

# Public Document Pack

**Sefton Council** 

MEETING: CABINET  
DATE: Thursday 29th July, 2021  
TIME: 10.00 am  
VENUE: Town Hall, Bootle

DECISION MAKER: **CABINET**

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

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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

**See overleaf for COVID Guidance and the requirements in relation to Public Attendance.**

**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.**

We endeavour to provide a reasonable number of full agendas, including reports at the meeting. If you wish to ensure that you have a copy to refer to at the meeting, please can you print off your own copy of the agenda pack prior to the meeting.

## **COVID GUIDANCE IN RELATION TO PUBLIC ATTENDANCE**

In light of ongoing Covid-19 social distancing restrictions, there is limited capacity for members of the press and public to be present in the meeting room indicated on the front page of the agenda at any one time. We would ask parties remain in the meeting room solely for the duration of consideration of the Committee report(s) to which their interests relate.

We therefore request that if you wish to attend the Committee to please register in advance of the meeting via email to [ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:ruth.harrison@sefton.gov.uk) by no later than **12:00 (noon) the day before the day of the meeting.**

Please include in your email –

- Your name;
- Your email address;
- Your Contact telephone number; and
- The details of the report in which you are interested.

In light of current social distancing requirements, access to the meeting room is limited.

**We have been advised by Public Health that Members, officers and the public should carry out a lateral flow test before attending the meeting, and only attend if that test is negative. Provided you are not classed as exempt, it is requested that you wear a mask that covers both your nose and mouth.**

# AGENDA

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 24 June 2021.		(Pages 5 - 28)
* 4	<b>Children, Young People &amp; Families Public Health Commissioned Services</b>  Report of the Head of Health and Wellbeing.	All Wards	(Pages 29 - 36)
* 5	<b>Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy</b>  Report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education.	All Wards	(Pages 37 - 56)

* 6	<b>Capital Funding for Short-term Assessment Unit</b> Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health.	All Wards	(Pages 57 - 72)
* 7	<b>Procurement of Advocacy provision</b> Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health.	All Wards	(Pages 73 - 82)
8	<b>Marine Lake Events Centre – Pre-Development and Capital Funding bid submissions</b> Report of the Executive Director – Place.	Cambridge; Dukes	(Pages 83 - 94)
* 9	<b>Financial and Corporate Performance 2020/2021</b> Report of the Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services.	All Wards	(Pages 95 - 150)
* 10	<b>Treasury Management Outturn 2020/21</b> Report of the Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services.	All Wards	(Pages 151 - 166)
* 11	<b>Financial Management 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2021/22 including the Financial Impact of COVID-19 on the 2021/22 Budget - July Update</b> Report of the Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services.	All Wards	(Pages 167 - 184)

**THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON WEDNESDAY 7 JULY, 2021.**

## CABINET

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 24TH JUNE, 2021

PRESENT: Councillor Ian Maher (in the Chair)  
Councillors Atkinson, Cummins, Doyle, Hardy,  
Lappin, Roscoe, Moncur and Veidman

ALSP PRESENT: Councillor Sir Ron Watson

#### 9. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Fairclough.

#### 10. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were made and the Member concerned left the room during the consideration of the following items:

Member	Minute No.	Nature of Interest
Councillor Veidman	Minute No. 25 – Phase 2 Sefton Council asset Disposals	By virtue of his position as Chair of the Planning Committee
Councillor Veidman	Minute No. 26 - Financial Management 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 – Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2021/22 Including the Financial Impact of COVID-19 on the 2021/22 Budget – June Update	By virtue of his position as Chair of the Planning Committee

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## 11. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

### Decision Made:

That the Minutes of the Meeting held on 27 May 2021 be approved as a correct record.

## 12. ADULT SOCIAL CARE - SUPPORTED LIVING, STRATEGIC APPROACH, COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in relation to the strategy for the re-commissioning of Supported Living services. The report explained that supported living was a package of care consisting of a combination of suitable accommodation with some form of care and support on site or as in reach care in order to support people with disabilities to live independently in the community rather than in a residential setting.

The proposed approach to the care and support contracts detailed within the report was intended to promote independence for the residents of Sefton and in so doing support them to live the life of their choosing within their local communities.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Councillor Cummins welcomed the report and stated that the proposed approach created greater opportunity for the Council to work with Stake Holders and Service Users in co-producing a suitable model of supported living.

### Decision Made: That the Cabinet:

- (1) approved the strategic commissioning approach with regards to the care and support contracts for Supported Living;
- (2) approved the Direct Award of temporary contracts for 12 months to current providers of Supported Living;
- (3) granted delegated authority to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services to award the contracts;
- (4) approved the commencement of a procurement process in line with Public Procurement Regulations which will secure a suitable local purchasing system to be used to source Supported Living Care and Support provision from August 2022;
- (5) granted delegated authority to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services to award the contracts;

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- (6) delegated decisions in relation to the authorisation of call off from the contracts for individual packages of support to senior managers within Adult Social Care, based upon the scheme of delegation;
- (7) granted approval, should it be required and only should an existing provider of Supported Living support and where provided Community Support provision exit the market, for a direct award to be provided to an alternative provider in order to sustain continuity whilst the new purchasing arrangements are developed; and
- (8) noted that the Supported Living Strategy will apply to services commissioned by the Council and the Clinical Commissioning Groups in relation to Individual Placements and Packages.

### **Reasons for the Decisions:**

- The approach recommended to Cabinet will improve outcomes for residents with disabilities living independently in the community and enable the Council to ensure that both current and future commissioned provision to effectively manage the cost and quality of the services in Sefton.
- This approach will ensure that provision is able to respond to the aspirations of people who use services including young people in transition who are seeking access to creative solutions which promote independence, reducing reliance on residential care.
- The approach will ensure the availability of sustainable fit for the future services that offer best value, are innovative and offer a wider range of choice for individuals.

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

To do nothing was considered and rejected as there is a need to ensure that providers are working to the model of support approved by Cabinet and that future commissioning arrangements are in line with the Adult Social Care Vision and will support the wider integration of health and social care.

Services as part of the proposed approach will be subject to an evaluation of the quality of provision which will inform the commissioning and procurement of these services in the future. It will also mean further engagement with people using the services to inform the re-commissioning approach and the coproduction of the outcomes required.

### **13. ADULT SOCIAL CARE - DAY SERVICES VISION, COMMISSIONING AND PROCUREMENT**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in relation to the long-term vision and commissioning approach for Day Services in Sefton building on the model previously

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agreed by Cabinet in 2015 and taking account of the subsequent impact of the COVID 19 pandemic and the changing aspirations of young adults transitioning to Adult Social Care on these services.

The Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, Councillor Cummins welcomed the report and stated that similarly to the previous report the proposed approach would create greater opportunity for the Council to work with Stakeholders and Service Users and their Carers by way of Consultation which will inform the way in which the Service will be co designed.

**Decision Made:** That the Cabinet:

- (1) approved the commencement of an engagement and consultation process with stakeholders with regards to the vision and strategic commissioning of day services including the impact of any changes to the current delivery model;
- (2) approved the Direct Award of contracts to current day service providers on a temporary basis for a period of 12 months, based upon current values and spot purchasing arrangements, in order to manage quality and cost ahead of the completion of the consultation process;
- (3) approved the commencement of a procurement process in line with Public Procurement Regulations which will secure a suitable purchasing system to be used to source day service placements from August 2022;
- (4) delegated the awarding of the contracts to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care; and
- (5) delegated decisions for the authorisation of call off from the contracts for individual places to senior managers within Adult Social Care, based upon the scheme of delegation.

**Reasons for the Decisions:**

To ensure that the commissioning approach and strategic vision is available and adopted to meet the needs of vulnerable and disabled people in our communities.

To create a sustainable and innovative market which supports the ambitions of our communities including those of our young people who are seeking more creative solutions for support during the day and services which can respond to these developing needs.

To ensure that services are delivered to an agreed specification which aligns to the approved model for day opportunities.

To ensure that quality standards are monitored.



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There is a need to ensure that provision established can respond to the aspirations of people who use services including young people in transition to adult services. The recommended approach to existing contractual arrangements will enable the Council to ensure that current provision is being delivered in accord with the approved model for day opportunities, is aligned to an agreed specification and contractual terms.

To ensure that services are commissioned appropriately in compliance to the Contract Procurement Regulations and that there is a legally complaint process in place to secure places. The approach described will enable a systematic review of related contracts.

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

To do nothing, this option was considered however it would have implications with regards to the current commissioning, contractual and procurement arrangements and future sufficiency and sustainability of provision given the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on these services.

### **14. PASSENGER TRANSPORT FRAMEWORK 2022/26**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Head of Education Excellence that detailed proposals in relation to conducting a tender exercise to establish a Framework Agreement for Hired Passenger Transport service providers in accordance with procurement regulations and the Council's Contract and Financial Procedure Rules.

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

- (1) the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education be authorised to conduct an Open Procedure tender exercise for a new Framework Agreement to run for a period of two years from 1st January 2022, with the option of two further one-year Extensions;
- (2) it be noted that the Basis of Evaluation will be MEAT (Most Economically Advantageous Tender) taking into consideration a balance between Price and Quality; and
- (3) delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education in consultation with both the Cabinet Member for Education and the Cabinet Member for Children's Social Care, to establish the 2022/26 Framework Agreement on completion of the tender and to award any extension.

### **Reasons for the Decisions:**

The current framework agreement is made up of 15 hired passenger transport companies, in 4 lots, divided up into vehicle seating capacity. The core period will expire on 31st December 2021.

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As part of this process, approval will be needed for Cabinet Member Children, Schools and Safeguarding to have delegated authority to establish the Framework Agreement at the back end of the tender process.

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

No alternatives. Based upon the level of demand from commissioning departments there is currently an ongoing need for the Council to provide passenger transport to some service users. As such, this procurement exercise and the subsequent establishment of a Framework Agreement provides the Council with the opportunity to procure services at the most economically advantageous rates, whilst also meeting the stringent Health and Safety and Safeguarding issues associated with transporting vulnerable adults and children.

## **15. DELIVERY OF RESTART PROGRAMME FOR SEFTON**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Economic Growth and Housing in relation to the introduction of the Government's Restart Employment Support scheme and how this will operate in Sefton.

The report set out that Restart was the main employment supply activity to be commissioned by the Department for Work and Pensions for the next five- year period, announced in the plan for jobs in July 2020. Since the Summer 2020 the Department for Works and Pensions had conducted a competitive procurement exercise using a commercial framework to appoint a Prime Contractor to lead the provision for the North West area. The successful Prime Contractor is G4S Ltd, they have chosen to work with Sefton Council through Sefton@Work.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills, Councillor Atkinson stated that she welcomed the report and emphasised that there was a potential of 14.7m coming into the Borough to help and support residents and communities.

**Decision Made:** That:

- (1) the Council be recommended to enter into a contract with G4S Ltd for the delivery of the Department for Works and Pensions Restart Employment Programme and that the Chief Executive in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills be granted delegated authority to finalise the terms of the contract; and
- (2) the Council be recommended to approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.576m in 2021/22 fully funded by income from Restart and note that future years allocations will be included in the budget report.

**Reasons for the Decisions:**

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Sefton has experienced unprecedented job losses during 2020 which have seriously impacted our community resilience and this continues to cause financial hardship for many households who have lost their incomes. The longer-term effects of continuing high levels of unemployment are well known and are associated with ill-health, erosion of skills and social disadvantage and a diverse range of negative outcomes. This programme will support residents who have already experienced twelve months of unemployment and enable them to receive the help they need to get back into sustained work.

Acting as a delivery agent for Restart enables the Council to ensure that residents receive good quality services and the best interests of residents and businesses in the area are protected. If this contract is not delivered with Sefton Council as a sub-contractor, then other, less well-connected organisations will be given this opportunity for Sefton.

Sefton@Work is the Council's trusted in-house job brokerage service which has provided quality employment programmes in Sefton for many years. The main funding stream to support Sefton@Work since 2016 has been European Social Fund (ESF). The availability of ESF will cease after December 2023 when all UK involvement in European structural funding will end. Restart offers the opportunity for the Council to continue and expand its job brokerage and employment support activities through Sefton@Work at a time when our economy, hit by job losses as a result of the COVID-19-19 pandemic, needs high quality, impartial assistance more than ever.

Sefton@Work operations are funded through a combination of external grants and contracts, with some additional Council revenue from core budgets. Acting as a delivery body for Restart will offer the opportunity to generate financial surplus which will remove the need for this support, generating a saving into the Growth budget of £177,000.

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

This option has been examined and discounted for several reasons -

- Restart is a national programme, procured by Department for Work and Pensions. If Sefton Council does not deliver it, the most likely scenario would be that a commercial entity with no ties or commitment to Sefton would be appointed. Local delivery through Sefton@Work however, will allow the Council to better understand and monitor the quality of the Restart offer for residents; ensuring it is delivered to our high standards of impartiality and customer service, making a more fundamental contribution to Sefton's economic recovery through alignment with Council objectives.
- This proposal offers valuable resource to continue and expand employment support at this time when rates of unemployment across Sefton continue to rise, providing much needed assistance to a wider audience than is currently possible. One of the Council's

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primary aims is to regenerate our communities, support resilience, promote prosperity, and reduce the scarring effects of long-term unemployment and this proposal will sustain resource for five years to achieve these aims and promote economic recovery.

- Sefton@Work is reliant upon European Social Fund for its main source of revenue and this comes to an end in 2023. Restart will provide succession funding for activity that precisely matches the service's aims to reduce unemployment, promote inclusive growth and create more and better jobs.

## **16. PROCUREMENT OF TRANSPORT TECHNICAL SUPPORT SERVICES**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection in relation to the procurement of Transport Technical Support Services.

Decision Made: That the Cabinet:

- (1) approved the tender process to procure the provision of transport technical support services, to be published on The Chest using an Open Tender process, as outlined in the report;
- (2) authorised the contract period of 2 years from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2023 with an option to extend on a year by year basis to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2025 subject to performance; and
- (3) granted delegated authority to the Head of Highways and Public Protection to award the Contract resulting from the procurement and any extension, subject to consultation with Cabinet Member Locality Services.

### **Reasons for the Decisions:**

The Council has an ongoing programme of strategic transport investment. Development of these proposals, including the preparation of business cases and funding bids, requires a range of technical capabilities and a requirement to respond at short notice to bidding opportunities. The Council does not have the capability or capacity to undertake all the elements of work involved in developing and delivering this programme. It is proposed to procure a contract where the specialist services the Council needs to be able to develop and deliver the programme of strategic investment can be provided at short notice.

A contract has existed for transport technical support services since early 2018. This was a three year arrangement, extended for a further year, which will end in December 2021.

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

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The provision of all the specialist skills and capabilities through an in-house team would require substantial additional recruitment which is not practicable within current budget constraints and controls on recruitment.

Individual schemes could continue to be procured individually and independently through separate procurement processes. This would require officer time and resources for each procurement. In some situations, the timescales imposed for submitting proposals and funding bids mean that a stand-alone procurement process is either not feasible or would substantially detract from the time available for completing the submission. This approach would also mean that there is much less potential to develop strong working relationships with an individual service provider and for them to develop local knowledge.

## **17. PROCUREMENT OF ANNUAL SERVICE CONTRACTS FOR HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE WORKS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection in relation to the procurement of the Annual Service Contracts for Highways Maintenance Works.

**Decision Made:** That:

- (1) the procurement of the Annual Service Contracts for Highway Maintenance Work be agreed based on the specifications referred to in paragraph 2.6 of the report;
- (2) the Head of Highways & Public Protection be authorised to approve the Short List of Tenderers for each Contract subject to the appropriate review of the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire;
- (3) the tenders be evaluated using the evaluation criteria set out in paragraph 2.4 of the report;
- (4) the Head of Highways & Public Protection be authorised, in consultation with Legal Services and Cabinet Member Locality Services, to award the Contracts to the highest scoring Tenderer; and
- (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 (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 in order that the most cost effective method of extending the contract could be utilised without further delay.

**Reasons for the Decisions:**

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The existing Annual Service Contracts for a number of Highway Maintenance Works are due to expire in July 2022. The Anticipated Scope of Works that are likely to be delivered under the Contracts are of sufficient value that Cabinet approval is required.

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

There are optional annual extensions, for up to four years beyond the core contract period, built into each of the existing contracts. The Council could decide to grant the extensions however this would result in price increases in-line with the provisions set out in the contract, whereas testing the market may produce savings and/or innovation.

## **18. NATIONAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN APPROVAL**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection in relation to approval of the National Flood Risk Management Plan.

The report stated that the Flood Risk Regulations 2009 require the publication of a strategy to manage flooding areas designated at high risk, in Sefton this includes Southport, Formby and South Sefton. As a Local Authority who had measures in the last strategy (2015-2021) Sefton must review progress on these actions, this review is detailed in this report. The Environment Agency are leading on an updated strategy and have developed a series of measures to address flood risk. Prior to public consultation these must be approved by the relevant Local Authority.

**Decisions Made:** That the Cabinet:

- (1) approved the review of 2015-2021 FRMP measures as detailed in Section 2 to the report;
- (2) approved the new measures for public consultation by the Environment Agency as detailed in Section 3 to the report; and
- (3) delegated the monitoring of this work to Sefton's Strategic Flood Resilience Group.

## **Reasons for the Decisions:**

New measures have been developed in conjunction with Sefton Council and seek to address key risks. Prior to the Environment Agency consulting on these measures they need to be approved locally by the relevant local authority. Progress on the previous measures are also reported to Overview and Scrutiny as part of the annual scrutiny of Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management.

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

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The Measures went through several iterations, but it is a legal requirement that they be produced for the new plan and reviewed for the old plan.

