delivery 2019/20

11.1 As would be expected with a capital programme of this size, the investment that has been incurred during the year has led to both the development and improvement of the council's infrastructure and supported the delivery of key outcomes as set out in the Framework for Change programme. The key areas of delivery are as follows:

11.1 Adult Social Care

11.1.2 Disabled Facilities Grant Core Programme (£1.662m)

209 adaptations were completed during the year on behalf of clients including items such as stair lifts, vertical lifts, bathroom adaptations, extensions and hoists.

11.1.3 ICT Development & Transformation (£0.215m)

The development of the functionality of Controcc, for both Adult and Children's Social Care, to make payments and improve management information has continued. This was making good progress and was due to commence in March 2019 for Adult Social Care but is now temporarily on hold due to Covid 19.

11.2 Education Excellence

11.2.1 Healthy Pupils Capital Fund (£0.152m)

Work has been completed on projects at 17 schools to improve young people's physical and mental health. The new facilities include: 6 garden schemes, a classroom cabin, 3 all-weather surface/mile tracks, 2 sensory spaces, 2 two outdoor spaces, a kitchen/dining room refurbishment and 2 sets of sports/exercise equipment.

11.2.2 Schools Programme (£2.562m)

The main programme delivery achievements were as follows:

- Completion of one form entry classroom at Linaker Primary School;
- Completion of a new toilet facilities extension at Forefield Infant School;
- Completion of classroom refurbishment at Linacre Primary School;
- Remodelling at Great Crosby Primary School - this scheme is ongoing;
- Completion of improvements to school access at Hatton Hill Primary School;
- Phased completion of electrical wiring systems at Redgate Primary School (Phase 2) and Netherton Moss Primary School (Phase 1);
- Phased replacement of the heating system at Hudson Primary School;
- Various repairs to building fabric, boundary walls and security fencing across five sites; and
- Various inspections relating to statutory compliance activities in school buildings.

11.2.3 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (0.145m)

The following has been accomplished in support of SEND provision:

- Enabling works completed at Crosby High School (Phase 1) to improve accessibility and circulation;
- Alterations to the former Sand Dunes Nursery and Waterloo Primary to provide new facilities and improved accessibility; and
- A complex needs base has been completed at a Redgate Primary to create additional specialist places.

11.3 Highways and Public Protection

11.3.1 M58 Junction 1 (£6.004m)

This scheme has achieved substantial completion. In order to open the slip roads Highways England (HE) needed to complete a number of audit and inspection processes. After some delay due to Covid 19 these have now been completed and some minor additional and rectification works ordered or completed. A date for opening will shortly be established.

11.3.2 Kirkby to Maghull Cycle Track (£0.231m)

The first stage of the cycle track has been completed and the second stage is out to tender. A couple of land deals are still outstanding, and every effort is being made to reach conclusion.

11.3.3 North Liverpool Key Corridor Improvements (£0.029m)

The works on Derby Road within the Sefton section are largely complete. Traffic management remains on the scheme whilst the contractor completes works within the Lookers site (within the Liverpool section) where land entry was only achieved in early June 2020

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11.3.4 A565 Corridor Improvements (Thornton) (£0.709m)

Works have been completed to the junction of Buckley Hill with Edge Lane and a Safety Audit has recently been completed.

11.3.5 A59 Maghull Route Management (£1.340m)

Works have been completed to the junction of the A59 and Dover Road and a Safety Audit has been completed. Discussions are ongoing with the Combined Authority over the possibility for seeking funding for possible further schemes along the A59.

11.3.6 Marine Parade Bridge (£0.124m)

Maintenance works and testing of the cables has been completed.

11.3.7 Street Lighting (£0.484m)

The maintenance programme has replaced:

- 291 Street Lighting Columns;
- 103 Bollards;
- 59 Illuminated signs; and
- 432 Street Lighting Lanterns.

11.3.8 Carriageway Resurfacing (£1.315m)

Work has been completed on 54,329m² of carriageway resurfacing and 76,056m² of micro-resurfacing treatments.

11.4 Communities - Neighbourhoods and Partnerships

Expenditure of £0.225m was incurred on these schemes. Facilities and play grounds have been upgraded in the following parks; Rainbow Park, Marian Gardens, Abbeyfield Park and Hesketh Park. CCTV has been provided for Ainsdale and Linacre and a caged tipper vehicle purchased for neighbourhood work in Litherland.

11.5 Locality Services

11.5.1 Vehicles (£0.874m)

£0.874m was spent on 2 refuse vehicles, 4 caged tippers, 1 curtain side vehicle and 1 skip loader for cleansing and 12 vans for Green Sefton.

11.5.2 Green Sefton (£1.245m)

Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme (CERMS) - this scheme incurred £0.742m through monitoring and analysing coastal change along the north-west coast. The bulk of programmed work has been completed including all beach surveys.

Crosby Coast protection and Flood Alleviation – this scheme incurred £0.275m on the development of a business case, undertaking environmental surveys and preparation of reports. Work is now ongoing to secure funding to commence the full scheme.

12 Capital Outturn 2019/20 - Conclusion

12.1 The capital programme continues to be a key element of the councils' approach to meeting its core purpose. During the year expenditure has directly contributed to the delivery of key service priorities and services to residents and communities. The Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services will continue to manage the financing of the capital programme to ensure that capital funding arrangements secure the maximum financial benefit to the Council in future years.

