

# Public Document Pack



MEETING: CABINET  
DATE: Thursday 27th May, 2021  
TIME: 10.00 am  
VENUE: Ballroom, Town Hall, Bootle

DECISION MAKER: **CABINET**

Councillor Ian Maher (Chair)  
Councillor Atkinson  
Councillor Cummins  
Councillor Doyle  
Councillor Fairclough  
Councillor Hardy  
Councillor Lappin  
Councillor Moncur  
Councillor Roscoe  
Councillor Veidman

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Ruth Harrison  
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The Cabinet is responsible for making what are known as Key Decisions, which will be notified on the Forward Plan. Items marked with an \* on the agenda involve Key Decisions

A key decision, as defined in the Council's Constitution, is: -

- any Executive decision that is not in the Annual Revenue Budget and Capital Programme approved by the Council and which requires a gross budget expenditure, saving or virement of more than £100,000 or more than 2% of a Departmental budget, whichever is the greater
- any Executive decision where the outcome will have a significant impact on a significant number of people living or working in two or more Wards

**If you have any special needs that may require arrangements to facilitate your attendance at this meeting, please contact the Committee Officer named above, who will endeavour to assist.**

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# A G E N D A

Items marked with an \* involve key decisions

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject/Author(s)</u>	<u>Wards Affected</u>
1	<b>Apologies for Absence</b>	
2	<b>Declarations of Interest</b>  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 room, including from the public gallery, 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 to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, 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	<b>Minutes of the Previous Meeting</b>  Minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2021.	(Pages 5 - 8)
4	<b>Appointment to Outside Bodies 2021/22</b>  Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer.  Report to Follow.	

- |     |   |           |                 |
|-----|---|-----------|-----------------|
| 5   | <b>Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust</b><br>Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer. |           | (Pages 9 - 14)  |
| * 6 | <b>Support and Maintenance Contract for Social Care Case Management System</b><br>Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services.              | All Wards | (Pages 15 - 20) |
| * 7 | <b>Levelling Up funding bid submissions for June 2021</b><br>Report of the Executive Director (Place).  | All Wards | (Pages 21 - 28) |

**THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 15 APRIL, 2021.**

## **CABINET**

### **REMOTE MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST APRIL, 2021**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Maher (in the Chair)  
Councillors Atkinson, Cummins, Fairclough, Hardy,  
John Joseph Kelly, Lappin, Moncur and Veidman

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Sir Ron Watson viewed the meeting  
remotely.

#### **113. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

No apologies for absence were received.

#### **114. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

#### **115. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING**

##### **Decision Made:**

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 4 March 2021 be approved as a  
correct record.

#### **116. STRATEGIC INTEGRATED CARE PARTNERSHIP AND GOVERNANCE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive that detailed an  
update on the proposed arrangements for the next phase of development  
of the place-based approach to Integrated Health and Care in Sefton,  
referred to as an Integrated Care Partnership

##### **Decisions Made:** That:

- (1) the progress made to date by the Council and its Partners in  
establishing the Integrated Care Partnership be noted;
- (2) the leadership and support systems to deliver the changes be  
agreed and that the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and  
Health be designated as Place Lead, be agreed; and
- (3) regular progress reports be presented to the Health and Well Being  
Board and Cabinet with any Key Decisions escalated as required,  
be agreed.

# Agenda Item 3

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## **Reasons for the Decisions:**

Proposed legislative changes once enacted will require new arrangements to be put in place. The report sets out the infrastructure needed to achieve this.

## **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

Proposed legislative changes once enacted will require new arrangements to be put in place and so doing nothing is not an option.

### **117. CHESHIRE AND MERSEYSIDE HEALTH CARE PARTNERSHIP DRAFT MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director Adult Social Care and Health in relation to the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU).

#### **Decisions Made:** That:

- (1) the latest version of the Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) be welcomed and noted;
- (2) the joint letter of the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, as detailed in appendix 3 to the report be noted, and it also be noted that further revisions may be made; and
- (3) delegated authority be granted to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing to sign off the final version of the Memorandum of Understanding, be approved.

#### **Reason for the Decisions:**

Support the implementation of the Governance of the Memorandum of Understanding for the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System.

#### **Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

Proposed legislative changes once enacted will require new arrangements to be put in place and so doing nothing is not an option.