## **19. EXTENSION OF THE NORTH WEST REGIONAL COASTAL MONITORING PROGRAMME**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Highways and Public Protection in relation to the continuation of the North West Regional Coastal Monitoring programme that has been approved by the Environment Agency and allocations of grant funding that have been made. This report sought approval to include the capital grant into the capital programme from 2021 to 2026 with a total value of £5.699m. The allocation for 2021/2022 is £834,000.

Decisions Made: The Cabinet recommended the following to the Council:

- (1) approval of the inclusion of the capital allocation of £834,000 into the capital programme for 2021/2022 and the associated supplementary capital estimate;
- (2) approval of the inclusion of future annual capital allocations (2022-2026), as outlined in this report, in the capital programme subject to annual confirmation from the Environment Agency; and
- (3) delegation of the acceptance and administration of the grant in each of the six years to the Head of In-House Operational Services.

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

Grant to be included in the capital programme in accordance with the constitution.

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

None.

## **20. SOUTHPORT THEATRE & CONVENTION CENTRE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director (Place) in relation to the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills reported that she welcomed the comprehensive report and looked forward to progressing future work. Councillor Atkinson thanked Officers and all those involved for all their hard work.

Decision Made: That the Cabinet:

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- (1) noted the current condition of the building and the required capital and revenue for any short-term opening;
- (2) agreed to progress with option 5 for the new Marine Lake Events Centre and adjacent water and light show, with subsequent reports to be brought to Cabinet and Council for procurement and final business case approval;
- (3) noted that The Town Deal Board have allocated £33.3m of capital funding (from the Town Deal of £37.5m) to the new Marine Lake Events Centre and water and light show;
- (4) noted that The Liverpool City Region Combined Authority supports the principle of allocating up to £20m to the new Events Centre, subject to a satisfactory business case being approved through the LCRCA's assurance framework; and
- (5) agreed due to the above recommendations not to pursue a short-term reopening of the current Southport Theatre & Convention Centre.

## **Reasons for the Decisions:**

The reasons for these recommendations are to provide a new all-purpose Events Centre as part of the Southport Town Deal that will bring economic benefits to Southport and the wider City Region and be a driver for economic recovery after Covid-19

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

An option to re-open the STCC on a short-term basis was considered while the work for the new Events Centre is progressed. The report details this option with the anticipated risks.

Five options were also considered for the new Events Centre, and again all five options are included in the full report below. The assessment of these options identified the Preferred Option to be Option 5.

## **21. BOOTLE STRAND SHOPPING CENTRE - BUSINESS PLAN 2021/22 TO 2023/24**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director (Place) in relation to the three-year Business Plan for the fiscal years 2021/22 to 2023/24 for the Strand Shopping Centre, Bootle. As well as forecasts for each of these periods, the Business Plan includes outline strategy and short-term action plans for the future of the asset.

**Decisions Made:** That the Cabinet:

- (1) approved the Business Plan for 2021/22 to 2023/24;



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- (2) noted the content of the report and of the Business Plan, including the factors that could influence and impact upon the financial returns to the Council from The Strand, and the outline strategy and action plans proposed to manage and mitigate these; and
- (3) recommend to Council that Council approve a supplementary capital estimate of £795k (£640k in 2021/22, £115k in 2022/23 and £40k in 2023/24) to be supported by borrowing and funded from within the business plan cashflow.

### **Reasons for the Decisions:**

The council's objectives for the acquisition of The Strand in 2017 were to ensure that it was supported to continue its role in the local community, as a key asset at the heart of Bootle critical to the town's physical, economic and social regeneration.

Since the start of the spread of COVID-19 in the UK in March 2020, the regular weekly and monthly monitoring of the operations of The Strand have indicated increasingly severe impacts of the pandemic and associated government restrictions on the operations of and financial returns from The Strand. Despite continued uncertainty, this report and Business Plan provide an update on forecasts for the coming years, as well as short- to medium-term mitigants and actions.

However, operational decision-making must be made within the context of an approved Business Plan.

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

Further delay to publication of a three-year Business Plan– despite continued uncertainty on the economic and regulatory impacts of the pandemic, and governmental and sectoral response, and continued impacts on The Strand, this was discounted given the importance of an approved Business Plan, and the expected continuation of uncertainty for the economy and for the sector for a significant period to come.

## **22. DEVELOPMENT OF CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director (People) in relation to the development of a Child Poverty Strategy. The report referred to the modernisation of the welfare system by Parliament in 2012 and Universal Credit which was established to reduce reliance on benefits and increase incentives to work.

The report set out how over the last seven years Sefton Council and key partner agencies across the private, voluntary, community and faith sectors have worked collaboratively to mitigate the risk of the changes to the welfare system on residents in receipt of benefits. These efforts were increased in 2017 as Universal Credit began to be rolled-out across Sefton.

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As a result of the unprecedented times experienced due to the COVID-19 outbreak the impacts upon welfare reform and anti-poverty have been felt across Sefton's communities. The Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Partnership (WRAP) and Cabinet Member Reference Group has been, and continue to be, responsive to community needs and have been considering the evidence base and impact of child poverty within Sefton

The report also referred to the Council declaring a poverty emergency at its meeting 4<sup>th</sup> March 2021, Minute No: 74 refers.

The Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, Councillor Hardy stated that it was with a heavy heart she reluctantly welcomed the report and reflected on the journey Sefton Council had taken in mitigating the effects of the changes to the welfare system when the Council established a Welfare Reference Group. Councillor Hardy referred to the importance of mapping poverty and intervening at Early Years/Childhood in order to improve better opportunities/outcomes for the Boroughs Children in later years.

Decision Made: That:

- (1) the welfare reform and anti-poverty update as detailed within this report be noted;
- (2) the development of a childhood poverty strategy be approved, and
- (3) The resulting strategy be submitted to a subsequent Cabinet meeting for approval.

## **Reasons for the Decisions:**

To highlight the work of the WRAP Partnership and Member Reference Group and to gain approval for the development of the strategy.

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

None

## **23. APPOINTMENT TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2021/22**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer which sought approval of the appointment of Council representatives to serve on Outside Bodies set out in the report for 2021/22, or for periods longer than one year. Details of the proposed representation on Outside Bodies were set out in the report.

The Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing, Councillor Moncur highlighted that reference to the North West Boroughs Health Care NHS Foundation Trust – Council of Governors had been included in the list of Outside Bodies in error and requested that it be removed.

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**Decision Made:** That:

- (1) the following Members be appointed to serve on the undermentioned Outside Bodies for 2021/22:

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE(S)</u>
British Destinations	1	Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson) or nominee
Committee in Common - Healthy Liverpool Programme	1	Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing (Cllr. Moncur)
Formby Pool Trust - Board	2	Councillor Killen and Interim Head of Communities (Steve Martlew)
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (where 3 or less local authorities request the scrutiny of a substantial variation to a service)	3	Chair (Councillor Thomas) and Vice Chair (Councillor Myers) of the O & S Committee (Adult Social Care) and one Conservative Member (Councillor Brough) (Lab 2/Con 1)
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (where 4 or more local authorities request the scrutiny of a substantial variation to a service)	2	Chair (Councillor Thomas) and Vice Chair (Councillor Myers) of the O & S Committee (Adult Social Care)
Liverpool City Region Child Poverty and Life Chances Commission	1	Cabinet Member - Children’s Social Care (Councillor Doyle)
Liverpool City Region Housing and Spatial Planning Board	1	Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy) (Substitute: Cabinet Member -Planning and Building Control – Councillor Veidman)
Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board	1	Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Atkinson)
Liverpool John Lennon Airport Consultative Committee	1	Councillor Roche (Substitute: Councillor Myers)
Local Government Association General Assembly	1	Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher) 5 Votes

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<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE(S)</u>														
Mersey Forest Steering Group	1	Councillor Roche														
Mersey Port Health Committee	6	<table border="0"> <tr> <td><u>Member</u></td> <td><u>Substitute</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Morris</td> <td>Councillor Brough</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor John Kelly</td> <td>Councillor Cluskey</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Howard</td> <td>Councillor Spencer</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor O'Brien</td> <td>Councillor C. Maher</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Roche</td> <td>Councillor Dowd</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Councillor Shaw</td> <td>Councillor L. Thompson</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>(2020/21 - (Lab 4/L.D&amp;P.A 1/Con 1)</b></p>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>	Councillor Morris	Councillor Brough	Councillor John Kelly	Councillor Cluskey	Councillor Howard	Councillor Spencer	Councillor O'Brien	Councillor C. Maher	Councillor Roche	Councillor Dowd	Councillor Shaw	Councillor L. Thompson
<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>															
Councillor Morris	Councillor Brough															
Councillor John Kelly	Councillor Cluskey															
Councillor Howard	Councillor Spencer															
Councillor O'Brien	Councillor C. Maher															
Councillor Roche	Councillor Dowd															
Councillor Shaw	Councillor L. Thompson															
Merseyside Community Safety Partnership	1	Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy) and the Head of Communities														
Merseyside Pension Fund Pensions Committee	1	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin) or nominee														
Merseyside Playing Fields Association	1	Councillor Cummins (Substitute: Councillor Moncur)														
North West Employers' Organisation	1	Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin) (Substitute: Councillor Moncur)														
North West Older Peoples Network	1	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care (Councillor Cummins)														
PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Adjudication Joint Committee	1	Cabinet Member - Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough) (Substitute: Councillor Veidman)  <b>(NB - Nominated Member and substitutes must be Cabinet Members)</b>														
Sandway Homes Limited Board (Sefton Housing Development Company)	1	Councillor Myers and Mark Chamber (Finance Director)  (NB Cabinet Member – Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy) is Shareholder Representative)														
Sefton Coast and Landscape Partnership Board	2	Cabinet Member – Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Moncur) and Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care (Councillor Cummins)														

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Sefton Council for Voluntary Service	3	Councillors Grace, Pugh and Robinson
<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE(S)</u>
Sefton Cycling Forum	2	Councillors John Joseph Kelly and Pugh
Sefton Education Business Partnership	3	Cabinet Member - Education (Councillor Roscoe) and Councillors Evans and Moncur
Sefton New Directions Limited Board	5	Councillors Brennan, John Joseph Kelly and Blackburne Executive Director (Stephen Watson) (NB Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care (Councillor Cummins) is the Shareholder Representative)
Sefton Sports Council <b>(As and when required)</b>	3	Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Moncur), and Councillors Cummins and Pugh
Southport Pier Trust	3	Councillors Blackburne, Brough and Brodie-Browne
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)	3	Councillors Grace, Pugh and Brough
Trans Pennine Trail Members Steering Group	2	Cabinet Member - Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough) and Cabinet Member - Planning and Building Control (Councillor Veidman) or their nominees
Veterans in Sefton Board	1	Councillor Lappin
<b><u>THEMATIC PARTNERSHIPS</u></b>		
Sefton Safer Communities Partnership	3	Cabinet Member - Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy) and the two Council representatives on the Merseyside Police and Crime Panel (Councillors John Sayers and Spencer)
Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens	1	Cabinet Member - Adult Social Care (Councillor Cummins)
<b><u>OFFICER ONLY APPOINTMENTS (NOT LISTED ABOVE)</u></b>		
Southport Business Improvement District Board	1	Executive Director - Place (Stephen Watson)

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- (2) in relation to those appointments for a longer period than one year, the following persons be appointed to serve on the Outside Bodies indicated:

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE'S</u>	<u>TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES</u>
Merseyside Strategic Flood and Coastal Risk Management Partnership	1	Councillor McKinley (Substitute representative – Councillor Atkinson)	31.5.2025
North West Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	1	Councillor Byrom	31.5.2023
North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	2	Councillor McGinnity or nominee and Green Sefton Manager (Mark Shaw)	31.5.2023
Regenerus - South Sefton Development Trust	1	Councillor Fairclough	30.5.2024
<b><u>CHARITIES</u></b>			
Ashton Memorial Fund, Formby	1	Councillor Killen	31.5.2023
Consolidated Charities of Thomas Brown and Marsh Dole (Formby)	2	Councillor Dutton Councillor Webster	26.6.2022
Halsall Educational Foundation	1	Councillor Grace	31.5.2022

<b><u>NHS FOUNDATION TRUST GOVERNING BODIES</u></b>			
Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors	1	Councillor John Joseph Kelly	24.6.2024
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors	1	Councillor Hardy	31.9.2023
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust – Council of Governors	1	Councillor Webster	1.5.2022
<b><u>SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES – FOR INFORMATION</u></b>			
Peterhouse School, Southport	1	Councillor Doyle	31.7.2022
Cambridge Nursery	1	Councillor Robinson	11.6.2021
Farnborough Road Infant	1	Councillor Shaw	31.1.22
Farnborough Road Junior	2	Councillor Brodie-Browne	17.9.22
		Councillor Shaw	17.9.2022
Great Crosby Catholic Primary	1	Councillor Lappin	20.6.2024
Our Lady Star of the Sea Catholic	1	Councillor Fairclough	15.12.2024

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Primary			
<b><u>SCHOOL GOVERNING BODIES – FOR INFORMATION</u></b>			
Rimrose Hope CE Primary	1	Councillor Cummins	20.10.2024
St. Mary's Catholic Primary School	1	Councillor John Kelly	02.07.2024
St. Oswald's CE Primary	1	Councillor Cluskey	09.02.2024
St. Teresa's Catholic Infant & Nursery	1	Councillor Halsall	29.10.2024
IMPACT Management Committee	1	Councillor Spencer	03.07.2021

## Reasons for Decision:

The Cabinet has delegated powers set out in Chapter 5, Paragraph 40 of the Constitution to appoint the Council's representatives to serve on Outside Bodies.

## Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

## 24. CLIMATE EMERGENCY ANNUAL REPORT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services in relation to the climate emergency strategy and associated action plan that was agreed by the Cabinet in May and September 2020. The report is the annual progress report in relation to the Councils aim of achieving net zero carbon by 2030 and the programme of works supporting the Council's transition to low carbon working.

The Cabinet Member for Regulation, Compliance and Corporate Services, Councillor Lappin referred to the excellent work being undertaken and thanked all Officers for their hard work.

## Decision Made:

That the Cabinet noted the progress made on the targets in the Sefton climate emergency strategy and action plan.

## Reasons for the Decision:



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To support the delivery of the council motion that declared a climate emergency.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

Not acting would increase the risks to Sefton in future years, on the themes of energy security and climate change resilience (increased incidence of extreme weather events, sea level rise etc.)

*(Councillor Veidman left the Meeting for the following 2 items of business)*

**25. PHASE 2 SEFTON COUNCIL ASSET DISPOSALS**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer services in relation to the disposal of three surplus assets that will form phase 2 of Sandway Homes development programme.

**Decisions Made:** That:

- (1) the Cabinet approved the disposal of the following Council sites to Sandway Homes Limited:
  - (a) Isle of Wight Farm, Southport – on condition that technical due diligence and a planning application is progressed in the 2021/22 financial year.
  - (b) Bootle High School, Bootle – on condition that technical due diligence and a planning application is progressed within the 2021/22 financial year.
  - (c) Foul Lane, Southport – on condition that technical due diligence and a planning application is progressed in the 2021/22 financial year.
- (2) further report(s) on the detailed terms and conditions agreed for the disposal of the sites be submitted to the appropriate Cabinet Member or Cabinet for approval in accordance with the Asset Disposal Policy; and
- (3) Sandway Homes Limited be permitted to incur expenditure of £0.200m in the development of the Phase 2 Business Plan and that this be included in the previously approved debt facility for Phase 1, be approved.

**Reasons for the Decisions:**

Sandway Homes is a key delivery vehicle to secure capital receipts to support the Council's Framework for Change Programme. Cabinet previously approved on 9 January 2020 (Asset Maximisation Report) that

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the Isle of Wight Farm and Bootle High School be identified as being surplus to operational requirements and available for disposal. Officers have assessed other prospective sites and with the addition of Foul Lane, Sandway Homes will have three sites to form Phase 2 of their build programme. This will allow the Development Company to continue to provide new residential dwellings, including affordable housing, and generate capital receipts plus a share of profit (revenue return) to the Council

The Asset Disposal Policy details the route for approval dependent on the level of capital receipt agreed between the parties

The request for expenditure of £0.200m for Sandway Homes Limited enables the completion of the Phase 2 Business Plan.

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

Option 1 – “alternative sites are offered to Sandway Homes”.

Risk: current Council sites declared surplus are generally smaller sites or have associated timing issues, which means that they cannot be brought forward as quick. The impact is that the Council would receive a lower land receipt, lesser share of the development profit, and ultimately fewer affordable houses delivered in the Borough.

Option 2 – “the Company takes forward a smaller number of sites” in Phase 2.

Risk: the financial return to the Council will be reduced accordingly. There may be a requirement for Sandway Homes to retain a greater amount of the development profit produced by the remaining sites so that sufficient funding is available to enable technical due diligence and planning applications can be progressed.

## **26. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2021/22 TO 2024/25 AND FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE 2020 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE 2021/22 INCLUDING THE FINANCIAL IMPACT OF COVID-19 ON THE 2021/22 BUDGET - JUNE UPDATE**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director for Corporate Resources and Customer Services and were advised of:

- (1) the current estimated financial impact of COVID-19 on the 2021/22 Budget;
- (2) the current position relating to the 2021/22 revenue budget; and
- (3) additional supplementary capital estimates to the Council’s capital programme.