13 Corporate Performance 2019/20

13.1 The Council has recognised that in considering its financial performance it should also provide details at year end of performance across a range of its services in order that it can demonstrate how outcomes that will drive the delivery of the core purpose relate to the budget.

13.2 This was discussed as part of the LGA Peer review and since that point work has commenced on developing a suite of information.

13.3 As a result, the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2019/20 is attached as Appendix A and provides:-

- An introduction and contextual statement from both the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services and the Chief Executive
- A detailed narrative on how the delivery of each element of the Council's core purpose has progressed during the year; and,
- A comprehensive suite of performance measures for key council activities for 2019/20 and how these compare to 2018/19.

13.4 It is acknowledged that when reporting various Council activities on a year on year basis that there will be a degree of subjectivity within some areas, that a lot of Council activity is driven via demand from residents and businesses for which it has no direct control and the external economic environment also impacts upon core activity. That said, those areas that are reported provide a clear view of the range of Council activity that is undertaken in supporting residents, communities and business across the Borough and how they support the core purpose.

13.5 This report is the first produced by the Council and will be reported annually at year end from this point on.

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Corporate Performance Report 2019/20

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1 | FOREWORD

In these challenging times, it is vital that the Council considers very carefully where it can make the biggest difference. You will remember that we carried out one of our biggest ever consultations and with our partners developed Sefton's Vision 2030.

I'm pleased to introduce our Annual Performance report which aligns to the Council's Core Purpose and our contribution to achieving the partnership Vision 2030. The reports highlights some of what we have achieved, how we have managed the funding we received, and our priorities looking forward.

This document sets out the Council's Performance in a number of key areas and should be considered in conjunction with the Council's Financial Outturn and reports that have been provided to Overview and Scrutiny Committees throughout the year. During the year Cabinet reflected on the Council's Core Purpose and identified that the existing Core Purpose still holds true and continues to reflect the Council's role in delivering the partnership Vision 2030. Our Core Purpose underpinned by the Council's Framework for Change Programme targets capacity at a carefully sequenced set of key priorities. Over the last three years this programme has not only helped the Council support the delivery of the Borough's 2030 Vision and its own objectives as set out in its Core Purpose, but it has also successfully enabled the Council to set and deliver balanced budgets.

All too often documents like this make grand statements that don't drive the changes needed to make a difference. Sefton Council is determined that as we continue to develop performance reporting we will continue with robust scrutiny alongside this Annual Report.

As the year drew to a close the Council focused on working with our many partners to support our communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdown and subsequent measures continue to have a significant impact on the services that the Council provides to our communities, how we provide them and our workforce that delivers them. The energy and commitment of our workforce, partners and Sefton's many volunteers has been second to none. In next year's report we will share with you how our developing recovery and reset plans are delivering.

I would like to thank all our staff, all ward councillors, volunteers and our partners for their hard work over the year which has helped to achieve the many successes outlined in this report, and I look forward to working together over the next 12 months.



Councillor Paulette Lappin

2

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Welcome to our first annual performance report.

In my first year as Chief Executive I have been so pleased to be part of a team delivering so much and supporting so many in our communities. I believe that we are well placed for the future and aware of where we need to improve and change what and how we do things. I am confident that our Framework for Change through the Demand Management, Council of 2023 and Growth Programmes will deliver the changes needed and encourage investment into Sefton.

The challenges and pressures that we face are well rehearsed in many Council documents. We are working hard, with our partners, to make improvements in areas such as Children's Services including how we support children and young people with Special Education Needs and Disabilities and their families. Over the coming year we have plans to recruit many more much valued foster carers to support local children, progress our internal ICT transformation, make improvements to our website and so much more.

Our response to the COVID 19 pandemic was swift and our role has been critical in ensuring that we have continued to protect our most vulnerable and support our communities. Our performance report next year will reflect the work that we have done throughout this time. I want to thank all of our staff, volunteers and partners for their dedication and hard work.



Chief Executive, Dwayne Johnson

Core Purpose

The Council's role in delivering the 2030 vision.

Sefton 2030

Protect the most vulnerable: i.e. those people who have complex care needs with no capacity to care for themselves and no other networks to support them. For those who are the most vulnerable we will have a helping role to play, we will challenge others to ensure we all protect the most vulnerable and where we need to we will intervene to help improve lives

Facilitate confident and resilient communities: the Council will be less about doing things to and for residents and communities and more about creating the capacity and motivation for people to get involved, do it for themselves and help one another. We will create an environment in which residents are less reliant on public sector support and which have well developed and effective social support

Commission, broker and provide core services: the Council will directly deliver fewer services but will act as a broker and commissioner of services which meet the defined needs of communities, are person-centred and localised where possible. We will deliver services which can't be duplicated elsewhere or where we add value.