### **118. SOUTHPORT TOWN DEAL – HEADS OF TERMS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director (Place) in relation to the Southport Town Deal, and the Town Investment Plan which was submitted to Government at the end of October 2020.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills, Councillor Atkinson welcomed the report and referred to the hard work undertaken by the Town Deal Board and Officers in being offered a Town Deal of up to the

CABINET- THURSDAY 1ST APRIL, 2021

value of 37.5m and stated that the higher funding offer was in recognition of the case that Southport had made for the regional and national significance of its proposals. Councillor Atkinson thanked the Town Deal Board, Officers and Members for all their hard work.

**Decisions Made:** That:

- (1) the finalisation of the non-binding Heads of Terms, as accountable body for the Town Deal, be approved;
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills to agree the Heads of Terms once finalised by the Town Deal Board;
- (3) the time scales and next steps for project confirmation and business case development, be noted;
- (4) the business case development for the projects be delegated to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills; and
- (5) it be noted that business case approval for each of the projects taken forward will be brought for Cabinet and Council approval on a project-by-project basis, in accordance with the Councils Financial Procedure Rules.

**Reasons for the Decisions:**

Southport was one of 101 towns identified as potential recipients of Town Deal funding, for which a bid submission and Town Investment Plan (TIP) was required. The process requires leadership of a Town Deal Board, with a private sector Chair, but the Council is required to undertake the role of Accountable Body for the bid, and for the subsequent negotiation of Heads of Terms, agreement of the Town Deal, and to be the organisation through which funding will flow.

These recommendations enable finalisation of those Heads of Terms with government, in advance of the detailed project development process.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

The alternative of not agreeing to the Heads of Terms, and not undertaking the role of Accountable Body for the Town Deal is rejected given the significance of the funding, the quality and quantity of projects identified and the importance of such funding to economic recovery in Southport given the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the town and its economy.

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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 May 2021 15 July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust		
<b>Report of:</b>	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

Under Section 249(5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or a service unit of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough and this report sets out proposals for the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust to be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.

**Recommendation(s):** That the Cabinet approves the recommendations and commends them to the Council for approval:

- (1) In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of, and the debt of gratitude of the Borough to the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust and in the light of their hard work and dedication during the devastation of the Covid 19 Pandemic, the Council resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust and that it be granted the right, privilege, honour and distinction of attendance at all ceremonial occasions and be invited to attend at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be determined at Bootle Town Hall; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services be authorised to take all of the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a civic reception for the Officers and Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust and invited guests to take place at the rising of the Extra-ordinary Council meeting in Bootle Town Hall.

**Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

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Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have served Sefton Council and its residents tirelessly throughout the pandemic with hard work and dedication putting themselves at risk in ensuring the safety of others.

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

No alternative options have been considered.

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

### **(A) Revenue Costs**

The cost would be in the region of £5,000.

### **(B) Capital Costs**

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> There are no additional resource implications to those identified in Section A above.
<b>Legal Implications:</b> Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.

## **Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:**

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:  Both Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have served the Community for many years. The past 16 months have illustrated how the health service during the Covid pandemic has facilitated confident and resilient communities.
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A

Cleaner Greener: N/A
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## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6366/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4567/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

None

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Ruth Harrison
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## Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or a service unit of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough and it is proposed that the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.
- 1.2 The conferring of the Freedom of the Borough upon any individual or service unit is the highest honour the Council can bestow and when the Freedom of the Borough is granted to a service unit, they are given the right, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough on all ceremonial occasions with colours flying, bands playing, drums beating and bayonets fixed.

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1.3 The scrolls of Honorary Freemen and organisations awarded Freedom of Entry to the Borough are displayed in both the Mayors Parlours at the Town Hall, Bootle and the Town Hall, Southport. Honorary Freemen may attend and take part in such civic receptions and functions to which all Members of the Council are invited. However, Freemen shall not have the right, as such, to attend meetings of the Council or a Committee, or to receive any such allowances or payments to which Councillors are entitled.

1.4 Past recipients of the Freedom of the Borough have been:

- 2004 - Donald “Ginger” McCain
- 2006 - James Carragher

The Freedom of the Borough (Freedom of Entry) has also been bestowed on the following Service Units:

- 1982 - No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, which was subsequently succeeded by No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 (North West) Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) in 2001
- 2011 - RAF Woodvale

The Council agreed on 17 November 2016 that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on HMS Mersey at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be determined at Bootle Town Hall.