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**Decisions Made:** That:

- (A) in respect of the Revenue Budget:
- (1) the current estimated impact of COVID-19 on the 2021/22 Budget together with the key issues that will influence the final position, be noted;
  - (2) as in 2020/21, the use of Emergency Funding in 2021/22 be delegated to the Leader of the Council following advice from the Chief Executive and s151 officer, be approved;
  - (3) the various Government grants that have been received to support residents and businesses which will be utilised in accordance with central government guidance, be noted;
  - (4) decisions on the use of the discretionary elements of the Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing, be approved;
  - (5) the current position relating to the 2021/22 revenue budget, be noted;
  - (6) the financial risks associated with the delivery of the 2021/22 revenue budget be recognised and acknowledged that the forecast outturn position will continue to be reviewed to ensure a balanced forecast outturn position and financial sustainability can be achieved;
  - (7) the two supplementary revenue estimates set out in section 4, which are fully funded from the grants received, be approved.
- (B) in respect of the Capital Programme:
- (1) the supplementary capital estimates as set out in sections 5.1 to 5.3 of the report, be approved; and
  - (2) the approval of the supplementary capital estimate as set out in section 5.4 of the report be recommended to Council.

**Reasons for the Decisions:**

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To ensure Cabinet are informed of the current position in relation to the 2021/22 revenue budget, including COVID19 pressures and additional funding being made available to the Council.

To seek Members' approval of supplementary capital estimates to be added to the Capital Programme previously approved by Budget Council.

**Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:**

None

# Agenda Item 4

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Children, Young People & Families Public Health Commissioned Services		
<b>Report of:</b>	Head of Health and Wellbeing	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

Since March 2020, Public Health Services have been operating in business continuity in response to restrictions associated with COVID 19. The impact of these changes on service delivery and particularly on children, young people and families are not yet fully known. Currently services are entering a period of recovery and restoration which will require time and stability for providers to adapt to any new circumstances and start to address emerging needs.

The purpose of this report is to seek approval from Cabinet for a 1 year out of contract extension to the Children, Young People & Families Services proposed in the report, under article 72 of the Public Contract Regulations 2015.

Additionally, to note the novation of Integrated 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP) Contract, to Mersey Care NHS Trust.

## Proposed Services

1. The contract for Sefton's Integrated 0-19 HCP Service is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022, having exercised a two-year extension period, based on the existing contract terms and conditions.
2. The contract for Sefton's Young People and Family Substance Use Service - We Are with You (WAwY) provided by Addaction was awarded with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The contract was awarded for two and half years with an option to extend for up to a further two years. The extension period is due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

In normal circumstances, this would initiate a recommissioning process including the procurement of new services. Given the current restrictions and challenges of carrying out a full commissioning exercise within the current context, also the yet unknown consequences of COVID 19 on Sefton's young people, families and services. It is requested that Cabinet agree to extend the two contracts listed above for a further 1-year period.

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Cabinet is also requested to note that from the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2021, the acquisition of North West Boroughs Healthcare (NWBH) into Mersey Care Foundation Trust was completed. Resulting in the novation of the council's contract for Integrated 0-19 HCP Service.

## **Recommendation(s):**

- (1) To authorise an out of contract 1-year extension to the existing 0-19 Integrated Healthy Child Programme contract and Young People and Family Substance Use Service contract both of which are due to expire on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.
  
- (2) To authorise the novation of the 0-19 Integrated Healthy Child Programme contract to Mersey Care Foundation Trust.

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

Services have been working in business continuity for the last 14 months, adapting and responding to the requirements and restrictions associated with COVID-19 guidance. Currently, the services are going through a period of recovery and restoration which needs to be fully exercised to ensure stability in service delivery.

The impacts of COVID-19 on children, young people and families are significant and long lasting. Themes are emerging, which include a decline in emotional health and wellbeing, widening inequalities and increased demand on specialist services. As children return to school and services resume face to face delivery, issues hidden during restrictive periods are presenting. Time to fully assess the changing needs of children, young people and families is required to enable the design of future services that are responsive to those needs.

There is provision for this allocation via a contract variation under Regulation 72 of the Public Contract Regulations which states:

*“Contracts and framework agreements may be modified without a new procurement procedure in accordance with this Part in any of the following cases:*

c) where all the following conditions are fulfilled: -

- (i) the need for modification has been brought about by circumstances which a diligent contracting authority could not have foreseen;
- (ii) the modification does not alter the overall nature of the contract;
- (iii) any increase in price does not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract or framework agreement.

In this instance:

- (i) the need for modification has been brought about by the Impact of COVID-19 as described within this report and could not have been foreseen.

- (ii) the request to extend the contract does not alter the existing conditions within the contracts
- (iii) any increase in price will not exceed 50% of the value of the original contract or framework agreement.

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

To re-tender the services. This is not the preferred option due to the services working in business continuity during COVID-19 restrictive periods and the potentially destabilising effect on the wider system. The preferred option is for the services to have time to go through a period of restoration and for the emerging impacts of COVID-19 on children, young people and families to be fully realised and reviewed to inform future service redesign.

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

**(A) Revenue Costs**

The contract values are as follows:

Mersey Care contract for 0-19 Healthy Child Programme Service has an annual contract value of £5,860,025.

Addaction contract for Young People & Families Substance Use Service has an annual contract value of £345,638.

It should be noted that contracts maybe subject to an inflationary uplift for the extension period pursuant to contract terms and conditions. Inflationary costs will be met within Public Health Budget as required.

**(B) Capital Costs**

None

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>          Costs will be met from the Public Health Budget,          Communities contribute to the Young People an Families Substance Misuse Service</p>
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b>   <b>Utilise Section 72 of the Public Contract Regulations</b></p>
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b>          There are no equality implications. .  <b>(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)</b></p>
<p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>           The recommendations within this report will</p>

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Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y/N

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable:</p> <p>Will allow the existing children, young people and family services to restore fully service delivery after a long period of business continuity, including face to face contact for children, young people and families, provide greater stability across the wider system and allow time for catch up programmes to be completed.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</p> <p>Will provide opportunity for meaningful consultation with young people and families.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services:</p> <p>Will provide time to assess, need and evidence to inform future commissioning.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer:</p>
<p>Drivers of change and reform:</p> <p>Understanding the impact of COVID-19, on Sefton's young people and families will shape the way services and support is provided in the future.</p>
<p>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Greater income for social investment:</p> <p>N/A</p>
<p>Cleaner Greener</p> <p>N/A</p>

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

### (A) Internal Consultations



The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6461/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4662/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(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

**(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)**

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Julie Murray, Julie Tierney
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 3343,
Email Address:	julie.murray@sefton.gov.uk, julie.tierney@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 4

## **Introduction/Background:**

### **1 Integrated 0-19 Healthy Child Programme (HCP)**

- 1.1 Sefton's 0-19 services transferred from LCH in 2016 and Public Health used this opportunity to redesign the offer, with a focus on an integrated service, that was continually adaptable, whilst delivering the national HCP, some of which is mandated.
- 1.2 NWBH have taken the Integrated 0-19 HCP service through significant transformation since mobilisation and have developed an effective and collaborative relationship with the commissioner and wider 0-19 partners within Sefton. Prior to the pandemic, the service had demonstrated significant improvements in delivery, workforce development, collaborative working and reporting to the commissioner.
- 1.3 In response to COVID-19 and restrictive measures, the Integrated 0-19 HCP service has been working in business continuity for the last 14 months, adapting and responding to demands and restrictions. Currently, the service is going through a period of recovery and restoration which needs to be fully exercised to ensure stability in service delivery. This includes completing back logs of screening and immunisations that have not been completed in 2020.
- 1.4 The National Healthy Child Programme (HCP) which provides structure, and which details mandated components of 0-19 HCP, has been under review over the last year, with new iterations paused to consider the impact of COVID-19 on children and families. The first phase of revised guidance has been published with greater emphasis on inequalities and intensive support for vulnerable families. PHE are now working with regional Public Health Children's leads to develop a robust framework for delivery and consistency across the children's system. Time to develop this thinking will shape local service delivery.
- 1.5 The impact of COVID-19 on children, young people and families is still emerging, therefore to ensure the future 0-19 service is responsive to local need, time to fully assess those needs is required.
- 1.6 PH have been exploring the opportunities to re-commission the 0-19 service, that is fit for purpose and meets the needs of children and families in Sefton. The recommended option is to extend the existing contract for a further 1-year period, giving more time for the impact of COVID-19 to be fully assessed.

### **2 Young People & Family Substance Use Service**

- 2.1 The contract for Sefton's Young People and Family Substance Use Service - We Are with You (WAwY) provided by Addaction was awarded with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> October 2017. The contract was awarded for two and half years with an option to extend for up to a further two years. The final extension was exercised from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

- 2.2 Addaction with support from Public Health Commissioners developed the WAwY Service, an integrated model of young people's substance use services, combining universal, targeted and specialist substance use treatment with family focused breaking inter-generational interventions.
- 2.3 In the period 2017-19, under the core contract, WAwY provided young people and family substance use services that met or exceeded contractual and performance targets.
- 2.4 During the past fourteen months the service has been working in business continuity, continuing to operate and offer support to some of our most vulnerable families and young people. The impact of COVID-19 has affected the number of service users WAwY has been able to support and referral rates have reduced compared to the same period the previous year.
- 2.5 The reduction in referrals from schools has in the main accounted for the decrease in the number of referrals into the young person element of the service.
- 2.6 Within the Breaking the Cycle Family element of the service referrals from Social Care and Early Help have remained broadly in line with the previous year, however referrals from community-based services have reduced. This is a result of services being unable to operate face to face provision for families.
- 2.7 The service has responded to the current circumstances by rapidly extending their virtual offer and social media presence to ensure connectivity and support for young people & families. Communications and reach have been good, providing information about substance use, harm reduction, keeping safe on line as well as promoting information from other community services and Public Health COVID -19 messages.
- 2.8 Currently the WAwY service is in a period of recovery and as such requires time to stabilise delivery, restore pathways and practices. Also, time is required for commissioners to understand the full impact of COVID 19 on the service and to evaluate the efficacy of the mixed delivery model and innovations adopted during the restrictions, to assess if the service is fit for purpose and will meet the needs of young people and families in relation to substance use in the future.
- 2.9 Considering the current context, the preferred option is to extend the existing WAwY contract for a further 1-year period.

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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Children's Social Care		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

The purpose of this report is present the new Sefton Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2021-2026 to the Cabinet.

## Recommendation(s):

(1) Cabinet supports the adoption of this Strategy for Sefton.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Strategy has received oversight from the Health and Wellbeing Board and Overview and Scrunity before submission to Cabinet.

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

Not applicable

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

None identified by this report

### (B) Capital Costs

None identified by this report

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>
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# Agenda Item 5

<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
<b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
The Strategy itself has no Climate implications identified however consideration will be needed through its delivery.	

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

Protect the most vulnerable: <i>Details how Children and Young Peoples emotional health and wellbeing will be supported in Sefton over the next 5 years.</i>
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: <i>Details how Children and Young Peoples emotional health and wellbeing will be supported in Sefton over the next 5 years.</i>
Commission, broker and provide core services: Details commissioning vision for Emotional Health and Wellbeing for Children and Young People in Sefton
Place – leadership and influencer: <i>Details how Children and Young Peoples emotional health and wellbeing will be supported in Sefton over the next 5 years across the Health and Social care system</i>
Drivers of change and reform: <i>Details how Children and Young Peoples emotional health and wellbeing will be supported in Sefton over the next 5 years.</i>
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

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

**(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6420/21.) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4621/21.) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## **(B) External Consultations**

The Strategy builds on key consultations led by Liverpool John Moore's University, Sefton CVS and Sefton Educational Psychology Service.

### **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the Cabinet meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eleanor Moulton
<b>Telephone Number:</b>	07779162882
<b>Email Address:</b>	eleanor.moulton@sefton.gov.uk

### **Appendices:**

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2026
- The Easy Read version of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2021 – 2026

### **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## **1. Introduction/Background**

- 1.1 Poor emotional health and wellbeing in childhood can often have a lasting impact into adulthood. Having a trusted adult that they can confide in is important for children and young people, especially if they have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, adverse childhood experiences.
- 1.2 There should also be concerted efforts to incorporate an inequalities perspective when addressing children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing. We know this is best achieved via a robust and effective strategic partnership approach.

## **2. Activity and approach**

- 2.1 Over the last 8 months partners have been working together to refresh the content of the Sefton Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The strategy links closely to the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Strategy and works alongside the Children and Young People's Plan 2020/25. It also reflects and supports the work of the Children and Young People Commissioning Strategy and The SEND Commissioning Strategy.

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- 2.2 Development sessions have been held with partners to make sure the strategy provides the overarching framework, key issue points, and clear direction of travel needed to continue efforts to improve the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people in Sefton. The strategy has also been substantially reduced in size. The aim being to make the document more accessible, easier to understand and to reduce unnecessary content.
- 2.3 The strategy reflects on the achievements of the previous Strategy and looks to build on the areas where further progress can be made.

## **3 Next steps**

- 3.1 The strategy will be delivered by the Sefton Children's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership. A partnership action plan – replicating the strategy at an operational and practical level - will form the core business of the Emotional Health and Wellbeing Partnership.
- 3.2 The strategy will adapt and be refreshed - as is needed - to help ensure that it tackles all issues which can negatively affect emotional health and wellbeing, and also supports activity that positively improves it.
- 3.3 Further work with Sefton CVS Young Advisors has been undertaken to produce a Young Person friendly version and we have agreed engagement and promotion as part of its adoption. This version is also attached to this report

## **4. Conclusion**

Cabinet are asked to support the Strategy for formal adoption and note its publication on the Council's website.



# Sefton Children and Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Strategy 2021-26



# Agenda Item 5

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## Foreword

Welcome to Sefton's Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing Strategy. This strategy is complementary to the [Children and Young People's Plan 2020/25](#) and intends to set out the five-year strategy specifically to improve outcomes in emotional health and wellbeing for children and young people in Sefton. It will also reflect and support the work of the [Children and Young People Commissioning Strategy](#), [The SEND Commissioning Strategy](#), and any future strategies covering the wider economy and poverty.

The Strategy has been developed and is owned by the Sefton Emotional Health and Wellbeing Board, and was produced following consultation with key stakeholders. The Strategy is intended to be a working document which will be reviewed regularly to monitor achievements and areas for development.

It is for all stakeholders; professionals, parents/carers, volunteers and children and young people themselves to work together to reduce risk and promote protective factors. Ensuring that children and young people's emotional health and wellbeing support is available and that services prevent, act and intervene when required.

Our approach and service development over recent years has led to;

- The creation of the 'Sefton In Mind' - Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit.
- The commissioning of Kooth.
- A successful national bid for two Mental Health Support Teams, to start in early 2021.
- The expansion of the emotional health and wellbeing offer of 0-19 School Nursing.
- The expansion of the Early Help offer via Family Wellbeing Centres and the community and voluntary sector.
- A university evaluated programme of building mental resilience in Sefton schools.
- The development of Adverse Childhood Experiences training for partners and stakeholders.
- The embedding of Trauma-Informed Training for schools and people working with children and young people.
- The establishment of the SYMBOL Group and Young Advisers, to make sure that the voice of children and young people are heard consistently and clearly influence policy and commissioning activity.
- Embedded the THRIVE Framework into commissioned and partnership work.
- Strengthened links with Sefton Camheliions and different engagement groups.

We look forward to making more progress in Sefton over the next 5 years.



Councillor Paul Cummins -  
Mental Health Champion



Cllr Mhairi Doyle, M.B.E –  
Cabinet Member Children  
and Young People

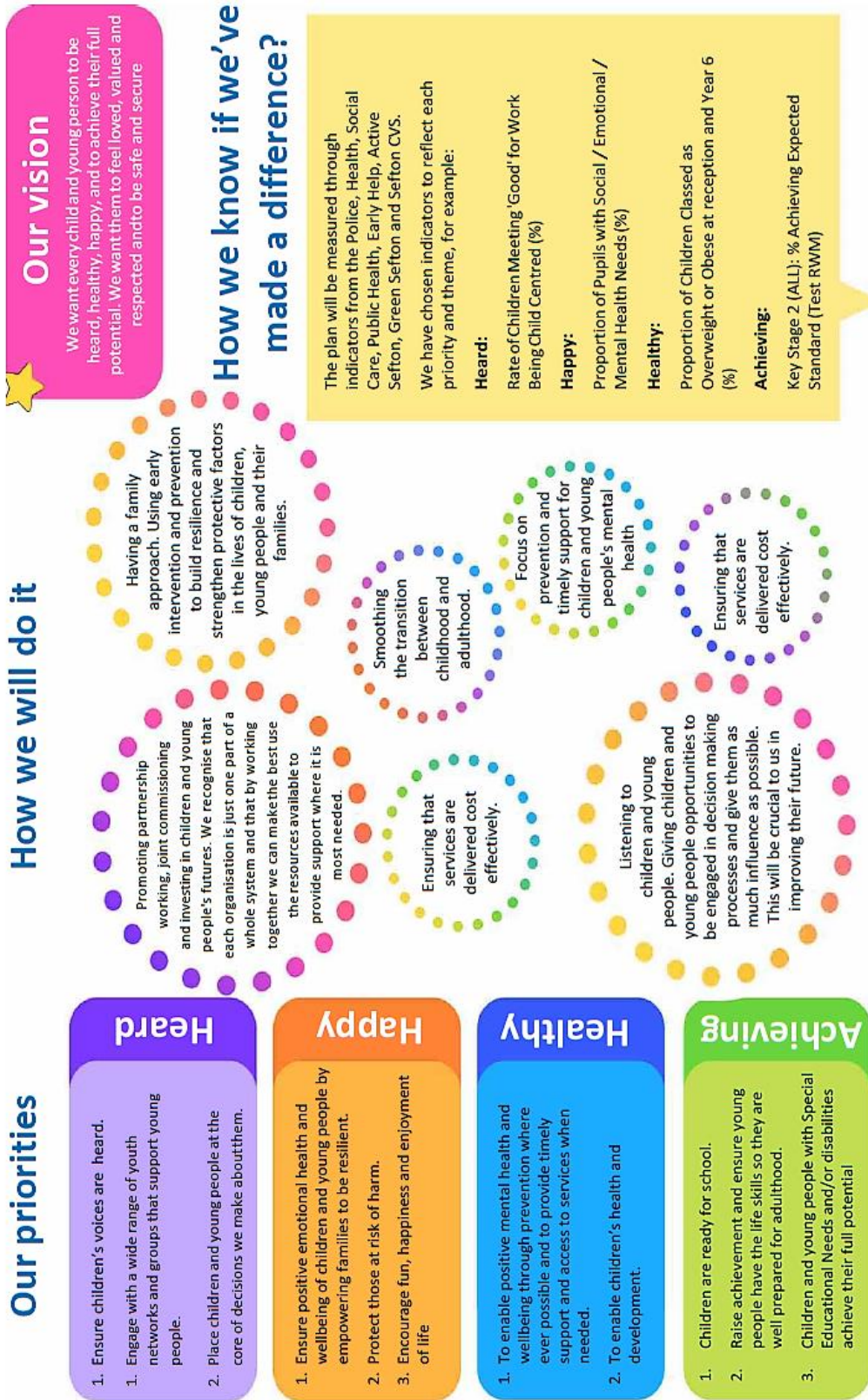


Councillor Ian Moncur -  
Cabinet Member Health  
and Wellbeing, Chair of  
Health & Wellbeing Board



Fiona Taylor - Chief  
Executive - South Sefton,  
and Southport and Formby  
CCG

## Plan On A Page



## Introduction

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There is no universal definition of emotional health and wellbeing, however, The World Health Organisation<sup>1</sup> defined emotional health and wellbeing as:

*“A state of wellbeing in which the individual realises his or her own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to his or her community.”*

We know that poor mental health is perceived to be an increasing issue among children and young people. Research has demonstrated that approximately 200,000 young people are referred to specialist mental health services each year in England – putting increasing pressures on the services.