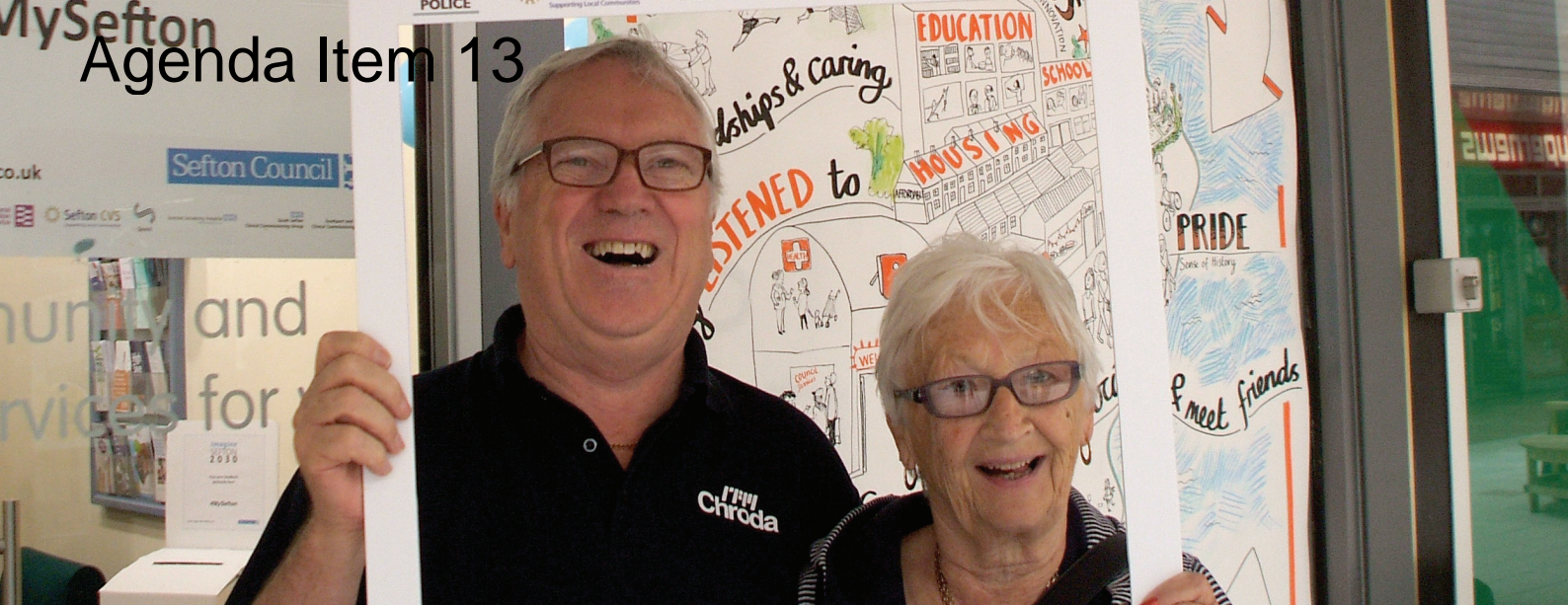
Place-leadership and influencer: making sure what we and what others do are in the best interests of Sefton and its residents and has a contributing role to the 2030 vision of the borough. This includes strong leadership and influencing partner organisations to work towards common goals and building pride in the borough.

Drivers of change and reform: the Council will play a key role in leading change and reform to improve outcomes for Sefton residents and continuously improve the borough

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: that is, people having the level of money they need to take care of themselves and their family; creating the conditions where relatively low unemployment and high income prevail, leading to high purchasing power; and having enough money to invest in infrastructure.

Generate income for social reinvestment: the Council will develop a commercial nature and look to what it can do either by itself or with others to generate income and profit that can be reinvested into delivering social purpose.

Cleaner and Greener: the Council will work with others to maintain Sefton's natural beauty and ensure that its many assets provide a contribution to Sefton's economy, peoples wellbeing and the achievement of the 2030 Vision.



TOGETHER A STRONGER COMMUNITY

2019 saw the Public Engagement and Consultation Panel celebrate its 10th year. Through our engagement and consultation activity people are able to influence decisions which affect them and communities work together and with partners to deliver effective change. Consultation this year has informed the Children and Young People’s Plan and the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020 to 2025.

The Council’s purpose of **place leadership and influencer** been vital in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic but we could not have done it without our partners and thousands of volunteers across the borough. In Sefton over 1000 new volunteers came forward offering their time and many talents to support over 20,000 people shielding and **protect the most vulnerable** in our communities. Every year thousands of volunteers work tirelessly to support local people and the impact that they have is appreciated and valued by many. Just one example of the value that they add to Sefton is the young people taking part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards this year donated 19, 344 hours with a social value of £84,146.40!

During the pandemic we worked collaboratively with our partners across Merseyside to make people aware that we are still here and available to support those who need our support for example those suffering domestic abuse.



A BOROUGH FOR EVERYONE

As part of our drive to **facilitate confident and resilient communities** in 2019 we celebrated the Year of Friendship. During the year we shared and information about the many groups that help to make people feel connected, less lonely and reduce social isolation in the Sefton. It was amazing to hear of the groups that have existed for many years and to be able to help to promote some of the newer groups beginning across the borough. Our campaign reached an average of 50 000 accounts each week and was a huge success attracting new members to many groups.

The Council plays a key role in **driving change and reform** to improve outcomes for local people. This year the Health and Wellbeing Board has overseen the delivery of our **SEND Improvement Plan** and we are making significant strides in delivering against this plan. Our first annual Parent Carer Survey of Special Educational Needs and/or Disabilities (SEND) Local Area Provision in Sefton was amongst the many consultations that took place in Sefton this year. The feedback from this survey helped the Council and its partners to develop an integrated Action Plan to **commission, broker and provide core services**.

In January 2020 Cabinet agreed the **Children and Young People's Plan 2020 – 2025** and accompanying Commissioning Strategy. This defines the vision

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and ambitions for children and young people in Sefton. In the same month Cabinet approved the partnership **Early Help Strategy** which aims to ensure Sefton is a good place for children and young people to live and grow up, receive immunisations, have access to a wide range of physical activity opportunities and enjoy overall improving health.