- 2017 – Duke of Lancaster’s Regiment

## **2. Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust – Covid 19 Pandemic**

2.1 Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have been serving Sefton’s residents for many years. The Health Service is thought of by most as the jewel in the crown of Britain.

2.2 It is known that cases of Covid 19 emerged in Britain around January 2020 and it is thought that it had probably emerged sooner. Covid 19 soon became a pandemic during March 2020 when cases started to increase as the disease mutated and spread quickly. At that time very little was known about the disease only that, in many cases it was fatal and so our NHS Services had to learn at pace and make life changing decisions based on the little knowledge that was known.

2.3 Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust have served Sefton Council and its residents tirelessly throughout the pandemic with hard work and dedication putting themselves at risk in ensuring the safety of others. That selflessness and dedication can not be underestimated which is why the Council is recommending that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust.

## **3. Conferment of Freedom of the Borough**

- 3.1 In order to confer the Freedom of the Borough upon an individual or service the Council would need to pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, where notice of the object of the meeting has been given.
- 3.2 If the Council was minded to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, the Chief Executives of both Trusts would be advised and arrangements made for the Freedom to be bestowed upon the NHS Trusts on a date to be determined in 2021/22.
- 3.3 A scroll bestowing the honour would need to be ordered and produced, and arrangements made for a civic reception for the Aintree and Liverpool University NHS Trust and Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, and invited guests to take place at the rising of the Extraordinary Council. The costs of the scroll and reception could be financed from the Mayoral Hospitality budget provision.

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# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 May 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Support and Maintenance Contract for Social Care Case Management System(s)		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

This report sets out the background for the support and maintenance contracts for the existing Case Management Systems used to support Social Care and Early Intervention Services within Adult and Children's Social Care. The report details the associated procurement route available to the authority to renew this support and maintenance as the contract novated from Arvarto has now expired.

## Recommendation(s):

 That the:

- (1) Cabinet be requested to approve the use of the Crown Commercial Services Framework RM3821 Digital and Application Solutions lot 3c 'Community Health and Social Care to award a contract for the support and maintenance of the Liquid Logic Social Care Modules deployed across Adults and Children's Services; and
- (2) Executive Director of Corporate Resources & Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be granted delegated authority to award the Contract under this framework, for an initial five years with an option to extend for a further two.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure that this critical system is still supported and maintained by the software supplier and that Sefton continue to receive statutory changes and upgrades.

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

To explore the market for a new Social Care solution, rejected.

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The current solution, provided by Liquid Logic, is recognised as one of the market leading products in this area and is used by most authorities in the North West. This makes regional initiatives around information sharing and integration with possible, an advantage recently demonstrated in the regional response to information sharing to support the COVID-19 response. Furthermore, the cost of change would be significant and potentially prohibitive, which would not represent best value to the authority.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

The funding for this contract exists already within ICT contract revenue streams.

### (B) Capital Costs

There are no capital costs

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
Financial – costs will be contained within existing revenue streams
IT – system remains supported and maintained in line with good practice
Staffing - The awarding of a new contract will not have any staffing implications for the Council.
Assets - There are no expected implications regarding Council assets expected in relation to this procurement exercise.
<b>Legal Implications:</b>
There are no legal Implications
<b>Equality Implications:</b>
There are no equality implications

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: - The contract ensures we have a full support contract in place for a critical system within the authority
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: Not Applicable
Commission, broker and provide core services: The contract ensures we have a full support contract in place for a critical system within the authority



Place – leadership and influencer: Not Applicable
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 Procurement Manager for Sefton Council and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6355/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4556/210) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

Not Applicable

## Implementation Date for the Decision

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

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<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Helen Spreadbury
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### Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 6