Poor emotional health and wellbeing (EHWB) in childhood can often have a lasting impact into adulthood. Having a trusted adult that they can confide in is important, especially if the child or young person has experienced, or is at risk of experiencing adverse childhood experiences.

High levels of inequality are also damaging to mental health and emotional well-being. Deprivation and social injustice erode mental health and well-being, they can also increase stress and reduce trust and interaction with services and communities. Personal resilience may help to mitigate the negative effects of inequalities, as well as promote personal and community capacity to deal with issues throughout life.

Parents/carers and communities/social groups can also have a positive impact on the emotional health and wellbeing of both groups and individuals. It is important to note that we will be focusing on actions that support children and young people outside of the school/education environment as a priority. Schools and education establishments have an important role to play in identifying and meeting the needs of children and young people. This requirement also became part of the revised OFSTED framework from September 2019.

Universal whole-school approaches are more effective than approaches based on targeted or classroom-based teaching, but should not be viewed as a short term, quick-fix solution to children and young people's emotional health. We have developed a 'Sefton Emotional & Mental Wellbeing - Good Practice Checklist' to help ensure a consistent and quality approach in education across the borough.

All key partners have a role in offering support and signposting children and young people towards positive activities. As well as identifying and referring young people to appropriate mental health services, and should be supported to develop good working arrangements with local mental health services.

The previous strategy has moved away from the 'tiered approach' to services and towards the THRIVE Framework (see page 4) this is a deliberate move to help de-mystify and simplify the system. We are also aligning services to the THRIVE Framework, to ensure that it is flexible and responsive to need, and makes use of best models of practice.

Although we have made progress within Sefton over recent years, inequalities still exist, but we are even more determined to make progress and at a swifter pace. Responding to the needs of children and young people in Sefton if/when they change over the next five years. Ultimately, everybody – irrespective of role or organisation - has a part to play in helping to ensure positive emotional health and wellbeing not only for themselves, but for those around them as well. **Page 45**

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## Progress

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We have looked at the last strategy and what is still important to our children, young people and their families. This plan has been shaped by the analysis of our performance and progress to date, alongside the trends identified in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which allows us to establish trends across a wide range of data. More importantly through consultation with a wide range of Youth Groups, Schools and Key Stakeholders and Professionals. we have also listened and what children, young people and families tell us has led us to identify a number of priorities for action over the course of this Strategy.

We recognise achievements since the last strategy to include:

- Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), achieving a good level of development, we are the highest in the North West (NW) and above the regional average.
- Sefton's Not in Employment Education or Training (NEET) group has improved over the 3 year period, performing better than the Liverpool City Region (LCR) and staying in line with the North West.
- Sefton has consistently exceeded the England and North-West numbers, for children benefitting from the "Two Year Old Offer". Since the introduction of the Two Year Old Offer in 2009, Sefton has worked in close partnership with Health and Early Years settings to identify and engage with the families of rising two year olds who meet the criteria.
- We have seen a decrease in young people being involved with Anti-Social Behaviour, one significant reason could be we have issued Gang Injunctions along with the police, which have significantly decreased youth Anti-Social Behaviour in the Area. (80% of the cases are adults).
- Young Peoples Voices are being increasingly heard and influencing and shaping practice, policy and commissioning through SYMBOL (Sefton Youth Making Better Opportunities with Leaders), Make a Difference Group (Children in Care), CAMHLIONS, Young Advisors, Development of Co-production and Engagement with Children With Additional Needs through joint work between partners including Schools and Buddy Up. Work is underway to better co-ordinate these initiatives.
- Establishment of the Sefton Emotional Attainment Service (SEAS) Voluntary Sector Consortium.
- Successfully run a Mental Resilience In Schools programme with Liverpool John Moores' University.
- As a partnership, we have secured funding for two Mental Health Support Teams. One will cover areas of greatest need, the second will cover key transition points (Year 6 to 7, and Year 11 to 12.) The teams are due to begin working with schools and delivering the service in spring 2021.
- Secured funding for a third Mental Health Support Team – to begin in place by 2023.
- Developed a new Young People's Drug & Alcohol Service – designed to better meet local needs.
- Implemented a new online mental wellbeing support service – Kooth. Following a successful 18-month pilot and rigorous evaluation, the service has been commissioned to continue for a further 3 years with a widened age range 10-25 and increased capacity, thanks to increased resources from the joint funders (Public Health, Children Services and the Clinical Commissioning Groups).
- Implemented Wellbeing for Education Return training with schools/colleges- using a digital approach.
- Successfully established a Trauma Informed Toolkit – alongside Knowsley & Liverpool - via Rockpool.
- Conducted two large scale surveys (1000+) via Young Advisers and Sefton Educational Psychologists.
- Developed the Sefton Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit and the Sefton Schools Good Practice Checklist.
- Overseen the development and implementation of bespoke training courses; 0-19 Storm, Mental Health First Aid. Adverse Childhood Experiences and helped practitioners adopt a 'trauma informed approach' to work with children and young people in Sefton.

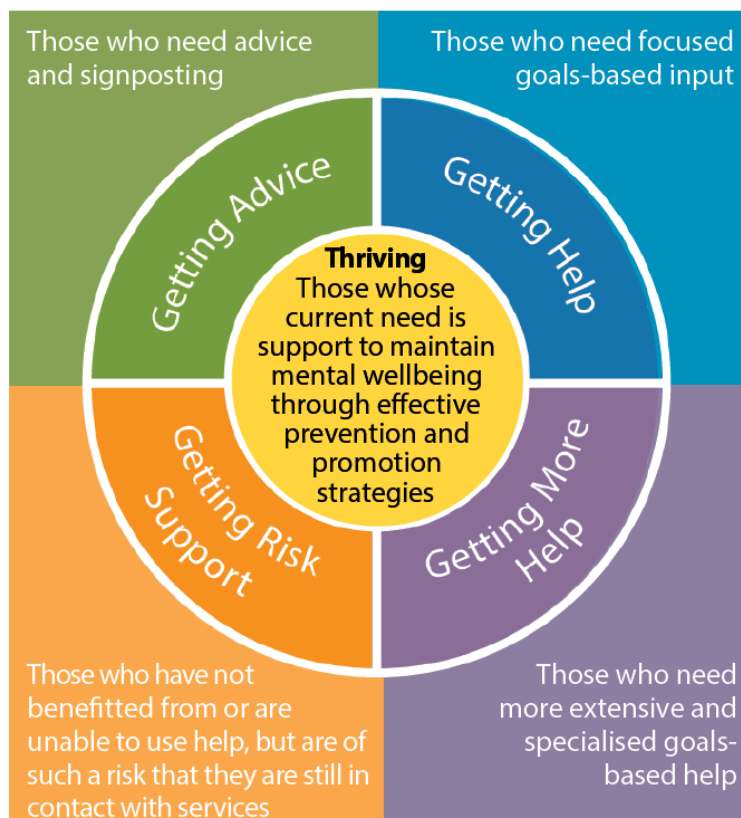
## The THRIVE Framework

We are moving mental health and emotional wellbeing services away from the traditional tiered service model to a THRIVE model - a national model based on needs of young people, rather than severity or diagnosis, and the support or evidence-based treatment they need to thrive and enjoy positive mental health and wellbeing. This way of working aims to ensure more children and young people can get access to the right help when they need it from a wider range of services and locations.

The THRIVE Framework provides a set of principles for creating coherent and resource-efficient communities of mental health and wellbeing support for children, young people and families. It aims to talk about mental health and mental health support in a common language that everyone understands.

The Framework is also needs-led - this means that mental health needs are defined by children, young people and families alongside professionals through shared decision making. Needs are not based on severity, diagnosis or health care pathways. The THRIVE Framework conceptualises the various needs of children, young people and families into five needs-based groupings shown in the diagram below. The THRIVE framework is also for;

- ✓ **all** children and young people aged 0–25 within a specified locality
- ✓ **all** families and carers of children and young people aged 0–25 within a specified locality
- ✓ **any** professionals who seek to promote mental health awareness and help children and young people with mental health and wellbeing needs or those at risk of mental health difficulties (whether staff in educational settings, social care, voluntary or health sectors or others).



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## Policy

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Policy focus over recent years has been on increasing access, building resilience and early identification of the mental health and wellbeing of children and adolescents through schools, school-based interventions and partnership working between healthcare, education and the community/voluntary sector.

Due to this the role of 'who does what' in response to emotional health and wellbeing issues is shifting, and there is an increasing expectation that the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people can - and should - be tackled within all environments.

Over the past few years, the main drivers of national policy have come from the Department of Education's 2016 "*Mental Health and Behaviour in Schools*" advice for school staff report, Public Health England's 2015 "*Promoting Children and Young People's Emotional Health and Wellbeing - A Whole School Approach*" policy document and the 2015 Mental Health Taskforce, "*Future in Mind*" and the 2019 "*NHS Long Term Plan*".

In the longer term, the government have committed to the joint '*Children and Young People's Mental Health Green Paper*' delivery programme with the Department for Health and Social Care, NHS England and Improvement, and health partners, including introducing new mental health support teams, developing training for senior mental health leads in schools and colleges, and testing approaches to delivering four-week waiting times for access to NHS mental health support.

Each identifies a series of recommendations for children and young people's mental wellbeing. Key themes, approaches and interventions for teachers, parents and children looking at promoting resilience, prevention, early interventions as well as improving access to effective support, creating a system without tiers and developing a whole system approach to mental health have been recommended.

This Strategy will support the aims and objectives of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), specifically:

- Improving mental health services for children and young people.
- Investing in expanding access to community-based mental health services to meet the needs of more children and young people.
- Support the delivery of new waiting time standards for eating disorder services.
- Ensure mental health support for children and young people is embedded in schools and colleges.
- Help ensure those experiencing a mental health crisis can access the support they need.
- Support a new approach to young adult mental health services for 16-18 year olds as they transition to adulthood.

Further to this, we will;

- Focus on support for disadvantaged or more vulnerable individuals and communities.
- Continue to work with education providers and schools/colleges to consistently embed the [Sefton Whole School Approach to Mental Health](#).
- Annually refresh the [Sefton Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit](#)
- Provide training opportunities which can be accessed by parents/Carers, teachers, the community, those supporting children and young people, and also for children and young people themselves.



## The Statistics

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We will use evidence and statistics to support local service planning, development and implementation. In addition, we will also consult and engage with children and young people, and be guided in our actions and commissioned activity by the 'voice of the child'. In order to understand whether we are achieving good outcomes locally, it is useful to benchmark outcomes in Sefton against the national average and look at trends over time.

It should be remembered that mental health and wellbeing issues can often only be tackled by taking a multi-departmental and multi-agency approach to solutions since factors influencing outcomes include not only both primary emergency service activities but also wider determinants such as community development and social relationships; poverty; education; diversionary activity, family support and the impact of Covid-19.

### Nationally

According to NHS Digital's 2018 National Children's Mental Health Prevalence data<sup>2</sup>:

- One in eight children and young people have one or more mental health disorders.
- Emotional disorders have become more common, whilst all other types of disorder, such as behavioural, hyperactivity and other less common disorders, have remained similar in prevalence.
- A quarter of girls aged 17 to 19 have a mental health disorder, and of this quarter, over half has self-harmed or attempted to take their own life.

National analysis has found that one in 10 children aged between 5 and 16 years experiences a mental health condition, and many continue to have a mental health condition into adulthood. Half of those with lifetime mental health conditions first experience symptoms by the age of 14, and three-quarters before their mid-20s. Conditions most frequently experienced in adolescence include:

- Anxiety and depression.
- Eating disorders.
- Conduct disorder.
- Attention deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).
- Self-harm.

### Sefton

- The rate of admission to hospital for self-harm in the 10-24 age group is significantly above the national and regional average.
- Alcohol related admissions for children aged 0-18 in Sefton are above the national and local average rates and is a significant risk factor for mental health and wellbeing.
- The inpatient admission rate for mental health for those aged 0-17 is significantly above the national average (though these tend to be low numbers and fluctuate significantly year on year).
- Continued increases in children looked after by social care in association with higher than average levels of absenteeism for these children is cause for concern.
- Levels of absence in Primary Schools is above local and regional averages and may be indicative of children who have health and wellbeing issues that are not being addressed.

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- It is difficult to estimate the size of the 'treatment gap' between those who meet the threshold for intervention through the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) programme and those who receive treatment, but estimates suggest it is significant.

## The Effect of Covid

The Covid19 pandemic has had a radical and unprecedented effect on the way public services are delivered.

A recent national survey carried out by the charity YoungMinds<sup>4</sup> about Covid-19 and its impact on the emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people found that when asked, '*What impact has the coronavirus crisis had on your mental health?*' 81% agreed it had made their mental health much or a bit worse.

Partners have been working tirelessly to support both the immediate needs of pupils and families/carers, as well as planning ahead to reduce potential long term issues.

A survey of 1,260 pupils across Sefton in the summer of 2020 by the Sefton Psychology Service found that:

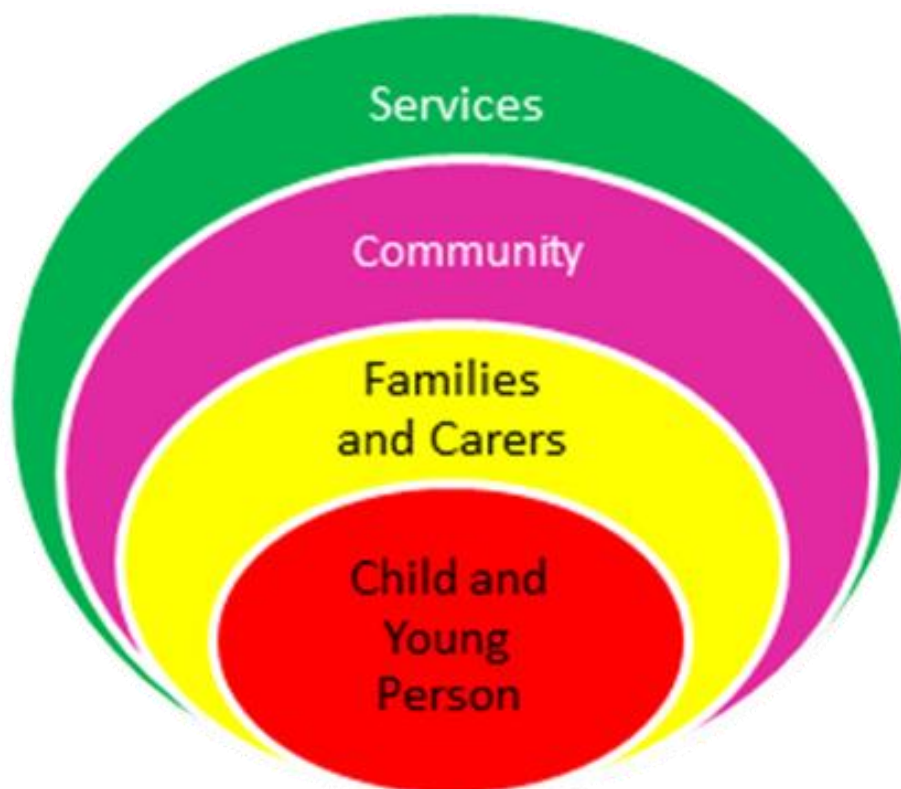
- Pupils have had mixed experiences during the lockdown period. For some, it has given them numerous opportunities and been an overall positive experience.
- Others have faced multiple and complex challenges during this time.
- It may not be appropriate to use a blanket approach to support when planning for the return to school – rather support should be targeted and individualised for those who require it.
- Friendships are extremely important to children of all ages and these social relationships are an important factor in a successful return to school.
- Many children are keen to return to the normality of school.
- Pupils expressed concern about the method of returning to school, requesting consideration be given to a phased transition.
- Secondary pupils reported more worries about the return to school than primary pupils.
- Many pupils (especially of secondary age) are worried that they have fallen behind with work and would like recaps, revision lessons and additional support from staff to solidify their understanding, rather than a focus on 'catching up'.
- Pupils have found there to be many challenges associated with home learning and are concerned about the consequences of this.
- Many children have enjoyed having more time and opportunity to do things they enjoy and develop new skills.
- Pupils are worried about their safety, as well as restrictions and changes in their school environment in response to the pandemic. Pupils would like reassurance and clear communication around any changes.