This year has seen us to continue to embed our Localities model which was recognised by the Department of Works and Pensions winning the training programme Aspiring Instructors through which we will develop Sefton's next generation of Sports Coaches and Fitness instructors. This model is just one of the ways that the Council **facilitates confident and resilient communities** providing local people with support and with colleagues in Sefton at Work access to training opportunities. This year the Council demonstrated its commitment to ensuring training and life long learning opportunities in the borough by agreeing the redevelopment of the Cambridge Road Centre.

This year has seen us to continue to embed our Localities model which was recognised by the Department of Works and Pensions winning the training programme Aspiring Instructors through which we will develop Sefton's next generation of Sports Coaches and Fitness instructors. This model is just one of the ways that the Council facilitates confident and resilient communities providing local people with support and with colleagues in Sefton at Work access to training opportunities. This year the Council demonstrated its commitment to ensuring training and life long learning opportunities in the borough by agreeing the redevelopment of the Cambridge Road Centre.

In May some of Sefton's most vulnerable children and young people were recognised for their outstanding achievements at the 19th 'No Limits' awards ceremony. Nominated by social workers, teachers and mentors over 300 children and young people and more than 100 of our foster and kinship carers came together to celebrate their achievements.

We have continued to develop our Integrated Care Teams a real example of One Sefton as the teams include social workers, primary care; mental health practitioners, medicines management, voluntary sector; community matrons, district nurses, allied health professionals, integrated care co-ordinators and many others. The aim is to maximise the use of resources at a 'place' level to improve population health outcomes. The Council has worked hard during the COVID 19 pandemic to protect the most vulnerable and remain accessible to all. We have done this by working with care homes, other social care providers, schools, the voluntary, community and faith sector and our partners.





LIVING, WORKING AND HAVING FUN

Sefton was delighted to be chosen as Borough of Culture for 2020. After engaging with our communities and partners to see what they would like to see from the 2020 programme, we found that there were two key themes that stood out: local history and the environment. In November 2019 thousands of people were dazzled by a huge constellation that lit up Crosby Coastal Park and enjoyed performances, launching our Year of Culture activity.

The focus of our year was to be stories – about us, by us, and for us...all of us! In March 2020 A Nightingale's Song a tale of magic and wonder, of myths and wondrous creatures, spectacular nature, of ships and sailing, of peoples past and present that captures the history of Sefton was projected onto Waterloo and Bootle Town Halls along with The Atkinson. Sadly the COVID 19 pandemic has not enabled us to share our stories in the way that we wanted but we have adapted and delivered alternative virtual events such as the on line Sefton Comedy Hub and Atkinson exhibition.

June saw us celebrate Sefton's sporting heroes at the annual Sports awards. We received hundreds of nominations celebrating a host of volunteers, coaches, teams or individuals from across the borough who have been successful or shown great tenacity in their sport.

The Council's Housing Development Company, Sandway Homes Ltd. Business Plan was agreed through which the Council will **generate income for social reinvestment** and provide local people with housing choices.



VISIT, EXPLORE --- AND ENJOY

The number of visitors heading to Southport increased by 1.5% on the previous year with a 6.5% increase on money spent in the town.

Throughout May as part of the Year of Friendship we celebrated all things active, taking a look at a host of community groups, teams, individuals and organisations who promote healthy bodies, minds and flourishing friendships through keeping fit, playing sport and much more!

Once again, many film companies came to our beautiful borough and film friendly Sefton starred in many national and international series, films and documentaries including the War of the Worlds mini series that was broadcast in Nov 2019.

At the end of the year Sefton, along with many other coastal locations, was significantly impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic in terms of visitor numbers and local people being able to enjoy our local attractions and cultural offer. Many Council facilities needed to close and so this impacted on many members of the local community.



CLEAN, GREEN

AND BEAUTIFUL

In July 2019, in line with its existing commitment to **cleaner and greener**, the Council declared a Climate Emergency and committed to reducing carbon emissions and to acting in line with the scientific consensus that we must reduce emissions to net zero by 2030. Throughout the year the Council has Sefton Council has continued its efforts to reduce the impact that single used plastics have on the local environment, reducing waste and ultimately helping to protect our coast.

In November 2020 Cabinet asked that an Outline Business Case for a Sefton Clean Air Zone be developed that will establish the case for change, evaluates affordability, and aims to identify a commercially viable option or options that offers best value for money and is practically deliverable. The COVID-19 pandemic has slowed this work, however the reduced traffic on Sefton's roads has had a positive impact on air quality.

People value and enjoy our natural environment and want to protect it and enhance it for future generations. Throughout the year our Green Sefton team has worked closely with our partners and many community groups to maintain our much loved green spaces and beaches so that they can be enjoyed by local people and visitors. The good weather during the COVID-19 pandemic led to large numbers of people flocking to our beaches from far and wide and sadly not everyone demonstrated the care and commitment to our natural environment leaving tons of litter behind.



ON THE MOVE

In the summer of 2019 work has started on a multi-million pound M58 improvement scheme. As well as improving journey times between Maghull and North Liverpool, it is hoped the scheme will reduce traffic on the A59 and some residential roads and facilitate sustainable **economic prosperity** and potential future development in the Maghull area.