## 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Sefton Council utilises the Liquid Logic social care case management system to manage the services provided to adults and children in the borough.
- 1.2 The Liquid Logic case management system comprises of three core solutions: LAS (Adult Social Care), LCS (Children's Social Care), EHM (Children's Early Help). In addition, the software provides other integrated ancillary modules and solutions to support, for example, financial payments, provider services and self-assessment.
- 1.3 The Liquid Logic case management system was implemented at Sefton in 2010. Sefton Council carried out the procurement activity, and the Council's former IT partner Arvato CRM UK & Ireland held the contractual relationship with Liquid Logic on the Council's behalf.
- 1.4 When the contract with Arvato came to an end in September 2018, the contracts held by Arvato were novated to the Council, as a private company Arvato's supply chain was not subject to Public Contract Regulations. Therefore, any renewal of these novated contracts required a commercial review and appropriate strategies put in place to ensure compliance with Public Procurement Regulations.
- 1.5 As such a Cabinet Report of 24 January, entitled "The Strategic Approach to ICT Contract Management" set out the proposed approach to commissioning and procuring contracts to support ICT service delivery in Sefton. Within this report the Liquid Logic Case Management System was defined as a category 3 (major system) in the report and as a "large, complex system, which required significant upfront cost" and was typically replaced "once in a generation".
- 1.6 The report also explained the importance of ensuring business continuity for number of these systems, specifically to ensure that support and maintenance contracts were in place for all critical systems.
- 1.7 The contract with the supplier is currently rolling and renews year on year on the 1<sup>st</sup> of April each year. Therefore, the authority needs to formalise the contract for support and maintenance to ensure full support and maintenance services are in place, in line with service standards and to ensure value for money for Sefton Council.
- 1.8 The contract review for Liquid Logic was planned in for financial year 2021/2022. However, the supplier has advised that they are not willing to roll the contract forward into this next financial year (21/22) and that the authority needs to put a formal contract in place.
- 1.9 To allow time for the authority to complete a formal procurement, in line with procurement regulations, the supplier has agreed to roll the contract forward a further six months. This was completed by a formal waiver in line with procurement regulations in March 2021.

## **2. Proposed contract and procurement route**

- 2.1 A suitable framework has been identified, Crown Commercial Services RM3821 Digital and Application Solutions Lot 3c – Community Health and Social Care. This report seeks approved to complete a permitted direct award for major systems intrinsically linked to current software solutions.
- 2.2 As a direct award Sefton MBC is utilising the freedoms provided under Contract Procedure Rules 2/4/1 Direct Call Off from a Framework, to ensure the best value contract in line with the requirement,
- 2.3 The proposed contract delivers:
  - A discount structure in place to manage any additional modules to be added to the contract, approval for which will be subject to formal approval process in line Contract Procedure Rules
  - Crown Commercial Services contract terms providing assurance that the proposal has a foundation built on best practice to ensure the protection of our investment
- 2.4 The ICT Client Team and Council's procurement manager have worked with legal colleagues and reviewed all proposed contractual documentation to ensure it meets Sefton's requirements.

## **3. Next Steps**

- 3.1 If the recommendation of this report is accepted and approved the next steps will be to complete a direct award, under Crown Commercial Services RM3821 Digital and Application Solutions Lot 3c – Community Health and Social Care, for the support and maintenance of existing solutions provided by Liquid Logic.

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# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	27 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Levelling Up funding bid submissions for June 2021		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director (Place)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Regeneration and Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

Report to update Cabinet on the Levelling Up funding opportunity and the proposal to submit up to two bids on or before the submission date of 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, and potentially up to three bids in total from Sefton to the fund.

## Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) Agree to the submission of up to two Levelling Up funding bids to Government on or before 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, in accordance with the given bid process, and up to three bids in total from Sefton (given the likely announcement of future bidding rounds);
- (2) Note that any funded projects may require Cabinet and Council approval if successful, and would be presented for review and approval if successful and at the appropriate time, in accordance with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules;
- (3) Delegate the finalisation of the bid submissions to the Executive Director (Place), in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills;
- (4) Note 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 (Regeneration and Skills) 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 approval needs to be sought prior to the first bid submission date of 18 June 2021; and
- (5) Note that the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) had given consent under Rule 46 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for this decision to be treated as urgent and not subject to "call in" on the basis that it cannot be reasonably deferred because approval needs to be sought prior to the first submission date of 18 June 2021.

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## **Reasons for the Recommendation(s):**

The Levelling Up bid opportunity may offer a route to funding for capital projects, which the recommendations propose to pursue given the importance of such projects to economic recovery in the borough. The submission of up to two bids on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, and of up to three bids in total, reflects the ongoing work on the opportunities referenced herein, and on other potential projects, to finalise project details and bid documentation. The recommendations in respect of timescales are due to the given deadline for bid submission, and the importance of pace of development and delivery to economic recovery and the impacts and benefits of such projects.