At the time of writing the long term effects of Covid-19 are not known, but reports are suggesting that the emotional and mental health toll could be significant. This strategy will flex and adapt to respond to any need that becomes apparent in Sefton.

## Our Focus

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We need to focus on the factors, structures and conditions that shape our opportunities for positive emotional health and wellbeing, not just for all children and young people, but also for those that are a part of their lives and have influences throughout their life such as families, communities and people working with them. This forms the basis of the [Sefton Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2020-25](#) and will be our key areas of focus within this Strategy as well and are outlined below;



### Children And Young People

This will be the main area of focus and will constitute the bulk of our work. We will focus on supporting the positive development of emotional health and wellbeing in all children and young people, covering all ages and circumstances.

Much of this work will be in partnership with education providers and the community and voluntary sector. But without exception we will also focus our attention on those not within mainstream education, those who are home-schooled, looked after children, special education needs (SEN), those with disabilities and those excluded or isolated by deprivation, poverty, digitally, socially or physically.

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## Families & Carers

It is essential to work with families as well as young people. Some groups of children will have behavioural difficulties in school that cannot be resolved without a family-focused approach. This kind of approach can identify difficulties in the home, which are leading to problems at school.

Working with families may include developing parenting skills and encouraging parents to engage with their child's education. This is important as improving parenting skills can effectively help support a young person with behavioural and emotional difficulties.

## Communities

People experiencing mental health issues often become isolated from their community, and can lack the confidence to deal with practical matters such as debt issues, lack of support, bereavement or steps towards employment.

The partnership will take steps to complement support services which may be helpful to families, parents and carers. As well as working more closely with them, we will promote the wide range of community-based support which can have a positive impact on the EHWP of children and young people.

## Services

The emotional health and wellbeing of parents/carers, staff and volunteers, and children and young people are interlinked. It is also important to consider the emotional health and wellbeing of parents, staff and volunteers. Supporting their emotional health and wellbeing can lead to reduced stress, better outcomes for children and young people, reduced sick leave, increased motivation and staff retention.

## Our Actions

We believe by knowing where we need to focus our efforts, we can achieve change. One of the aims of this strategy is to help make the complex subject of emotional health and wellbeing easier to understand, and therefore easier to act on. Moving to the THRIVE framework has helped but more work is needed.

Further to this, we believe that by taking four simple actions we can help everyone (children and young people, parents/carers, education, communities) to understand the subject a little better, and feel able to contribute to positive emotional health and wellbeing in Sefton.

Our four key priorities will need co-ordinated partnership activities to make a difference and are outlined below:

### HEARD

- Priority 1. Ensure children's voices are heard and families will get the right support and help at the right time.
- Priority 2. Engage with a wide range of youth networks and groups that support young people
- Priority 3. Place children and young people at the core of decisions we make about them.

### HAPPY

- Priority 4. Ensure positive emotional health and wellbeing of children and young people by empowering families to be resilient.
- Priority 5. Protect those at risk of harm
- Priority 6. Encourage fun, happiness and enjoyment of life

### HEALTHY

- Priority 7. To enable positive mental health and Wellbeing through prevention where ever possible and to provide timely support and access to services when needed.
- Priority 8. To Enable children's health and development.
- Priority 9. Reduce health inequalities so children and young people can achieve good health.

### ACHIEVING

- Priority 10. Children are ready for school
- Priority 11. Raise achievement and ensure young people have the life skills so they are well prepared for adulthood.
- Priority 12. Children and young people with Special Educational Needs and/or disabilities achieve their full potential

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## How will we make this happen?

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The Emotional Health and Wellbeing Board and its partners are responsible for delivering this strategy.

The Board will implement this Strategy by:

- Meeting regularly as a board and holding each other and wider partners to account.
- Progress activities and tasks within the Sefton Children and Young People's Plan 2021/25.
- Having a forward plan to ensure all elements of the strategy are progressed and reported on.
- Reporting on progress in delivering against the key ambitions as outlined in the strategy.
- Providing robust challenge and support to partners about these key ambitions to ensure that all opportunities to improve health and wellbeing further and faster are maximised.
- Having a performance monitoring framework in place, drawn from the key national outcome frameworks (NHS, Adult Social Care, Children's, Public Health, Marmot) which the Sefton Health and Wellbeing Board will scrutinise to ensure the strategy is delivering against the vision and ambitions.
- Reviewing progress on an annual basis and updating ambitions as required
- Utilising the work of SYMBOL, Young Advisers, Provider Alliance and others to ensure the voice of children and young people remains central in delivering the ambitions of this strategy.
- Reporting relevant governance structures, to key stakeholders, children and young people and residents of Sefton regularly.

## References

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- 1) World Health Organisation Geneva, Promoting Mental Health, 2004.
- 2) Mental Health of Children and Young People in England - <https://digital.nhs.uk/data-and-information/publications/statistical/mental-health-of-children-and-young-people-in-england/2017/2017>
- 3) Sefton JSNA - [https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/business-intelligence,-insight,-performance/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-\(jsna\).aspx](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/your-council/plans-policies/business-intelligence,-insight,-performance/joint-strategic-needs-assessment-(jsna).aspx)
- 4) Young Minds Survey - <https://youngminds.org.uk/about-us/reports/coronavirus-impact-on-young-people-with-mental-health-needs/>



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# Agenda Item 6

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet Full Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2021 16 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Capital Funding for Short-Term Assessment Unit		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care		
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt Confidential Report:</b>	/ No		

## Summary:

The Council is currently disposing of a site known as the Meadows in Ainsdale. The site is in Phase 1 of Asset Maximisation – Disposals Strategy.

Riverside Housing will be purchasing the site and will bring forward a redevelopment scheme consisting of 32 houses, 2 bungalows, 6 maisonettes and a 3-storey 90-unit extra care scheme.

The Council have requested as part of the development a purpose-built short-term assessment unit for Sefton residents to be built to meet the Council's needs which will be leased back on a long-term arrangement at a peppercorn rent for our use.

This paper describes the approach to supporting people with complex learning disability and/or autism and mental health and seeks approval for capital funding to support the development of this new state of the art short-term assessment unit which could accommodate up to 8 Sefton residents at any one time. The service which would operate from the building once developed is for adults who are at risk of crisis and require stepped up care which would prevent unnecessary hospital admissions and the use of out of area placements, providing care closer to home.

The service will be supported by a team of experienced and suitably trained care and support staff who will work with the person and their advocates to enable a comprehensive support plan to be developed

The service will also be able to facilitate and provide a place for two young people at any one time with learning disabilities and or autism, as they lead up to and make the transition from children to adults' service provision who may need a placement in a residential service to develop long term plans and a consistent approach the skills, knowledge and competencies required in transition.

This service will also enable us to ensure that we meet the national policy in respect of Transforming Care Programme and the intended outcomes around improving health and

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care services so that more people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home whilst reducing the number of acute hospital admissions into mental health services.

The scheme will be built to a high specification and incorporate a Technology Enabled Care System and comply with the National Autistic Society standards throughout.

## **Recommendation(s):**

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Recommend to Full Council that it approves the supplementary capital estimate of £2.58m for inclusion in the capital programme (subject to a satisfactory lease agreement with Riverside). The Council has an Adult Social Care Capital budget made up of Disabled Facility Grant underspend held in the Better Care Fund. This development is within the conditions of the DFG grant. This proposal when completed will satisfy all conditions on the use of DFG funds.
- 2) Delegate the authority to agree a long-term lease for the short-term assessment unit between Riverside Housing and the Council to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.
- 3) Authorise the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health to undertake an open procurement exercise to procure the care and support provider who will meet the assessed care and support needs of those individuals who will reside within the new service.
- 4) Delegate decisions with regards to the procurement process for the care and support service, service specification, contract duration, consultation approach and tender evaluation criteria to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
- 5) Delegate the decision on the awarding of the contract and any permitted extensions thereof, beyond the initial contract period, to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
- 6) Note that officers will report back to Cabinet seeking approval to the terms of the land sale to Riverside Housing once the negotiations and external valuation purchase price has been confirmed. This will take account of deductions for demolition and abnormal foundation works, and the completion of independent valuation to satisfy best value considerations.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

- (1) The new service model reflects both local and national priorities to commission joined up health and social care services at place, that prevent hospital admission and support timely discharge from an acute setting, whilst improving outcomes for individuals accessing the service.
- (2) At present there are multiple commissioning arrangements in place, both in borough and out of borough, for some of the most complex individuals and the proposed new service model will enable us to commission a service that is focussed upon improving outcomes for individuals, whilst enabling the Council to achieve efficiencies through more cost-effective commissioning arrangements at place.

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

1. Do nothing – Continue to utilise current provision and out of borough placements which do not meet our needs and are financially unsustainable.
2. Redevelop existing building-based provision – this has been explored and discounted as an option and refurbishment and redevelopment of a number of existing respite facilities would be at a higher cost and the technology and space standards could not be integrated due to age of buildings. In addition, there would be a need to identify alternative services/placements whilst this happened for an extended period.
3. Design and build solely by the council would have an additional capital impact of £0.75m. By pursuing a partnership approach, we will be benefiting from the economies and capacity to deliver the scheme as part of the wider development.

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

Revenue costs to deliver the new contract awarded for care and support within the scheme will need to be met from existing Adult Social Care budgets.

There are no immediate revenue costs associated with the project however costs will be in place before the scheme becomes operational.

Costs will include:

- Start-up costs 3 months
- Lease costs
- Running of the service.

Funding for these costs, when confirmed, will be from a mix of savings due to reductions in expensive out of borough placements and a review of existing service provision. Consultation around decommissioning current services would be required prior to any reallocation of budgets to fund the new contract.

# Agenda Item 6

It is anticipated that based on current utilisation of out of area provision, sufficient savings should be available from financial year 2024/25 to fund any revenue costs.

A further report will be presented to Cabinet at the appropriate time.

## (B) Capital Costs

Sefton will be required to use capital funding financed from the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation as part of the Better Care Fund to support the scheme currently estimated at £2.58m.

### Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
Disposal of the Meadows ATC site and a capital receipt for the Council.	
Revenue budget to deliver a reduced cost-based service from Quarter 3 2023/24	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
A formal lease arrangement between Sefton Council and Riverside Housing will be required to ensure that it is used as specified for a minimum term of 99 years.	
Care Act 2014 – “The Care Act replaces the specific statutory duty to provide accommodation with a general duty to 'meet the needs' of a person who needs care and support. It is arguable that this will make it harder to obtain housing for people with eligible care needs.”	
Lease agreement to be agreed between Sefton and Riverside to ensure that the service meets the needs of the Council.	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>	
No equalities implications identified. The proposed scheme will enable residents with care and support needs to access accommodation within the borough that is currently unavailable and only accessible outside of Sefton.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	Y
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y

Increased housing will inevitably create additional carbon emissions for the council as a result of energy use in the new buildings, however, the impact can be mitigated by building to high environmental standards and result in a lower carbon footprint through decommissioning of older buildings that are less environmentally friendly.

Riverside Housing also have environmental targets and have achieved silver in the SHIFT (Sustainable Homes Index for Tomorrow) environmental accreditation process for two years running.

As part of the development of the new building we will also ask the Energy & Environmental Management Section team to be part of the planning process and advise on standards in relation to the design and to ensure a sustainable and low carbon building is delivered.

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

### **Protect the most vulnerable:**

During 2016 Sefton Council led on developing a new and exciting vision for the future of the borough. One pledge from the vision was to work together to ensure housing choice across all types and tenures across the Borough which will ensure Sefton people have housing choice.

Transforming care is all about improving health and care services so that more people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home.

### **Facilitate confident and resilient communities:**

This model of service supports and promotes independence, including ensuring that people who need care and support remain as part of, and can continue to access their local community.

### **Commission, broker and provide core services:**

By authorising the capital funding this will ensure that new and appropriate facilities are provided in which statutory services will be delivered to vulnerable people.

The service will have a commissioned care and support team who will have the skills and competencies to manage the complexity of care and be skilled in assessment and person centred support planning – the staff team will have in reach from clinical support through Merseycare and the Halton Positive Behaviour Service and we will require clinical supervision to be integral part of the service model

### **Place – leadership and influencer:**

Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health is responsible for integrated commissioning and this development meets strategic vision for Adult Social Care and Health in relation to promoting choice and control and ensuring that there are local

# Agenda Item 6

services available for those in need. The service when developed will meet the requirements of Sefton's Market Position Statement.

## **Drivers of change and reform:**

The proposed site has been released for housing development and will support the need to offer more suitable accommodation options and divert away from the more costly residential and out of Borough care model.

## **Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:**

Three key developments currently proposed in the Ainsdale locality can all support and underpin a sustainable economic prosperity.

## **Greater income for social investment:**

This will be considered as part of the development of the scheme, the building contractor will be recruiting from the local workforce.

## **Cleaner Greener:**

Increased housing will inevitably create additional carbon emissions for the council as a result of energy use in the new buildings, however, the impact can be minimised by building to high environmental standards.

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

### **(A) Internal Consultation**

The Executive Director Corporate Resources & Customer Services (FD6458/21) and the Chief Legal & Democratic Officer (LD4659/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

Internal engagement has happened in order to progress the concept of the service.

### **(B) External partners**

External engagement with partnership/stakeholder has been ongoing over the past year with a focus on this provision:

- Riverside Housing.
- Mersey Care in relation to the clinical support.
- Sefton's Transforming Care Partnership Board and the Cheshire and Merseyside Transforming Care Programme.
- People who use services.

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

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

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Steven Metcalf</b>
Telephone Number:	<b>07815654469</b>
Email Address:	<b>Steve.metcalf@sefton.gov.uk</b>

## **Appendices:**

**Appendix A Site Plan (the plan can only be viewed electronically)**

**Appendix B Scheme Plan (the plan can only be viewed electronically)**

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In Sefton 2.32% of the population are predicted to have a learning disability, and for individuals in receipt of adult social care provision some 3% of individuals have autism. A proportion of those will require a specialist or acute setting when their mental health deteriorates and often this can be out of area. Similarly, there are those who have support from a care provider but may require a specialist placement when their care package breaks down.
- 1.2 This paper describes the approach to supporting people with complex learning disability and/or autism and mental health through the development of a new building-based service which will reduce in some instances and prevent out of area and acute admission to hospital by providing a local service to assess and plan long term solutions and allow a period of respite when mental health deteriorates.
- 1.3 In order to progress with this approach capital funding is required to support the development of the new state of the art residential unit which could accommodate up to 8 Sefton residents on a short -term basis at any one time. The service which would operate from the building once developed is for adults with complex learning disability and/or autism and mental health who are in crisis in order to avoid out of area placements.
- 1.4 The service will be supported by a team of experienced and suitably trained care and support team who will work with the person and their advocates to enable a comprehensive support plan to be developed This facility will enable us to support residents who would otherwise be inappropriately placed out of borough or in residential and hospital settings.
- 1.5 The service will also be able to facilitate and provide a place for two young people at any one time with learning disabilities and or autism, as they lead up to and make the transition from children to adults' service provision who may need a placement in a residential service to develop long term plans and a consistent approach the skills, knowledge and competencies required in transition.
- 1.6 This service will also enable us to ensure that we meet the national policy in respect of Transforming Care Programme and the intended outcomes around improving

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health and care services so that more people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home whilst reducing the number of acute hospital admissions into mental health services.

## **2. Person Centred Approach**

- 2.1 The scheme will be built to a high specification and incorporate a Technology Enabled Care System and comply with the National Autistic Society standards throughout.
- 2.2 The proposal will offer a person-centred model of coordinated, care and support that will meet current and future demand making sure that people have access to the personalised care and skilled support that they need – when and where they need it and a support plan which will focus on move on and any future housing requirement tailored to long term need
- 2.3 A bespoke package of care will be developed for everyone which will be based around assessed needs to ensure people’s choice and preferences are met and that their presenting needs are understood and the team supporting them will have the requisite attitudes and knowledge.
- 2.4 We will ensure that dignity, compassion and respect is integral to all support delivered, supporting people to recognise and develop their own strengths and abilities to enable them to live more independent lives. the staff team will have in reach from clinical support through Mersey Care and the Halton Positive Behaviour Service and we will require clinical supervision to be integral part of the service model.

## **3. National Policy Context**

### **3.1 Transforming Care**

- 3.2 Transforming Care aims to improve the lives of children, young people and adults with a learning disability and/or autism who display behaviours that challenge including those with a mental health condition and is underpinned by the national plan – Building the Right Support.

- 3.3 The programme has 3 key aims:

- To improve quality of care for people with a learning disability and/or autism.
- To improve quality of life for people with a learning disability and/or autism.
- To enhance community capacity, thereby reducing inappropriate hospital admissions and length of stay.

- 3.4 The Transforming Care programme currently faces challenges of the robustness and flexibility of community provision, and there is also a need to provide more support to families and carers, so they are enabled and empowered to be skilled and resilient in their caring roles.

- 3.5 Currently the needs of the most complex 3-5% of the LD population is met by providers out of area, and the residential placements remove people from their



home environment, and away from their family and friends. Locally based specialist provision commissioned by the Local Authority can be maintained at a sustainable rate and can ensure agreed outcomes are met through the commissioning arrangements. Work will also continue across the Liverpool City Region to forecast future demand for specialist support services in order to reduce the burden on NHS services.

- 3.6 Commissioners have attempted to find solutions to the lack of provision for service users with complex needs/behaviours that challenge by working with the local LD provider market and across the Liverpool City Region and by providing this provision as an in-borough service going forward, we will be able to meet some of the requirements described earlier.