In June school children from five schools in south Sefton took on air quality experts at Southport Eco Centre. The students grilled the experts on a range of topics that are important to them including the health impacts of air pollution and what needs to be done to promote more active travel. Our Active Travel team has worked hard throughout the year to promote the small change that people can make.



Ready for the Future

OPEN FOR --- BUSINESS

In October 2019 Planning Committee approved proposals by Santander UK to redevelop their Bootle campus and create a new, sustainable, state-of-the-art facility. The multi-million pound complex will be home to over 2,500 staff and become the contact centre and operations hub for Santander UK. The plans include a new public park and new pavilions which will be open to the local community. **The plans are a huge vote of confidence in the borough and the level of investment highlights what an attractive proposition Sefton is to major employers.**

Invest Sefton's Economic Forum was held twice this year, the forum is just one of the ways that the Council supports established and new local businesses to thrive, so **facilitate sustainable economic prosperity.**

The Council throughout the year has played a key role in driving change and reform, February 2020 agreed to adopt an ethical investment policy adopting the principles of

- Sustainable and Responsible – manage the effect on the environment, community and for the good of society
- Value Based – invest in businesses that are aligned with the organisations core values;
- Maximising Impact – achieve a measurable positive, social or environmental impact, in addition to a financial return;
- Green – improving the environment



READY FOR --- THE FUTURE

This year the Council become a “Self-Supply” in the water market with our approach including the ambition to reduce water losses/consumption and positively contribute to flood risk management. A positive contribution to the Council efforts to adapt to a changing climate and the **cleaner and greener** drive.

In October 2019 Cabinet approved the Corporate Apprenticeship Strategy and Action Plan for 2019 – 2022. The Council supports its workforce to develop and this year saw 51 new apprentices employed and a further 83 members of the Council’s workforce take up the opportunity to take up an apprenticeship.

In June 2019 Cabinet approved a refresh of the Business Continuity Policy, this has proven invaluable in the Council’s response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Our IT transformation programme continued, with much of the work focused on improving our ability to improve agile working and this work has enabled us to respond rapidly to the COVID 19 pandemic.

At the end of the year the Council launched Recite Me, a piece of software that adapts the Council [website](#) and the [Sefton Directory](#) for those people with accessibility needs. To tie in with this accessible information on COVID-19 was made available on our website.

The Council has had an excellent record in financial management over the last 10 years that has required it to meet a budget shortfall of £233m. This has been predicated on medium term financial planning and setting multi-year budgets that enable effective planning of service delivery and the inevitable transformation activity.

Reports to Cabinet during the year have highlighted the significant ongoing financial pressures from some of its main demand led budgets, particularly Children's Social Care, Home to School Transport and Locality Services. Despite this pressure, the Council's overspend for 2019/20 was contained at £0.555m, therefore £0.555m of General Balances were required to support the budget.

A key concern for the Council going forward is that the financial settlement for the next financial year (2020/21) included a significant level of one off funding which underpins some of the Council's most critical services. This left the Council with no visibility or understanding of the changes that will come through the spending review, fair funding review or review of business rates retention and the significant political uncertainty and impact of Brexit on the nation's economy, developing a reasonable estimate of the Council's financial envelope for the latter two years of the MTFP isn't possible. The impact of COVID 19 means a greater level of financial uncertainty.

The Council's Framework for Change programme has been developed on the principles of ensuring that the right issues are being addressed i.e. 'what are the right things to do to deliver the Core Purpose'

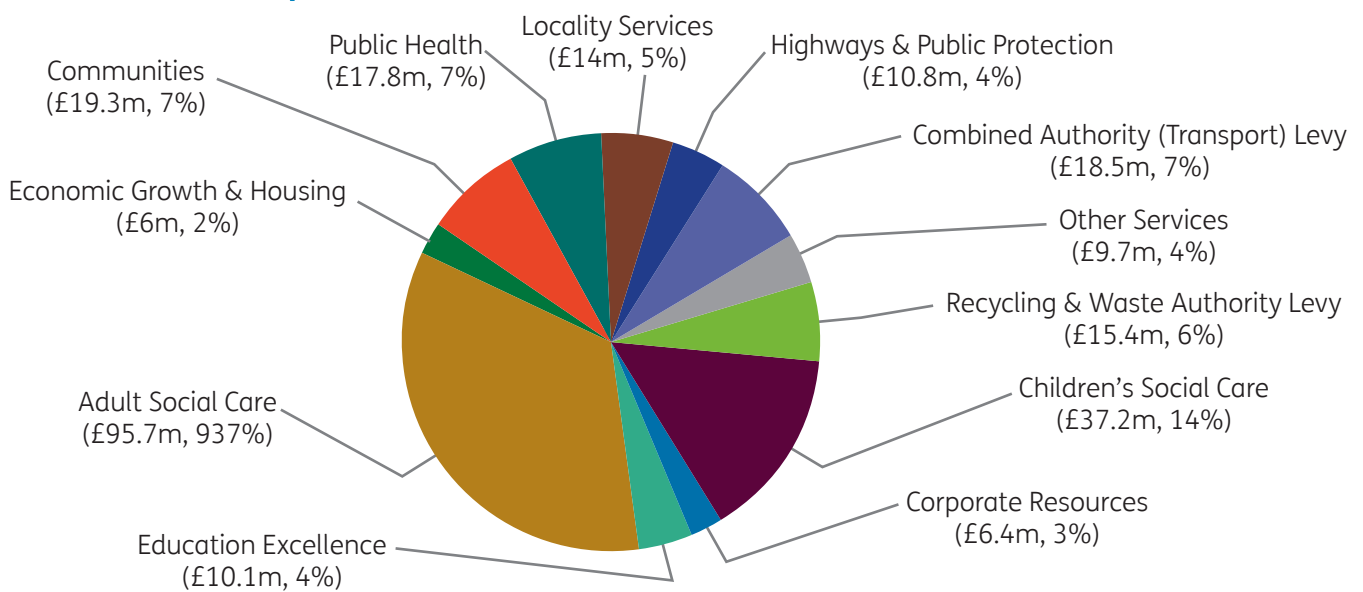
In 2019/20 the Council spent £25.2m on its Capital Programme, investing both in the development and improvement of the Council's infrastructure and supporting the delivery of its key outcomes. This included work on investing in our schools (including projects to improve young people's physical and mental health and support pupils with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities), investing in our highways network (including a new junction on the M58 and improvements to the North Liverpool and A565 corridors and A59 route), and investment in facilities in disabled people's homes.