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

The option of submitting bids at a later date may remain, but there is a risk of uncertainty on future rounds, criteria and timescales which prompts the recommended submission on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021. There is a risk in working at such pace in respect of delivering a quality bid submission, but this will be mitigated through the quality and quantity of resource necessary to deliver, alongside the best practice and lessons learned from such processes as the Southport Town Deal.

The option of not submitting at all was considered and rejected, given the importance of the projects proposed to economic recovery, and the lack of funding currently available to deliver all elements of Sefton's economic recovery strategy and action plan.

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

### **(A) Revenue Costs**

The revenue implications of producing Levelling Up funding bids will be funded via existing council budgets, and approved in accordance with Financial Procedure rules.

### **(B) Capital Costs**

No capital costs will be required for bid development. Capital costs of the projects included in the bids will be considered on a case by case basis.

## **Implications of the Proposals:**

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

Currently resource (people) implications are being managed within the current Council resource envelope and prioritising work as required to deliver all on time activities. When required due to capacity shortfall external resources are considered and used, with external expertise procured where beneficial to the bids.

Upon completion of negotiations and agreement of a final set of projects all revenue and capital financial implications will be reported to future meetings of Cabinet and Council in accordance with the Councils Financial Procedure Rules.

<p><b>Legal Implications:</b></p> <p>Legal implications will be determined through negotiation of terms post-submission, and outlined in subsequent Cabinet reports.</p>
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b></p> <p>Any successful projects would undertake Equality Impact Assessments, as the Council does with all capital projects. As previously, for example, Changing Places units will be included in all capital schemes.</p>

**Contribution to the Council’s Core Purpose:**

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: Given the impact of Covid-19 on Sefton’s economy and its key sectors, the fund should support recovery and projects that deliver the creation of new employment opportunities across the borough.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The bids will be community focused and substantiated by extensive local community consultation, undertaken through development of the Bootle Town Centre Investment Strategy and Crosby Town Centre Development Strategy and will be reviewed and refreshed through the bid preparation process. The Projects are driven to enhance the community and the borough as a place to live and work.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: The bid approval will help to support the core value of providing core services in the optimum way</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer: The Council will directly contribute to an improved place to live, work, visit and invest, creating further confidence in the borough that could lead to further private sector investment.</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform: Providing a long-term sustainable future for the borough creating new diverse uses meeting the expectations of residents and visitors. Making Sefton an increasingly attractive place to live and work and embracing the needs of current and future residents and visitors.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The proposals will support economic recovery and business investment which in turn will help established businesses to create additional employment and sustainable business growth.</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment: The commercial enterprise of the projects may support the generation of income that can support the delivery and enhancement of positive social impact. The bid will consider social value and wider benefit realisation to be achieved through the funding allocation.</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener: All projects will establish the best accepted build criteria and follow current best guidance and standards and will contribute to Sefton’s objectives in respect of environmental sustainability. The bid will be expected to demonstrate how it will help</p>

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address climate change emergency and meet the Council's net zero carbon target.
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## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director Corporate Resources & Customer Services and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (FD:6380/21) (LD:4581/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

Previous external consultations undertaken will inform project development and bid strategy – these include consultations regarding Sefton's economic strategy, investment frameworks and local plans, and the Southport Town Deal. Consultation is underway in respect of the Bootle Area Action Plan, which will also inform relevant bids. In each area and on each project, consultation and engagement will be an ongoing process, continuing to engage communities and businesses.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately after the Meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Stephen Watson</b>
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## Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.



## 1.0 Introduction and Background

1.1 The Levelling Up Fund (LUF) is a joint venture between Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG), Department for Transport (DFT) and Treasury, totalling up to £4.8bn to 2024-25. Bids for funding are to be local authority led (with transport bids to be led by combined authorities). Members of Parliament are expected to support one project in their area, meaning that Sefton Council is eligible to submit up to three bids (Southport, Sefton Central, and Bootle). Projects are to be up to £20m, or up to £50m for transport projects. Bidding round one, for which submission date is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, is focused on the three criteria below, and on prioritising projects which can commence in the 2021-22 financial year:

- Transport Investments
- Town Centre Regeneration (building on the Towns Fund criteria)
- Cultural Heritage

1.2 The prospectus for the fund is available at:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/966138/Levelling\\_Up\\_prospectus.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/966138/Levelling_Up_prospectus.pdf)

1.3 The prospectus categorises areas into three levels of priority. Priority 1 areas will receive readiness funding of £125,000 to prepare bids. Sefton is in Priority 3. However, the council (like other local authorities) has questioned the methodology to allocate Sefton to Priority 3. If the Index of Multiple Deprivation were used to determine priorities, such as the rank of proportion of Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived 10% nationally, Sefton would be Priority 1.