## **4. Mental Health**

- 4.1 The NHS Long Term Plan outlines the commitment to improve and widen access to care for children and adults needing mental health support.
- 4.2 The transformation of community mental health services and the establishment of a new model of support is a key priority being taking forward by key stakeholders in line with national guidance to close the gap between primary and secondary care. This new model of support will be organised around Primary Care Networks and will improve access to Psychological therapies and other community-based services.
- 4.3 For individuals with more complex needs it is suggested that more specialist services should be commissioned that provide short term targeted interventions that prevent individuals going into crisis thereby, preventing inappropriate hospital admissions.

## **5. Existing provision**

- 5.1 In developing this proposal an analysis of existing commissioned services was undertaken and by consolidating this type of provision into one service will provide consistency of care and support, enable clinicians to focus capacity and to wrap around those who need assessment and to reduce capital overheads in maintaining existing provision.
- 5.2 This proposal would enable us to release underused buildings for disposal. Existing building stock is not built to autism specification and design principles which has led to out of area placements across adult and young people's social care.
- 5.3 The proposed new service model will enable us to commission more cost effective provision

## **6. Proposed Location**

- 6.1 In 2019 the Council received an approach from Riverside Housing Association in relation to the closure of a sheltered housing scheme located in Ainsdale. They provided the Council with an alternative solution in relation to purchasing a parcel of land that is currently owned by Sefton and is "derelict". The site known as the Meadows was in the Asset Maximisation: Phase 1 Disposals Programme presented

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to Cabinet in Jan 2020. Cabinet gave authority to officers to negotiate the terms of the disposal of the site. Heads of terms which set out the basic terms of the commercial transaction have been agreed. Riverside will be on site in August and September 2021 demolishing buildings so that they can undertake intrusive site investigations to confirm abnormal ground costs to be deducted from the market value land purchase price.

- 6.2 The site is situated in the local community and has good access to public transport, local amenities and facilities for carers and service users. The site previously housed an Adult Training Centre and offered day services so is known to some of the individuals/families.
- 6.3 Previously good links were established with the voluntary, faith and community services locally which could be re-established to promote social inclusion and strengthen local networks and the design of the environments will support the prevention of out of area placements and hospital admissions.
- 6.4 Riverside are now developing affordable homes for rent and shared ownership alongside a 90-unit Extra Care Housing Scheme at this site and in turn offer more suitable housing provision to the residents that would be affected by the closure of the sheltered scheme.
- 6.5 Further discussions around the land and our Adult Social Care needs also then moved to the requirement of a short-term residential assessment unit aimed particularly at residents with a Learning Disability and or Autism for whom at present are placed out of Borough or in more institutionalised residential and hospital settings.
- 6.6 The site is able to accommodate the new facility proposed in this paper and would also provide a housing pathway into the Extra Care Housing scheme once developed. Riverside Housing Association have a track record of providing supported housing to people with a learning disability.
- 6.7 An approach has been made to NHS England re possible grant funding for such a scheme that would support not just our needs but that of the Transforming Care Programme which is aimed at improving health and care services so that more people can live in the community, with the right support, and close to home. This is based on a national plan, Building the Right Support, published in October 2015. NHS England are now able to offer funding at this time, but a refreshed bid will be submitted which may offset Council resource.
- 6.8 The proposal is that Riverside Housing will procure the developer for the whole site. Riverside Housing are subject to public procurement regulations and as such would appoint a preferred developer through this route.

## **7. Finance**

- 7.1 Forecasted costs provided by Riverside Housing are £2.58m and will cover the infrastructure and full construction of the scheme.

- 7.2 The above cost is based on the short-term accommodation unit being built as part of a wider development. To build the unit in isolation would cost an estimated extra £0.75m.
- 7.3 The Council are working in partnership with Riverside Housing to design the building specification to ensure it meets our commissioning intentions to provide a robust environment for individuals with complex support needs that meets the National Autistic Standards. The final specification will need to be agreed with the Council and signed off.
- 7.4 Riverside Housing comply with the Public Procurement (Amendment etc Regulations) (EU Exit) 2020 introduced to amend Public Contract Regulations 2015 which will ensure that due diligence has been taken when selecting and awarding the contract to develop the site.
- 7.5 Due to significant funding issues NHS England have faced over the past 12 months and unprecedented demand on resources a bid for capital funding to support this scheme was unsuccessful, and notification was received in February 2021 to confirm this from the Regional Housing Lead for Transforming Care & Learning Disabilities Programme.
- 7.6 It is proposed that the funding for the scheme will come from Sefton's block grant allocation from the Disabled Facilities Grant allocation as part of the Better Care Fund and is included in the Adult Social Care Capital Programme 2021/22.
- 7.7 The capital if approved will be released in three tranches subject to satisfactory completion of development stages.
- 7.8 The proposal will be to fund the scheme utilising the capital funding (Disabled Facilities Grant) over the next three financial years (2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24) and this will equate to £0.86per annum, with an accumulative cost of £2.58m based on current build costs and contingency fund.

## **8. Development and Procurement Approach Programme**

- 8.1 The capital will be used for a new purpose built, high specification development consisting of 8 self-contained apartments, communal facilities, staffing facilities and an extensive outside environment that will meet the needs of people who display behaviours that challenge and who have a learning disability and/or autism and mental health.
- 8.2 Anticipated timeline:
1. Full planning application expected July/August 2021
  2. Start on site Q4 21/22
  3. Completion Q3 23/24
- 8.3 Architects have been appointed at risk by Riverside and Site/Scheme schematics and drawings in consultation with Sefton produced (**See Appendix A & B which can only be viewed electronically**).

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


- 8.4 Riverside have agreed Heads of Terms with the Council's Property and Facilities Management Team for the land and the transaction for the land is expected to be completed Q4 2021. A full planning application was submitted by Riverside and validated by the LPA in November 2020.
- 8.5 Steps being taken to conclude the commercial transaction include:
- Riverside entering into Licence Agreement (by end of July 21) to allow them to progress demolition works and progressive intrusive site investigations.
  - Riverside to confirm the tendered cost of demolition works and abnormal foundation costs on the back of intrusive site investigations.
  - An independent valuation will then be prepared, and a Cabinet Paper submitted to seek final approval to the disposal. The disposal is forecast to be concluded in the 2021/22 financial year.
- 8.6 The mobilisation of the scheme is anticipated from Autumn 2021 with an expected delivery timeline of 110 weeks with a completion date expected Q3 2023/24.
- 8.7 Riverside will retain overall ownership of the building and maintain as and when required including all servicing and contractual building obligations. A lease agreement for a minimum term period of 99 years will be provided by Riverside to Sefton subject to Cabinet Member approval.
- 8.8 A procurement exercise will be undertaken to appoint a care and support provider to deliver the service in accordance with the agreed service specification during 2022/23.

## **9. Engagement and Co-design Approach**





- 9.1 Co-production will be at the forefront throughout the development process and will be presented to the Engagement and Partnership board for approval with oversight from the Sefton Transforming Care Board chaired by Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care. This approach will involve:
- Current residents who utilise provision across the Borough who have a learning disability
  - Younger adults in transition.
  - Residents out of Borough and or in hospital settings.
  - Parents and carers including older carers
  - Conversations to held with all key stakeholders
  - Understanding the needs of the residents who cannot currently access services and our future young people coming through transition.
  - Co-designing the internal and external environment and co-designing the model of care and support required.



**SOFT LANDSCAPE**

-  **Existing Trees to be Retained**  
Trees to be retained and protected in line with B55837:2012.
-  **Proposed Medium Size Tree**  
To be 14-16cm girth, Extra Heavy Standard, 400-500cm high. Tree to be native or ornamental. Species: Betula pendula, Sorbus aria, Malus tschonoskii.
-  **Proposed Small Ornamental Trees**  
To be 10-12cm girth or multistem specimen 300-350cm high. Species: Amelanchier lamarckii, Prunus 'Spire', Cornus kousa 'China Girl'.
-  **Proposed Ornamental Shrubs and Perennials**  
Proposed shrubs and flowering herbaceous plants to be planted as 3-5L pots at 3-5 per sq.m. with individual specimen shrubs.
-  **Proposed Semi Native Buffer Mix**  
Proposed mix of native and ornamental shrubs along the boundaries to provide substantial buffer. Planted at 3 plants per sq.m.
-  **Proposed Grass in Front Gardens and Care Home**  
To be turf.
-  **Proposed Grass in Back Garden**  
To be seeded.










**HARD LANDSCAPE**

-  **Proposed Tarmac for Roads and Footpaths**
-  **Proposed Resin Bonded Paving for Circulation Paths**  
In Buff colour.
-  **Proposed Pedestrian Flag Paving**  
For patios. In Buff colour. Saxon Textured Flag Paving, 450 x 450 x 50mm as supplied by Marshalls or similar approved.
-  **Proposed Block Paving for Driveways**  
Tegula concrete sett paving, 120 x 240 x 80mm, in Traditional colour, as supplied by Marshalls or similar approved.

**BOUNDARY TREATMENT**

-  **Existing Timber Fence to be Retained**
-  **Proposed 1.8m High Timber Fence with Pedestrian Gate**

**FEATURES / FURNITURE**

-  **Proposed Garden Feature**  
Timber Obelisk, bird table or garden sculpture.
-  **Proposed Timber Benches**  
Proposed curved and straight timber bench.
-  **Proposed Timber Dining Set**
-  **Proposed Wheelchair Accessible Planter**  
To be planted by residents.
-  **Proposed Greenhouse**  
Zero threshold door system, wheelchair accessible.
-  **Proposed Timber Shed**
-  **Proposed Covered Arbour Seat**  
To be planted with climbers.
-  **Proposed Wooden Pergola**  
Pergola with thick notched beams and growing lattice. To be planted with climbers
-  **Proposed Timber Gazebo**

**GENERAL NOTES**

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2. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with detail landscape drawings, details and specification.
3. This drawing is to be read in conjunction with all relevant Architects', Engineer's, Specialist's, Bills of Quantities and Specifications.
4. The insertion of any firm or proprietary brand on this drawing is an indication of the class or quality required and does not exclude the use of alternative materials that are equal in performance, quality and appearance, provided that they have been approved in writing by the Landscape Architect.
5. The Contractor is responsible for accurately ascertaining the position of underground services and responding to all relevant service easement requirements.
6. All dimensions are in millimetres unless stated otherwise, for the purposes of construction this drawing must not be scaled and only written dimensions used. Written and scaled dimensions to be checked on site, any discrepancies reported prior to work commencing. IF IN DOUBT PLEASE ASK.
7. All work and materials are to be in accordance with the relevant British Standards and Code of Practice.
8. All Proprietary products are to be used strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and details.

**REVISION NOTES**

Rev	By	Description	Date
A	TJ	Scale bar added	16.10.20

Client  
**Riverside**  
Project  
**Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale**  
Description  
**Landscape Layout**  
Status  
**For Approval**

Scale @ A2	Drawn	Checked	Date
1:500	MW	CT	30.09.20
Job number	Drawing number	Revision	
3666	101	A	

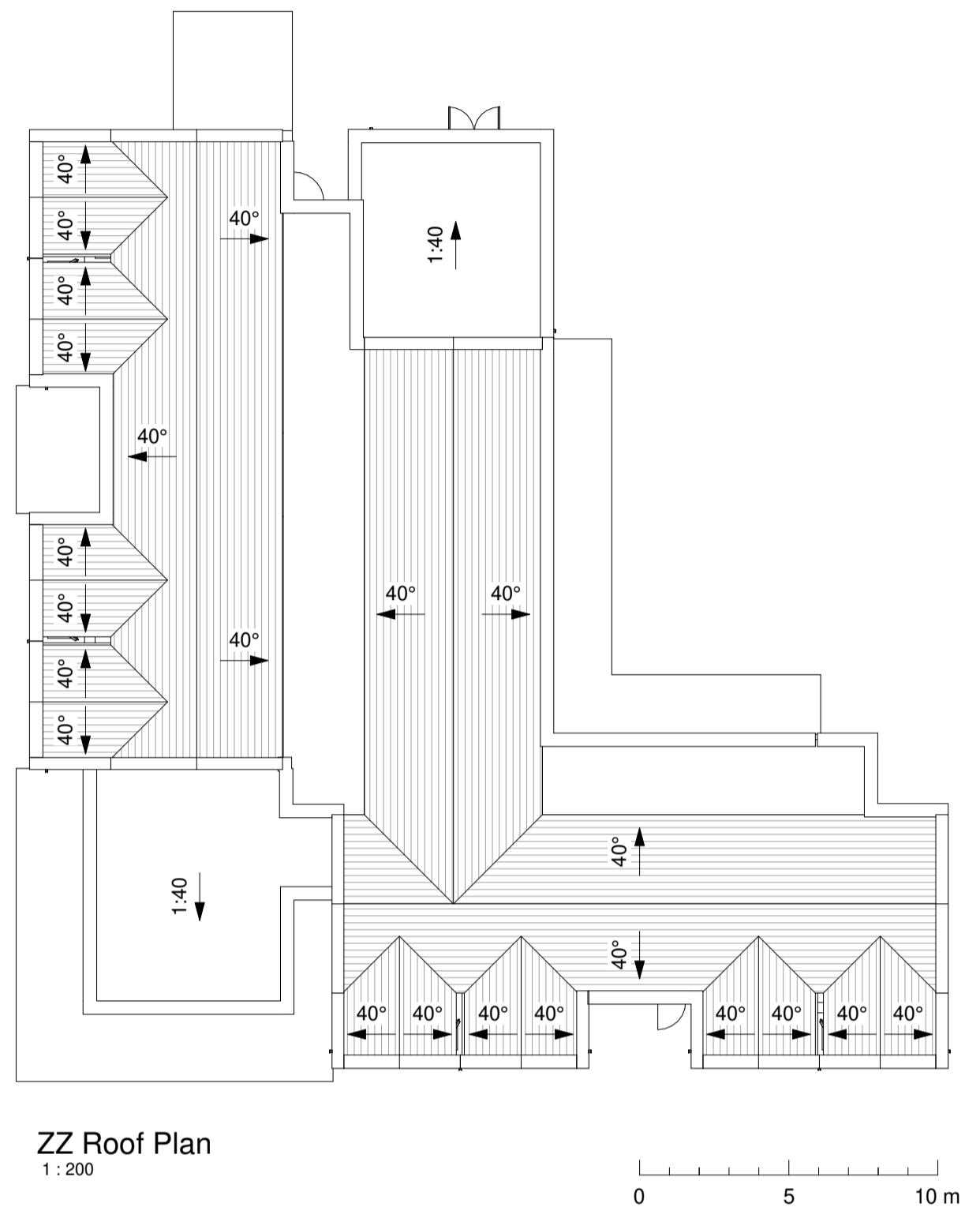
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Schedule of Accommodation Overview	
Type	Total Area
Circulation	237 m <sup>2</sup>
Communal	140 m <sup>2</sup>
Lower 1 Bed Apartment	196 m <sup>2</sup>
Plant	11 m <sup>2</sup>
Private	91 m <sup>2</sup>
Upper 1 Bed Apartment	253 m <sup>2</sup>
Grand total	929 m <sup>2</sup>

Schedule of Apartments			
Level	Type	Area	No.
00 Ground Floor	Lower 1 Bed Apartment	49 m <sup>2</sup>	4
01 First Floor	Upper 1 Bed Apartment	63 m <sup>2</sup>	4
01 First Floor	Upper 1 Bed Apartment	63 m <sup>2</sup>	4
Grand total			8

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REV.	DATE	DESCRIPTION	BY:
A	21.7.20	Additional Detail Shown	PO
B	4.8.20	Revised to client comments	PO
C	14.8.20	Roof Plan Added	PO
D	18.9.20	Planning Issue	PO
E	13.11.20	Upper Apartments Combined to make 4 large apartments	PO



CLIENT: Riverside

PROJECT: New Residential Development Sandbrook Road, Ainsdale, PR8 3RG

DRAWING NUMBER: **20002-120-E**

DRAWING TITLE: Respite Proposed Plans

STATUS: **PLANNING**

SCALE: As indicated@A1 DATE: 10.7.20 BY: PO CHECKED: SH

**Agenda Item 6**

**PADDOCK JOHNSON**

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# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Procurement of Advocacy Provision		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt Confidential Report:</b>	/ No		

## Summary:

The purpose of this report is to recommend the procurement of an Integrated Sefton Advocacy Hub with a Lead Provider that will provide a single point of access to service users and referrers but still provide essential specialist provision to people who feel excluded from mainstream services.

## Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- (1) Authorise the Executive Director of Social Care and Health to conduct a Light Touch regime open procurement exercise for an Integrated Sefton Advocacy Hub with an initial contract term of three years that will incorporate both statutory and non-statutory advocacy provision to commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022, with the option to further extend for a period of up to two years (either as a single extension or via two separate twelve-month extensions) subject to satisfactory performance of the successful supplier and the required budget being available.
- (2) Delegate decisions with regards to the procurement process, service specification and tender evaluation criteria to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
- (3) Delegate the decision on the awarding of the contract and any permitted extensions thereof, beyond the initial three-year contract period, to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care.
- (4) Delegate the decision to increase the contract value if necessary following successful award to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, due to the unknown impact of the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards.

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

This new service model reflects the key priorities identified within the Integrated Commissioning Work Plan, which is to commission joined up Social Care and Health services with streamlined pathways that improve the service user / patient journey by providing efficient and effective service provision at place.

The commissioning of an Integrated Sefton Advocacy Hub also meets the requirements of the Care Act 2014, which states that individuals accessing advocacy services should have consistency with the advocate supporting them through their journey. It states that if an individual's needs change the advocate should be skilled to continue to support the person and not be signposted to another service where they are not known.