The Council will continue to invest in our Borough, with the approved Capital Programme for 2020/21 totalling £54m.

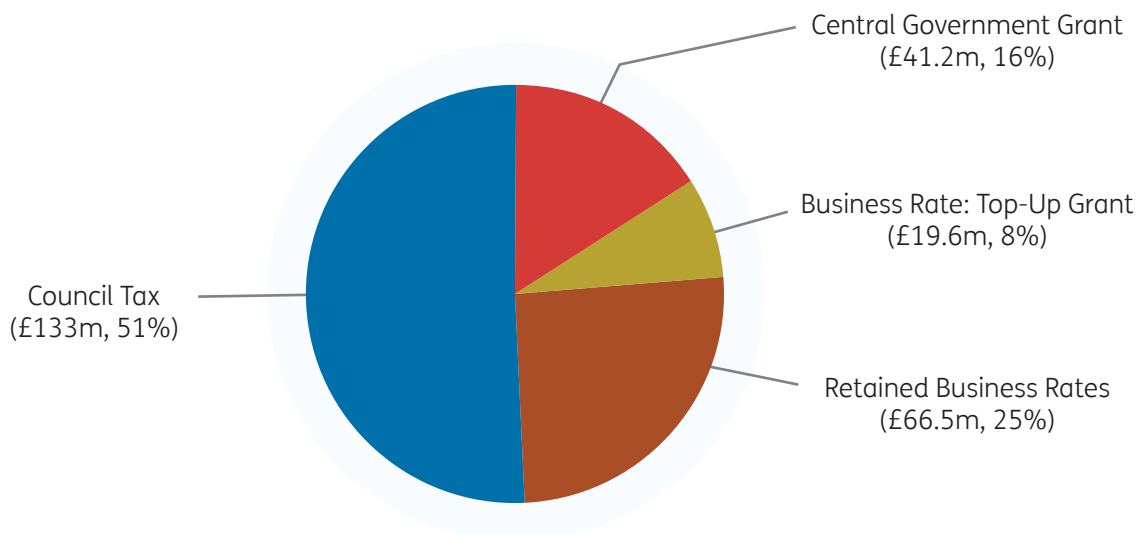


FOCUS ON DELIVERY

Service Expenditure 2019/2020




Sources for funding for 2019-20 Budget Requirement



Council Tax £ millions		
	Collected	Target
18/19	146.4	146.9
19/20	154.8	155.8

Business Rates £ millions		
	Collected	Target
18/19	72.1	71.6
19/20	70.8	71.0

Contact Centre Number of calls 000s	
Sefton 18/19	396.3
Sefton 19/20	329.1


Contact Centre Percent of Calls Answered	
Sefton 18/19	93.1%
 Sefton 19/20	89.5%


Freedom of Information Requests Received	
Sefton 18/19	1,102
Sefton 19/20	1,278


Freedom of Information Percent Answered in 20 Days	
Sefton 18/19	73%
Sefton 19/20	73%


SEND Education, Health & Care Plans completed within 20 weeks	
Improvement 19/20	51.6%

Early Help Number of Episodes Started	
Sefton 18/19	2,976
 Sefton 19/20	3,910

Early Help Percent Re-referred in Year	
Sefton 18/19	20%
 Sefton 19/20	20%

Early Help Percent Ended 'Aim Achieved'	
Sefton 18/19	24%
 Sefton 19/20	19%

Looked After Children Rate (Rate per 10,000 Population)	
Sefton 18/19	98
 Sefton 19/20	105
National	65

Looked After Children (Rate per 10,000 Population)	
Sefton 18/19	409
 Sefton 19/20	427
National	334

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Child Protection Plans (Rate per 10,000 Population)

Sefton 18/19	48
 Sefton 19/20	48
National	44

Percentage of Looked After Children Adopted

Sefton 18/19	15%
Sefton 19/20	13%


Number of Foster Carers

Sefton 18/19	104
 Sefton 19/20	123

Troubled Families Families Turned Around

Sefton 18/19	851
 Sefton 19/20	953

Troubled Families Turn Around Funding

Sefton 18/19	£1.5m
 Sefton 19/20	£1.7m

Adult Social Care Percent of Contacts Signposted

Sefton 18/19	7%
 Sefton 19/20	14%


Adults in Social Care Clients in Long Term Care

Sefton 18/19	4,402
 Sefton 19/20	4,474

Complaints Adult Social Care (% Upheld)