1.4 Government published methodology for prioritisation of local authorities, summarised below.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/levelling-up-fund-additional-documents/levelling-up-fund-prioritisation-of-places-methodology-note>

Indicator	Measure	Weight
Indicator 1 Need for economic recovery and growth	1) Productivity, measured using gross value added (GVA) per hour;	<b>50%</b> (33.3%)
	2) 16+ Unemployment rate; and	(33.3%)
	3) Skills, measured using the proportion of the working-age population without a national vocational qualification (NVQ).	(33.3%)
Indicator 2 Need for improved transport connectivity	4) Journey time to employment by car	<b>25%</b> (75.2%)
	5) Journey time to employment by public transport	(21.2%)
	6) Journey time to employment by cycle	(3.5%)
Indicator 3 Need for regeneration	7) Commercial vacancy rate - Proportion of retail, industrial, office and leisure units that are vacant	<b>25%</b> (75%)
	8) Dwellings vacancy rate - Proportion of dwellings chargeable for council tax that are classed as long-term empty (empty for more than 6 months)	(25%)

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- 1.5 The criteria do not consider deprivation. Approximately 20% of Sefton's LSOAs are in the most deprived 10% nationally, which equates to approximately 58,000 residents (21% of the population). In Indicator 1 there is no "sense-check" against regeneration need - this would have been deliverable using national deprivation indices and would have identified any anomalies in the banding of authorities at a national level. Third parties have published work on reprioritising authorities in England using the Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD 2019), which would put Sefton in Priority 1. Indicator 1 only uses one year of unemployment data, which does not take account of areas which have multi-generational or long-term unemployment levels. Measurement of longer term unemployment using time series data that is readily available alongside the most recent year of data would have highlighted and given greater priority to areas whose economies have been transitioning from traditional industries for 20 or more years. Furthermore, Indicator 2 places significant importance on drive to work times (18.8% overall), favouring rural areas particularly, whereas there is no correlation between drive to work times and deprivation.
- 1.6 Sefton Council has written formally to question categorisation as a Priority 3 area, and has received feedback that does not suggest any change in this respect, but advises that Priority 3 status should not deter Sefton from bidding for funding. Although this informs decision making on bidding, the risk associated should be recognised. The bids and the projects themselves will need to be distinct and of the highest quality standards, to give the best opportunity of addressing this current categorisation.

## **2.0 Sefton Central**

- 2.1 While there are a range of options and opportunities that may be relevant for Levelling Up funding, the evaluation process focuses heavily on timescales, and therefore on projects where sufficient quantity and quality of information already exists to enable a bid submission of a high standard on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021, that aligns with the given eligibility criteria.
- 2.2 The recommended option for Sefton Central that aligns with the above is for a new village centre and library scheme. The project will provide a statement mixed-use building on a key gateway site within Crosby town centre. It will provide a mixed-use facility of community services centred around a new library, community healthcare provision, ancillary public café facilities plus additional new residential accommodation in the heart of the village centre. The development will be located on the Green, a Council-owned site currently laid out and operated as a surface car park. To facilitate the scheme and improve the town centre access, the proposal also includes accommodation works comprising junction improvement works and improvement to pedestrian and cycle access into the centre improving connectivity, encouraging active travel and relieving congestion to the Moor Lane / Liverpool Road Junction. The two remaining car parks the Sainsbury's and Moor Lane car parks will be re-engineered to improve access and create more spaces to offset those lost by the proposed development.
- 2.3 The scheme will create a new town centre hub including a fit-for-purpose new community library, General Practitioner surgery and health clinic and residential accommodation. This new community hub will capture wider social and economic

benefits, particularly providing a new focal point destination and anchor development, which in turn will help drive footfall into Crosby village centre. This approach is consistent with the approved Local Plan, Crosby Village Centre supplementary planning documents, and Crosby Village Development Framework which seeks to revitalise and diversify the town centre and increase footfall and dwell times.