The new service model will underpin Sefton's Advocacy Strategy for the next 3-5 years and reflects the aims and vision of the Council's New Realities Agreement which outlines our commitment to working in partnership with the Voluntary, Community and Faith sector.

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

To do nothing in terms of maintaining the current service delivery arrangements has been considered, but on the basis of being able to develop services further and achieve greater system wide efficiencies, as well as improved experiences for users of advocacy services this option is not recommended.

There are potential TUPE implications that will need to be handled sensitively and adherence to a strict procurement timeline will be required to ensure a sufficient period is available for staff consultation to take place.

Financial analysis and modelling has taken place based upon the information about the changing legislation that is currently known. However, the risk cannot be entirely eliminated, in the absence of the statutory practice guidance that is yet to be published.

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

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

Revenue costs will be met from within existing Adult Social Care and Clinical Commissioning Group budgets by way of a pooled budget arrangement. The budget to be made available for advocacy provision will be £610,147 per annum. This budget may require review following the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards in Spring 2022.

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

There are no capital costs for the Council associated with this service.

## Implications of the Proposals:

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> The cost of provision is currently within the ASC and CCG baseline budget however, this may require review following the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards.</p>									
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b>  Care Act 2014 Mental Capacity Act Mental Health Act The Public Procurement (Amendment etc Regulations) (EU Exit) 2020 introduced to amend Public Contract Regulations 2015.</p>									
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b> The equality Implications have been identified and mitigated.</p>									
<p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>  The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> </table> <p>Providers will be requested to make a submission during the open procurement process regarding how their service delivery contributes towards Social Value, which includes green initiatives. The successful providers will be monitored against this as part of ongoing contract monitoring processes. The Provider will be able to develop and build upon existing ways of working to positively contribute to the Climate Change Emergency.</p>		Have a positive impact	Y	Have a neutral impact	N	Have a negative impact	N	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y
Have a positive impact	Y								
Have a neutral impact	N								
Have a negative impact	N								
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Y								

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

<p>Protect the most vulnerable: Advocacy support individuals to allow their voice to be heard and their wishes to be expressed in situations where they may be unable to do this fully by themselves.</p>
<p>Facilitate confident and resilient communities: This service will aim to empower people to become more vocal and contribute and engage in their local communities, thereby improving confidence and resilience.</p>
<p>Commission, broker and provide core services: The proposed approach will ensure individuals are supported to engage in the planning around their health and care needs.</p>
<p>Place – leadership and influencer:</p>

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Drivers of change and reform:
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:
Greater income for social investment:
Cleaner Greener – Providers will be required to make a submission during the procurement process regarding how their service delivery contributes towards social value, which includes green initiatives.

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.6458/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.4659/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

All key stakeholders have been consulted and further consultation will take place as part of the procurement process to inform and develop the service specification.

## Implementation Date for the Decision

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

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## Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 Within this report the term advocacy is used to describe the support given to individuals to allow their voice to be heard and their wishes to be expressed in situations where they may be unable to do this fully by themselves. Advocates and advocacy providers work in partnership with the people they support and promote social inclusion and equality.

- 1.2 Advocacy is essential for people who due to a disability, cultural difference, health condition, communication difficulty, financial circumstances or social attitudes, find themselves in a position where their ability to exercise choice or represent their own interests is limited, or where processes are particularly complex to navigate, such as social care and health pathways or where there is a safeguarding issue. Advocates play an important role in feeding back to the Council and NHS how to improve services to make them more accessible to people.
- 1.3 The Care Act 2014 places a statutory duty on Local Authorities to involve people in decisions made about them and their care and support. No matter how complex a person's needs, Local Authorities are required to help people express their wishes and feelings, support them in weighing up their options, and assist them in making their own decisions.
- 1.4 We have a statutory duty to commission the following types of Advocacy:
  - Independent Mental Capacity Advocates (IMCA) under the Mental Capacity Act 2005
  - Relevant Person's Representative (RPR)
  - Independent Mental Health Advocates (IMHA) under the Mental Health Act 2007
  - Independent Health Complaints Advocacy (IHCA) under the Health & Social Care Act 2012
  - Independent Care Act Advocacy (ICAA) under the Care Act 2014
- 1.5 There is no statutory duty to provide Community Advocacy, but Sefton Council and the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups are committed to funding this provision as it plays an important role in supporting individuals, the health and care system and communities.
- 1.6 Sefton Council and the Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups also commission Parent Carer Advocacy however, for the purpose of this report this provision will be excluded from the proposed future procurement process.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy (IMCA) is a statutory service for those over the age of 16, who have no close family or friends or any other person to help protect their interests under specific circumstances. Under the legislation, Local Authorities have an obligation to instruct and consult an IMCA when certain decisions are being made on behalf of people who lack capacity and who do not have any family or friends to represent them.
- 2.2 The decisions in which an IMCA must be involved (where a person is deemed to lack capacity to make the following decisions and has no close family or friends or any other person to help protect their interests) include changes of

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accommodation. The Local Authority has the additional discretion to instruct an IMCA during a care act assessment or review.

- 2.3 The RPR is appointed to a person subject to a Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS), where they do not have family or friends, or there is potential conflict of interest in a friend or family member undertaking this role.
- 2.4 Care Act Advocacy - the Care Act 2014 states that local authorities must involve people in decisions made about them and their care and support. No matter how complex a person's needs, local authorities are required to help people express their wishes and feelings, support them in weighing up their options, and assist them in making their own decisions. An independent advocate can be appointed as required to support and represent the person for the purpose of assisting their involvement if these two conditions are met and if the individual is required to take part in one or more of the following processes described in the Care Act.
- 2.5 The above services are currently provided by one organisation, namely Voiceability, procured jointly with Liverpool City Council.
- 2.6 The Independent Mental Health Act (IMHA) Advocacy service is a statutory service that was introduced in the 2007 amendments to the Mental Health Act 1983. The Health and Social Care Act 2012 updated this and placed a statutory duty on Local Authorities to commission the service.
  - IMHAs support inpatients to understand their rights, specifically:
    - Understanding of provisions of the legislation under which they qualify, and any restrictions imposed;
    - Understanding of treatment being given or proposed under the Act;
    - Understanding of rights under the Act and how to exercise those rights.
- 2.7 The IMHA service is currently provided by Together, procured jointly with Liverpool City Council.
- 2.8 The Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) are set to be introduced to replace the Deprivation of Liberty Safeguards (DoLS) in Spring 2022, with a period of a 1-year overlap of the two procedures to enable an effective transition.
- 2.9 The Liberty Protection Safeguards (LPS) will establish a process for authorising arrangements enabling care or treatment which give rise to a deprivation of liberty within the meaning of Article 5(1) of the European Convention on Human Rights (ECHR), where the person lacks capacity to consent to the arrangements. It also provides for safeguards to be delivered to people subject to the scheme.
- 2.10 Some of the changes that the act will introduce include: - The LPS scheme will allow for 'care arrangements' which amount to a Deprivation of Liberty to be

authorised in any setting, including educational establishments, supported living and a person's own home.

- The scheme is extended to cover 16 and 17-year olds.
- The scheme creates 'Responsible Bodies' which replace the Supervisory Body within the DOLS legislation:
  - NHS Hospitals for in-patients.
  - The CCG for all patients funded via Continuing Health Care whether in a care setting or at home.
  - The Council for everyone else, including patients in Independent Hospitals (regardless of who has placed them).

2.11 With regards to the creation of additional 'Responsible Bodies' Clinical Commissioning Groups and NHS Hospitals have the ability to delegate this responsibility to the Local Authority. However, additional resources would be required to undertake this function and an LPS Steering Group has been established within Sefton to scope and understand the requirements of the legislation in preparation for full implementation.

2.12 The above contracts have been extended until 31<sup>st</sup> December 2021 to enable a procurement process to be undertaken in conjunction with Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups that will ensure compliance with a range of legislation, as well as successful implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards.

2.13 Independent Health Complaints Advocacy - An Independent Health Complaints Advocate is specially trained to help people through the NHS complaints process. It's a statutory service which means that anyone making a complaint about the NHS has a right to advocacy support. People can have help from an advocate at any point in the complaints process.

2.14 The Independent Health Complaints Advocacy is currently provided by Healthwatch Sefton.

2.15 Additionally, there are non-statutory advocacy services currently provided by Sefton Advocacy and People First which are commissioned jointly with Sefton's Clinical Commissioning Groups. They are as follows:

- General Advocacy - general advocacy provides short-term, issue-based advocacy and when required longer terms advocacy support in specifically identified circumstances. An advocate will support a person to have a strong voice when they need to make an important decision or if they are facing issues, they need help with. An advocate will:
  - Make sure the persons voice is heard
  - Help to have more choice
  - Speak on a person's behalf.
- Peer Advocacy – peer advocacy is when the advocate and the advocacy partner share similar experiences or environments. It sometimes means

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that people who have experienced the same things feel they have a better understanding and can be more supportive.

- 2.16 It is therefore recommended that the above-mentioned advocacy services be procured and delivered via an Integrated Sefton Advocacy Hub which meets the requirements of the Care Act 2014, which states that individuals accessing advocacy services should have consistency with the advocate supporting them through their journey. It states that if an individual's needs change the advocate should be skilled to continue to support the person and not be signposted to another service where they are not known.
- 2.17 It is recommended that advocates be upskilled across multiple advocacy disciplines wherever possible to improve system efficiencies and experiences for users of these services as well as referring professionals.

### **3. Proposed Service Model**

- 3.1 With regards to the new service model, it is proposed that a Lead provider directly provides IMCA, ICAA, and IMHA, they could also either directly provide or sub-contract specialist community advocacy organisations to provide IHCA and specialist community-based advocacy.
- 3.2 It is expected that a strategic partnership arrangement would be the most effective model as it would retain the expert knowledge held by specialist community providers.
- 3.3 A lead provider model will provide a single point of access that takes all referrals, triages, provides support and signposts where necessary. This will provide service users with a more effective and efficient service, reducing hand offs between advocacy organisations whilst improving outcomes. The proposed service model will also provide efficiencies with regards to contract management processes.

### **4. The Procurement Process**

- 4.1 It is proposed that a Light Touch regime open procurement exercise is conducted to commission an Integrated Sefton Advocacy Hub with an initial contract term of three years that will incorporate both statutory and non-statutory advocacy provision to commence from the 1st January 2022, with the option to further extend for a period of up to two years, (either as a single extension or via two separate twelve-month extensions) subject to satisfactory performance of the successful supplier and the required budget being available.
- 4.2 The procurement will be conducted by Sefton Council on behalf of the Council and the two Sefton Clinical Commissioning Groups.
- 4.3 Updated service specifications are in the process of being formulated in consultation with relevant stakeholders and which will reflect required outcomes for Service Users.



- 4.4 It is envisaged that tenders will be evaluated based on a primary focus of quality and outcomes for Service Users and will be evaluated by a panel consisting of both Council and Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group Officers.

## 5. Conclusion

- 5.1 The ongoing provision of advocacy services is required so that residents of Sefton continue to be supported to allow their voice to be heard and their wishes to be expressed in situations where they may be unable to do this fully by themselves.

- 5.2 The proposed procurement exercise will ensure that the above takes place and it represents a further commitment between Social Care and Health to provide integrated services.

- 5.3 Cabinet is asked to;

3.1.1. Approve the commencement of a procurement exercise for an Integrated Sefton Advocacy Hub with a contract term of three years that will incorporate both statutory and non-statutory advocacy provision to commence from the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022;

3.1.2. Delegate decisions with regards to the procurement process, service specification and tender evaluation criteria to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care; and

3.1.3. Delegate the decision on the awarding of the contract and any permitted extensions thereof, beyond the initial three-year contract period, to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care

5.3.4 Delegate the decision to increase the contract value if necessary following successful award to the Executive Director of Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care, due to the unknown impact of the implementation of the Liberty Protection Safeguards.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 <sup>th</sup> July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Marine Lake Events Centre – Pre-Development and Capital Funding bid submissions		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director Place	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	Cambridge & Dukes
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Regeneration & Skills		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

This report requests approval to submit a pre-development funding bid of up to £2.5m to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (LCR CA), along with a capital funding bid submission to Arts Council England (ACE) of up to £5m.

Subject to the above funding, the report also requests approval to procure a range of required consultancy services for the proposed new Southport Marine Lake Events Centre, in order to progress the design, business case and operating model, to enable the required Town Deal submission by March 2022 to draw down the necessary funds.

## Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that:

- (1) Cabinet approves the submission of pre development funding bid of up to £2.5m to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority;
- (2) Cabinet approves the submission of a Cultural Development Fund bid to Arts Council England of up to £5m;
- (3) Subject to the funding bid, Cabinet approves the tender processes to procure a range of consultancy services, using several different compliant procurement methods as detailed in the report;
- (4) Delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Place, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Regeneration to award the necessary contracts;
- (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 (Regeneration and Skills) had been

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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 of the opportunity for early release of pre-development funding; and

(6) It be noted that the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Skills) had given his 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 of the opportunity for early release of pre-development funding.

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

Cabinet have previously approved to progress with a new Events Centre in Southport as part of the successful Southport Town Deal. To enable progression of the project at pace, there is now opportunity to secure up to £2.5m from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority as a contribution to the pre-development works. Moreover, Arts Council England has recently announced a Capital funding scheme, with the proposed Marine Lake Events Centre being eligible.

Furthermore, in order to complete the final business case, several procurements are required such as the delivery team and full design services. This will allow the project to progress on the necessary timetable to drawdown Town Deal funding in March 2022, and to submit the final business case to the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority as part of the capital contribution of up to £20m.

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

Two procurement timetable options have been considered and rejected;

1. Finalise the delivery strategy and present the procurement options to September Cabinet therefore given time to be on the forward plan. This option has been rejected due to the notification of pre development funding being available from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

2. Given the programme pressure and requirement to submit a planning application by February / March 2022, an approach to procure the core design team via the direct award route has been considered. This would allow the commencement of design development as early as possible, and therefore maximise the period for design development and cost certainty at the point of submitting the planning application.

However, the direct award route is deemed to be unsuitable due to the value of the works. The next preferred option is to procure the core design team via a mini-competition, resulting in a circa 2-month programme delay.

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

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

There are no additional costs anticipated with the preparation of funding bid submissions to the LCR CA or to ACE. Match funding for the LCR CA pre-development funding bid would be derived from previous spend on the project, and Town Deal funding once released. Any funding from the council would be approved in accordance with financial procedure rules.

## (B) Capital Costs

The total investment for the project under option 5 (which includes the water and light show in Marine Lake) is circa £75m, as presented at June 2021's Cabinet meeting. This will be further detailed as the design for the development is progressed along with the appointment of the various consultants, and the financial envelope that is secured and available to the council is confirmed.

£33.3m from the Town Deal and up to £20m from the LCR CA is agreed in principle, and at the time of this report engagement is ongoing with potential funding partners and investors for any balance required. Capital funding is also sought through the proposed bid to ACE. Options and recommendations will be brought to Cabinet as part of the final business case in early 2022.

## Implications of the Proposals:

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

Internal resources will be utilised for the bid submissions and associated processes. Any additional resource requirements will be identified as delivery strategy for the project is finalised.

### Legal Implications:

Details of any legal implications are contained within the report.

### Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

### Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will:

Have a positive impact	Y
Have a neutral impact	N
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N

The continuation of work directly contributes towards achieving the targets within the Council's Climate Emergency strategy. The design and operation of the new Events

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Centre will help Sefton's aim of becoming net zero carbon neutral by several design and building techniques. This will also help the Events Centre sales position as several event organisers now expect venues to be able to demonstrate good practice when it comes to the environment.

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: The proposed new event centre will provide a high-quality cultural experience that will provide a first-class venue and destination for local communities to use and enjoy.
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer: The proposed new Events Centre will be an enabler for change and lead to further private sector investment in Southport. The proposed centre will be a game change for the Sefton Visitor Economy being fundamental in the Covid-19 visitor economy recovery while also helping change the perception of Southport and the wider region.
Drivers of change and reform: Providing a long-term sustainable future for a new multi functioning event space that will include conference facilities and auditorium along with new uses such as E-sports.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: The new Events Centre will act as a major catalyst for the visitor economy contributing millions to the local economy by supporting local businesses and supply chains. It will also enable future private sector investment.
Greater income for social investment: The new Events Centre is projected not to require any large subsidies that have been required in the past
Cleaner Greener: The future operation will contribute to Sefton's aims to becoming net zero Carbon Neutral.

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD6466/21) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD4667/21) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

The new Events Centre formed part of the Southport Town Deal consultation. This overall consultation resulted in over 7,000 responses with regards to the overall Town Deal. Separate consultation also took place with under 16's in relation to The Events Centre and future uses, with more than 1,000 respondents.

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

With immediate effect. The Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has given approval under Rule 46 of the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules for the 'call-in' period to be waived in respect of the executive decision.

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## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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## 1. Background

- 1.1 In February 2020 a two-stage assessment was commissioned to consider the potential options for the future redevelopment of the Southport Theatre & Convention Centre (STCC). The feasibility study considered the condition and operating performance of the STCC, explored market trends and demand parameters and identified and assessed potential options for redevelopment. The options were progressed to RIBA Stage 0 & 1 and indicative capital costs established. The feasibility study has been used to inform the development of this business case.
- 1.2 Alongside the development of an outline business case, a design team was appointed including venue specialists IPW, HOK Architects, Gardiner & Theobald (G&T) cost consultants and AECOM (engineering and transport), to work up a RIBA Stage 2 design.
- 1.3 In June 2021 Cabinet approved that Option 5 for a new Southport Marine Lake Events Centre be progressed, with the STCC remaining closed given the financial implications of reopening for what would be a short period.
- 1.4 With the STCC remaining closed due to the reasons set out in the June 2021 report, the new events centre will be referred as The Marine Lake Events Centre (MLEC) in all future reports. This is a working project title at this stage, based on schools consultation on the project during 2020, with naming and branding strategy to be developed as the project progresses.
- 1.5 A comprehensive delivery strategy has been commissioned that will set out the required services to be procured along with an indicative timetable.