Sefton 18/19	54%
 Sefton 19/20	43%

Library Visits Average Per Month (000s)

Sefton 18/19	75.8
 Sefton 19/20	72.9

19/20 Excludes March

Complaints Adult Social Care (Nos)

Sefton 18/19	127
 Sefton 19/20	95

Library Loans Average Per Month (000s)


Sefton 18/19	59.4
 Sefton 19/20	62.7


19/20 Excludes March


Library Computer Use Average Per Month (000s)

Sefton 18/19	9.9
 Sefton 19/20	9.2


19/20 Excludes March

Leisure Centre Attendance (Millions)	
Sefton 18/19	5.57
 Sefton 19/20	5.31


Overall Tourism Value £ Millions	
Sefton 18/19	555
 Sefton 19/20	591


Day Visitors Millions	
Sefton 18/19	8.4
 Sefton 19/20	8.5

Staying Visitors (000s)	
Sefton 18/19	755
 Sefton 19/20	772


Hotel Rooms Numbers	
Sefton 18/19	1,398
 Sefton 19/20	1,536


Planning Applications Major Determined on Target	
Sefton 18/19	95%
 Sefton 19/20	90%


Planning Applications Minor Determined on Target	
Sefton 18/19	87%
 Sefton 19/20	91%

Building Regulations Plan Checks on Target	
Sefton 18/19	98%
 Sefton 19/20	100%

New Homes Granted Planning Permission	
Sefton 18/19	1,208
 Sefton 19/20	1,021

New Homes Built (Completions)	
Sefton 18/19	600
 Sefton 19/20	659

Homelessness Number of New Cases	
Sefton 18/19	1,120
 Sefton 19/20	1,796

Total Bin Pickups Millions	
Sefton 18/19	7.5
 Sefton 19/20	7.8

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Waste Recycled / Reused Percentage

Sefton 18/19 **35%**

 Sefton 19/20 **34%**

Residual Waste 000s of Tonnes

Sefton 18/19 **70**

 Sefton 19/20 **73**

Bins Not Emptied Percentage of All Pickups

Sefton 18/19 **0.14%**

 Sefton 19/20 **0.12%**

Fly Tipping Clearance Costs £000s

Sefton 18/19 **364**

 Sefton 19/20 **304**

Highway Maintenance Spend in £000s

Sefton 18/19 **6,777**

Sefton 19/20 **6,834**

Highway Defect Repairs Numbers undertaken

Sefton 18/19 **9,968**

 Sefton 19/20 **11,375**

Weed Spraying Spend in £000s

Sefton 18/19 **79**

Sefton 19/20 **135**

Gritting Spend in £000s

Sefton 18/19 **1,004**

Sefton 19/20 **856**

Lighting Faults Fixed within 5 Days

Sefton 18/19 **6,588**

Sefton 19/20 **5,693**

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Agenda Item 14

Report to:	Council	Date of Meeting:	17 September 2020
Subject:	Local Government Act 1972 – Section 85 - Attendance at Meetings – Covid-19 Arrangements		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Due to the continuation of the Covid-19 pandemic this report requests authority to approve and authorise the absence of any Councillors from attendance at Council and Committee Meetings pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Recommendation:

That the absence of any Elected Members from all Council and Committee Meetings be authorised and approved for the period until 4 March 2021, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To comply with the provisions of Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected: (including any Risk Implications)

None

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) **Revenue Costs** – Not applicable

(B) **Capital Costs** – Not applicable

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): Not applicable
Legal Implications: The effect of the legislation is contained within the contents of the report.
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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Protect the most vulnerable: Not applicable
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: Not applicable
Place – leadership and influencer: The approval of the recommendation contained in the report will ensure that Elected Members will not be disqualified from office through no fault of their own and allow them to continue to represent their constituents during the Covid-19 pandemic.
Drivers of change and reform: Not applicable
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Not applicable
Greater income for social investment: Not applicable
Cleaner Greener: Not applicable

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6095/20) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4278/20) 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 Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972 provides that if an Elected Member fails to attend any Council or Committee Meeting for a period of six months, he or she ceases to be an Elected Member, unless the absence was approved by the Council before the expiry of the six-month period.
- 1.2 In Sefton, such periods of absence are generally approved due to the ill-health of an Elected Member.

2. Covid-19 Pandemic

- 2.1 The Government has issued directives in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. One such directive relates to social distancing and this makes it extremely difficult to hold Council and Committee meetings in the normal manner Members are used to.
- 2.2 Government has recognised this and as part of the Coronavirus Act 2020 Section 78 confers powers for the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government (Secretary of State) to make appropriate Regulations.
- 2.3 Accordingly, the Secretary of State has made the Local Authorities and Police and Crime Panels (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (the Regulations) and these came into force on 4 April 2020.
- 2.4 The Regulations have amended the requirements imposed on local authorities regarding how they hold meetings; and Councils can now hold remote meetings i.e. the statutory obligation for all Members to be present in the same room at the same time in order to make decisions has been removed and technology can be utilised to hold remote meetings.