- 2.4 Sefton Council has already invested significantly on design development for the project, which provides sufficient detail to support a high-quality bid submission in the short space of time available. Engagement with partners, potential occupiers and communities is underway and will continue in advance of, and subsequent to, the bid submission.
- 2.5 Further information will be provided externally as part of the consultation and engagement process. Subject to the outcomes of a bid submission, the project would require future Cabinet and Council approval, in accordance with financial procedure rules.

### **3.0 Bootle**

- 3.1 The council continues to progress vision, strategy and action plan for the future of Bootle town centre, and the whole of the town. This process will continue to be delivered collaboratively with communities and stakeholders, including through the Area Action Plan process now underway.
- 3.2 Short-term actions include the transformation of the canalside site on Washington Parade into an exciting new events and entertainment space. Work is now underway to transform the site into a vibrant space to host a range of events from Summer 2021. Initial clearance works on the Washington Parade site has now finished, allowing contractors to begin stage two of the project, which will see the space opened up to create a dynamic, multi-purpose venue that will sit alongside the waters of the Leeds Liverpool Canal. This would include a food, drink and leisure offer, new events spaces and an urban garden. Other enhancements in this area will also improve the environment and open up the canal, with vegetation clearance enabling use of that space. An exciting calendar of events is envisaged which, subject to restrictions at the time, would include a Food and Drink Festival later in the Summer, and a Christmas Market in December. The hosting space will aim to bring new activity to the under-used land as the long term regeneration of Bootle develops; stimulating the local economy, transforming the look and feel of the town for residents, businesses and visitors and improving the quality of life for the community
- 3.3 A range of Levelling Up funding project options have been considered, aiming to identify those closely aligned to the eligibility criteria, and projects that will be both distinctive and deliverable by the 18 June 2021 submission date for the bid.
- 3.4 The recommended option that aligns with the above would be to build on the work underway at Bootle Canalside, with a permanent visitor attraction to complement the wider food, drink and leisure offer that would be part of the future town centre proposition for residents and visitors. Such a visitor attraction would align with the Liverpool City Region's visitor proposition, given the town's and the site's ease of

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connectivity by rail to the visitor destinations of both Liverpool and Southport. Moreover, such an attraction would align with the proposed new Everton Football Club stadium.

- 3.5 The visitor attraction proposed for part of the canalside site would be a Flying Theatre – an immersive, interactive experience that would be unique to the region, would engender repeat visits via changes in creative content, and would support the diversification of the town centre offer. Such a project would use existing technology and creative content, enabling prompt development and submission of a high quality bid for a distinctive project.
- 3.6 Work is ongoing at the time of writing on the project itself, and more information will be communicated externally as part of the local consultation and engagement process. However the need for a more diversified town centre offer including leisure attraction and canal-side enhancement were identified in the town investment framework . This will also form part of local consultation in respect of the Area Action Plan. Sefton Council, with support from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority, has already invested significantly in the canalside site, and is able to demonstrate momentum that will underpin the nature of such a bid.
- 3.7 As above, subject to the outcomes of a bid submission, the project would require future Cabinet and Council approval, in accordance with financial procedure rules.

## **4.0 Southport**

- 4.1 Following the announcement of a £37.5m Town Deal for Southport in March 2021, the Town Deal board has agreed allocation of that funding to the identified projects. Council resources are focused on finalisation of Heads of Terms, and on the next stages of development of each identified project, to finalise the Town Deal and secure the announced funding within the next year.
- 4.2 Options and opportunities for Southport in respect of Levelling Up funding will be reviewed in the coming months. This process and any projects identified would build on and complement the success of the Town Deal and emerging projects, but should not distract from or delay any of the significant workload in progress.

## **5.0 Governance and Approvals**

- 5.1 As per the recommendations within the main report, all bids would be delegated to the Executive Director (Place) for finalisation in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills. This would include any decisions on timescales, for example if it were deemed appropriate closer to the submission date to delay or cancel one or more of the proposed submissions.
- 5.2 This report relates only to the approval to submit up to three Levelling Up funding bids. In accordance with financial procedure rules, in the event of positive feedback on one or more of the bids, those projects themselves would go through Cabinet and Council for full approval at the appropriate time.