3. Impact on Sefton's Meetings

- 3.1 As Members will be aware, an Extraordinary meeting of Council was held on 7 May 2020 which authorised the absence of any Elected Members from all Council and Committee Meetings for the period until 7 November 2020, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. This enabled officers to investigate methods of holding remote meetings as referred to in paragraph 2.4 above. This also served the purpose of maintaining the Government directive on social distancing.
- 3.2 Following investigations it was agreed to hold remote meetings using Microsoft Teams Live Events software.
- 3.3 Since 7 May 2020 meetings of Cabinet, Planning Committee, Licensing and Regulatory (Urgent Referrals) Committee, Licensing Sub-Committee and the Health and Wellbeing Board have been held remotely; and approximately 25 elected Members have attended the above remote meetings.
- 3.4 It is anticipated that remote meetings will continue to be held for some time

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and that a full schedule of remote meetings will be held during the September/October cycle.

- 3.5 The majority of Members have yet to attend a remote meeting but hopefully they will be able to do so during September/October 2020 cycle. However, if for some reason a member is unable to attend a remote meeting during this cycle, they may not be able to attend a meeting before 7 November (the end date of the previously approved period of absence) and therefore be disqualified from office in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.
- 3.6 Such disqualification from office would be unfair on the basis that the majority of elected Members had the chance to attend meetings in only one cycle; rather than over the usual 6-month period.
- 3.7 Accordingly, the purpose of this report is to approve the absence of any Elected Members from all Council and Committee Meetings due to the Covid-19 pandemic for the period until 4 March 2021.
- 3.8 It is anticipated that most Members will be able to attend remote meetings during September/October but the intention of the report is to provide a “catch-all” situation and cover every eventuality during the Covid-19 pandemic.

COUNCIL – 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – RULE 46 (WAIVING CALL-IN) PROVISIONS COUNCIL CONSTITUTION – RULE 29 (SPECIAL URGENCY)

I wish to report that the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) gave her consent, under Rule 46 (Waiving Call-In) and Rule 29 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution. The report was in relation to Care Homes Additional Funding and it was urgent and not subject to call-in on the basis that the decision could not be reasonably deferred because the Council was required to submit a planning return to Central Government by 29 May 2020, which detailed the current activities and forward plans it had in place to support the care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and also pay the additional funding to care homes as soon as possible in order to support them in light of the increased financial pressures they are currently experiencing.

CABINET – 28 MAY 2020

8. The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director – Adult Social Care and Health outlining proposals on providing additional funding to the Sefton care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Decision Made:

That:

- (1) the proposals outlined in section 5.1 of the report be implemented in order to provide additional financial support to care homes during the COVID-19 pandemic;
- (2) future decisions on any further additional funding to be provided to care homes be delegated to the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health and the Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care and the Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing;
- (3) the Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health and the Director of Public Health be requested to continue to gather information from care homes on the financial pressures they are experiencing in order to assess the sufficiency of additional funding provided to date;
- (4) further reports be submitted to Cabinet and the Health and Wellbeing board in order to provide updates on the financial support being provided to care homes and to report the impact of COVID-19 on the Sefton care home market;

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- (5) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because the Council is required to submit a planning return to Central Government by 29 May 2020, which details the current activities and forward plans it has in place to support the care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a need to put in place further additional financial support payments to care homes as soon as possible due to the increased financial pressures they are currently experiencing;
- (6) it be noted that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) had given their consent under Rule 29 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution for these decisions to be treated as urgent on the basis that they cannot be reasonable deferred because the Council is required to submit a planning return to Central Government by 29th May 2020, which details the current activities and forward plans it has in place to support the care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
- (7) it be noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) had given their consent under Rule 46 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for these decisions to be treated as urgent and not subject to "call in" on the basis that they cannot be reasonably deferred because the Council is required to submit a planning return to Central Government by 29th May 2020, which details the current activities and forward plans it has in place to support the care home market in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and also pay the additional funding to care homes as soon as possible in order to support them in light of the increased financial pressures they are currently experiencing.

Reasons for Decision:

To continue to support the Sefton care home market during the COVID-19 pandemic and to ensure that ongoing work takes place to assess the financial impact on care homes.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The following options were considered and rejected:

- (1) Not providing further additional funding – this option was considered and rejected as the Council is required to ensure that additional

funding allocated to it from Central Government is used to support care homes, who are experiencing additional financial pressures due to the COVID-19 pandemic. There is also a requirement to ensure that additional funding also reflects the impact on all types of care home placements, not simply those commissioned by the Council.

- (2) Providing additional funding via other mechanisms such as arbitrary one-off payments – this option was considered and rejected as there is a need to ensure that any additional funding provided is based on a sound understanding of the impact of COVID-19 on the Sefton care home market and that further analysis will need to take place via the submission of templates from care homes detailing the cost pressures they are experiencing, in order to ascertain whether funding provided to date is sufficient.

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COUNCIL MOTION

17 September 2020

PROPOSED BY: COUNCILLOR TONY BROUGH

SECONDED BY: COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON

TITLE: PRESS RELEASES

The Council agrees that in future any press releases and media contact that relate to fundamental strategic decisions on any aspect of Council business be forwarded to Elected Members 48 hours before they are made available to the press and media.

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COUNCIL MOTION

17 September 2020

PROPOSED BY: COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON

SECONDED BY: COUNCILLOR TONY BROUGH

TITLE: CABINET MEETINGS

Sefton Council Members will know of Section 82 of the Cabinet Constitution which states:-

“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 Council based on experience now believes that the veto which can be used by the Leader of the Council should be removed if the criteria under Rule 82 have been met.

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