## 2.0 LCR CA Pre-development Funding

- 2.1 Close working relationships continue with the LCR CA on the Southport Town Deal projects. As per June 2021's Cabinet report, this includes a commitment of up to £20m of capital funding to support with delivery of the proposed Marine Lake Events Centre. Discussions have continued in respect of the potential access to pre-development funding, earlier than anticipated, for progression of the project.
- 2.2 The council remains keen to progress the project at pace, recognising the impact of the closure of Southport Theatre and Convention Centre (STCC) on the town's economy, as well as the importance of the project to economic recovery and the significant impact and benefit that the new Events Centre will have on the local and regional economy. It is therefore keen to pursue this potential pre-development funding bid opportunity.
- 2.3 Any required match funding for the LCR CA pre-development funding bid would be derived from previous spend on the project, and Town Deal funding once



released. Any additional revenue funding from the council's existing budgets would be approved in accordance with financial procedure rules.

- 2.4 Given the importance of the project to the town's economy, and given the timescales envisaged by the Town Deal process, there remains a desire to keep the project moving at pace during the current financial year. However, this is dependent on pre-development funding for progression of the design and business case in advance of the release of the Town Deal funding itself, hence the ongoing dialogue and intended submission to the LCR CA. This issue applies to other Town Deal awards nationally as well.
- 2.5 These pre-development costs are included within the overall anticipated cost of the final scheme.

### **3.0 Arts Council England**

- 3.1 Arts Council England (ACE) have recently announced a Round 2 of the Cultural Development Fund. The fund is a capital allocation with the aim of unlocking local growth and productivity, promote economic and social recovery from the impact of Covid-19, and regenerate communities through capital investment in place-based creative and cultural initiatives.
- 3.2 Bids between £2.5m and £5m can be made for capital asset activity. An initial expression of interest has been submitted after conversations with Arts Council England. If the expression of interest is successful, the Council will be invited to submit a full bid by the 15<sup>th</sup> of October 2021. If successful, notification of funding will be received by February 2022.

### **4.0 Procurement of Professional Services**

- 4.1 Subject to approval of the pre-development funding above, a range of design and specialist services to progress the design development and prepare the submission of a planning application for the new Marine Lake Events Centre are required.
- 4.2 A review of professional services to be commissioned has been carried out recommending the procurement of 5 lots for the core design team as follows:
1. Architect (Lead Designer) / Landscape Architect
  2. Structural / Civil Engineering
  3. Mechanical, Electrical and Public Health (MEPH) Services Engineering
  4. Town Planning Consultant / Heritage Consultant
  5. Transport / Highways Consultant
- 4.3 Upon review of the available procurement routes, it is recommended that the core design services required to follow an OJEU/FTS process are appointed through a framework. The most appropriate framework is the NHS SBS Construction Consultancy Services Framework.

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- 4.4 The value of lots no.4. and no.5 will be under the financial threshold and can be procured via a competitive tendering process but can remain outside a formal OJEU procurement route. Therefore, these lots do not require the use of a Framework and can be procured via The Chest.
- 4.5 Under the NHS SBS Construction Consultancy Services Framework, the Council has the option to commission services through via a mini-competition. This is the recommended route for the core design services. (1-3)
- 4.6 Several other consultants and agents will also require to be appointed. Most of these services can be subsumed within the scope of a core design team consultant in order to reduce the number of procurement exercises. Approximately 12 other specialist services will need to be procured via Sefton, with the value of each of these services likely to be either below the £20,000 threshold (where 3 quotes are required) or within the £20,000 to £150,000 threshold.
- 4.7 Similarly, several site surveys and reports will need to be procured to inform the design and support the planning application. The majority can be included within the scope of consultants to be appointed therefore reducing the number of direct commissions required. approximately 10 surveys and reports will need to be commissioned directly. The procurement and evaluation process can be managed by the Delivery Team who will provide recommendations to the Council, and therefore minimise the in-house resource required of Council.

## **5.0 Delivery Team Procurement**

- 5.1 At the time of writing, it is intended that Sefton Council will be the Developer of the Marine Lake Events Centre Project. As the Council does not have the capacity or full range of expertise or resources required to undertake the full Developer role in-house, it is seeking to appoint a Delivery Team to act on its behalf to support the delivery of the MLEC project.
- 5.2 The Council will be the Client / Employer, and the Delivery Team would provide the following key services:

### **Core Services**

- Venue Development Advisory Services and Client Representative (quasi-development management, applied to venues)
- Project Management Services
- Quantity Surveyor / Cost Consultancy

### **Supporting Roles/ services**

- Operator Procurement
- Venue Planning advisory
- Project funding support
- Contract administration/employer's agent
- Principal designer
- Technical Advisory Service

- 5.3 The Delivery Strategy assesses the various procurement options for the key project appointments, namely: professional team, venue operator and build contractor. The working assumption in each assessment is that the Council will appoint a Delivery Team to undertake the other procurement activities on behalf of the Council. Therefore, the first appointment that would be made is the Delivery Team.
- 5.4 There are two primary considerations in relation to the Delivery Team appointment:
- Programme – appointing a Delivery Team ASAP to facilitate the procurement of other professionals, and meet the project programme requirements;
  - Process – following a process that will deliver an experienced and high-quality Delivery Team and overall value for money.
- 5.5 It is recommended that the delivery team are appointed through a framework. The most appropriate framework is the NHS SBS Construction Consultancy Services Framework. Under the NHS SBS Construction Consultancy Services Framework, the Council has the option to commission services via a mini-competition.
- 5.6 It will be important to develop a full scope of services for potential providers to respond to and to carefully consider the award criteria to be applied to the contract. Specifically, it will be critical that the appointed Delivery Team:
- Are highly experienced in delivering entertainment/ conference venue projects successfully
  - Understand the key drivers for the project, and the challenges and risks, and are able to manage them effectively on behalf of the Council
  - Are able to commence work immediately, apply sufficient resources and commit to delivering the ambitious project timetables outlined
  - Provide value for money

## **6.0 NHS SBS Construction Consultancy Services Framework.**

- 6.1 The NHS SBS Construction Consultancy Services Framework is a national provider with agreements open to all Public Sector Authorities including Local Council. The framework offers the following benefits:
- Free of charge to use and access
  - OJEU compliant
  - Suppliers pre-qualified on financial, environmental, health & safety and quality criteria
  - Suppliers appointed following a competitive tendering process with suppliers awarded by specialism

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- Mini Competition options
- Flexible contract terms to meet the needs of the end user
- Sub-contracting options available
- Ad-hoc consultancy options available via the Ancillary Services provision

## 7.0 Operator Procurement

7.1 Soft market-testing was undertaken as part of the outline business case, which indicated that there were four operators who may be interested in the Marine Lake Events Centre. IPW therefore recommended that a commercial operator be appointed through a competitive process that provides maximum risk transfer from, and certainty to, the Council.

7.2 There are a series of major benefits to overall project delivery of procuring an operator early in the development process. Hence why, this is now the best practice approach when developing venues of this type. The benefits are as follows:

- The Council would get an indication of the future financial performance of the facilities, and the scale of the guaranteed and variable incomes that it could receive, which will directly support the Council's funding strategy
- Provide confidence to funders about the project sustainability, through securing an operator on a long-term deal (25 years +), with guaranteed income streams
- The operator can input into the design development process. This will enable them to help refine the facilities that are best for the market and their business model. Furthermore, it may also identify potential areas of saving, such as the removal of the Fly Tower and associated facilities from the base scheme if not required to deliver the operators events programme
- Understanding of any potential for capital investment in FF&E/ additional FF&E requirements
- Reduces risk in the future operation of the scheme with this potential financial burden transferred away from the council early in the process.

7.3 It should be noted that since the United Kingdom left the European Union, its authorities are no longer required to abide by the EU procurement regulations / publication of OJEU notices. However, until the outcomes of the December 2020 Green Paper: Transforming Public Procurement are released, no new rules/ regulation have been determined, and therefore authorities are required to follow the historic regulations. The relevant contract regulations for consideration are as follows:

- Public Contract Regulations 2015 procedures
- Concessions Contract Regulations 2016
- Application of the Light Touch Procurement Regime

7.4 The following public procurement processes are available to procure an operator of the MLEC:

- Public Contract Regulations 2015 procedures
  - The Open Procedure
  - The Restricted Procedure
  - Competitive Dialogue
  - Competitive Procedure with negotiation
- Concessions Contract Regulations 2016
- Application of the Light Touch Procurement Regime

7.5 It is important to undergo a rigorous detailed exercise to determine the optimal party to operate the MLEC, which supports the selection of a Competitive Dialogue procedure. This approach will enable us to explore a range of possible solutions with the operators, which is particularly important when we consider that there are a number of elements of the scheme that could be in or out of any potential deal (e.g. F&B, Water & Light Show, undercroft etc).

7.6 Therefore it is recommended to use of the Competitive Dialogue procedure to procure an operator for the MLEC site. The results of this procurement will be brought back to Cabinet as part of the full business case in early 2022. This business case will confirm the anticipated value of the project along with all funding sources.

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# Agenda Item 9

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Financial and Corporate Performance 2020/2021		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To inform Cabinet of the revenue and capital outturn position in relation to the 2020/21 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 Corporate Performance for 2020/21.

## Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to: -

### Revenue Outturn

1. Note the General Fund net surplus of £4.234m for 2020/21 that will increase the Council's General Balances by £2.734m more than was budgeted for;
2. Note the increase in Schools' balances of £4.853m for 2020/21 and the net reduction of non-schools centrally retained DSG balances of £2.230m;
3. Note the changes to Earmarked Reserves in 2020/21;
4. Approve the creation of the five Earmarked Reserves detailed in paragraph 6.4(g) from various underspends that have occurred during 2020/21;

### Capital Outturn

5. Note the total capital outturn of £23.728m for the financial year 2020/21.
6. To note the successful delivery of a number of schemes as set out in section 11 that have supported the delivery of the Council's core purpose.

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## Corporate Performance

7. Note the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2020/21.

### **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:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> None
<b>Legal Implications:</b> None
<b>Equality Implications:</b> 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.

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

## 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 6467/21)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report (LD 4668/21).

### (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

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Reilly
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4106
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## Appendices:

The following appendix is attached to this report:

APPENDIX A – Corporate Performance Report 2020/21

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## **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 2020/21 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 2020/21.
- 1.2 In addition, the report includes the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2020/21 (Appendix A).

## Revenue Outturn 2020/21

### 2 Overall Position 2020/21

2.1 The Council has completed the closure of the Authority's Accounts for 2020/21. In previous years (apart from 2019/20), by the end of May, the Council would have submitted the Statement of Accounts to our external auditors, Ernst & Young, for audit. However, partially due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government worked with CIPFA, the LGA and external auditors to revise the regulations for publishing, auditing and approving the Statement of Accounts in 2020/21 and 2021/22. The new timeframe for the overall closure of accounts process is as follows:

- Draft Statement of Accounts issued – 31 July 2021
- External Audit Review – Planned completion September 2021
- Audit and Governance Committee receive Final Accounts - late September 2021
- Final audited Statement of Accounts published – 30 September 2021

2.2 The outturn figures for 2020/21 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>
<b><u>Services</u></b>			
Strategic Management	3.136	2.932	-0.204
Adult Social Care	94.800	91.811	-2.989
Children's Social Care	34.977	39.754	4.777
Communities	18.359	18.699	0.340
Corporate Resources	8.501	7.688	-0.813
Economic Growth & Housing	5.659	5.347	-0.312
Education Excellence	9.783	9.777	-0.006
Health and Wellbeing	18.498	17.924	-0.574
Highways & Public Protection	10.553	10.196	-0.357
Locality Services	12.240	12.424	0.184
Other Services	3.023	3.029	0.006
<b><u>Total Service Net Expenditure</u></b>	<b>219.529</b>	<b>219.581</b>	<b>0.052</b>

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Budget Pressures Fund	1.000	-	-1.000
In Year Savings	5.411	-	-5.411
Corporate Items	8.940	13.033	4.093
Levies	34.701	34.701	-
Parish Precepts	1.179	1.179	-
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>270.760</b>	<b>268.494</b>	<b>-2.266</b>
<b>Financed by:</b>			
Council Tax Payers	-137.856	-137.856	-
Business Rates Top-Up	-21.249	-21.249	-
Retained Business Rates	-66.779	-66.779	-
General Government Grants	-46.376	-46.844	-0.468
<b>Total Financing</b>	<b>-272.260</b>	<b>-272.728</b>	<b>-0.468</b>
<b>Amount Added to General Balances</b>	<b>-1.500</b>	<b>-4.234</b>	<b>-2.734</b>

### 3 **General Fund Revenue Outturn 2020/21 – Variation Analysis**

- 3.1 As shown in section 2, the outturn for 2020/21 shows that there was a transfer to General Balances of £4.234m which was an underspend of £2.734m compared to the increase in General Balances of £1.500m that was budgeted for.
- 3.2 During the early part of 2020/21 it was identified that the Council was facing significant financial pressure in a number of demand led services areas, particularly Children’s Social Care. 3.4 Given the uncertainty around COVID-19, it was vital that the Council ensured the 2020/21 budget did not overspend. Therefore, a remedial plan was developed. This 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.
- 3.3 As a result of the remedial plan, savings of £5.411m were identified to offset the pressures. This has contributed to the favourable outturn position in 2020/21.
- 3.4 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: -
- 3.4.1 **Adult Social Care** - Adult Social Care underspent in 2020/21 by £2.989m. Reports to Cabinet during the year highlighted that there were a number of significant assumptions and uncertainties relating to COVID-19 that would impact on the outturn position at the year-end. Detailed work was undertaken on the level of expenditure relating to hospital discharges due to COVID-19 which will be funded by the CCGs from the allocations of funding they have received for this

purpose from the Government, and how much will need to be funded by the Council. Similarly, detailed work was undertaken to evaluate the financial impact of the pandemic on the service's residential and day care services budgets. The impact of these two areas have resulted in the underspend for 2020/21. The monthly budget monitoring reports later in 2020/21 made reference to these issues and an underspend of £1.500m was included in the forecast pending finalisation of the issues.

3.4.2 **Children's Social Care** - Children's Social Care overspent in 2020/21 by £4.777m. This level of overspend was forecast consistently through the year and relates to the significant overspend 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 578 at the start of the year to 617 by the end of the year).

3.4.3 **Corporate Resources** – The surplus of £0.813m 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. In addition, the surplus includes savings of £0.337m due to elections being postponed in May 2020.

3.4.4 **Health & Wellbeing** – A net surplus of £0.574m was brought about primarily due to savings on contracts procured during the year, particularly on substance misuse and sexual health services.~~de-ed~~

3.4.5 **Budget Pressures Fund / In Year Savings:** As mentioned in paragraph 3.2, the Council implemented a remedial plan to ensure the Council's in-year budget didn't overspend. This included the delivery of the in-year saving proposals described above.

3.4.6 **Corporate Items:** There are various corporate items that have had an impact on the Council's outturn position, with a net impact of £4.093m. The most significant are described below:

- The report relating to the Strand Shopping Centre presented to Cabinet on 4 February 2021 outlined that the potential outturn deficit for 2020/21, as a consequence of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, was expected to be between £2.650m and £3.180m. The deficit has now been finalised and the impact on the outturn position is an overspend of **£2.696m**;
- It is estimated that the costs in 2021/22 of recruiting additional staff to support Children's Social Care will be in the region of £1.500m. Due to the favourable outturn position in 2020/21, Cabinet is asked to approve the creation of a reserve for **£1.500m** to fund these costs (see paragraph 6.4g). This transfer has been assumed in the forecast outturn position;
- Reduction in Housing Benefit Subsidy re. overpayments - **£0.296m** deficit
- Balance of pay award provision not required - **£0.202m** surplus.

3.5 As a result of the variations detailed within this report the overall Council-wide underspend recorded for the year of £2.734m represents the outcome of stringent financial management through the year as the Council continues to meet the

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financial pressure from demand led services, the extreme challenges of national government policy as well as the impact of COVID19. The outturn position excludes the impact of COVID19 with additional expenditure and loss of income being met by utilising various additional funding sources provided by the Government.

- 3.6 As was detailed within the Budget report presented to Council in March 2021, in addition to the continued need to respond to the decade long austerity programme and the impact of COVID19, the Council continues to face unprecedented financial pressure particularly within Children's Social Care, Children with Disabilities, 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 2021/22 and beyond.
- 3.7 The Council acknowledged these risks in its budget report and significant additional resources were built into 2021/22 budget in recognition of these additional demands. The first budget monitoring report of 2021/22, 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.
- 3.8 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 2021/22 bringing more uncertainty in the Council's funding position.

## **4 Schools' Delegated Budgets Outturn 2020/21**

- 4.1 The level of schools' balances as at the end of 2020/21 is £15.676m (£10.823m 2019/20). This overall sum consists of direct school balances of £15.194m (£10.553m 2019/20); Schools Supply Funding Pool surplus of £0.112m (£0.108m deficit in 2019/20) and the Schools Rates Pooled Account surplus of £0.370m (£0.378m 2019/20). The total balances represent 12.7% of schools' 2020/21 delegated budgets. Overall, schools' direct balances increased by £4.641m; Similarly, the Schools Supply Pool balances increased by £0.220m and the Rates Pool Account reduced by £0.008m.
- 4.2 Analysis of the Schools Balances shows that 64 schools saw an increase in their balances totalling £5.151m; whilst 20 schools experienced a fall in balances of £0.510m giving a net increase in the year of £4.641m. Of the 20 schools with falling balances, there were 16 Primary schools and 2 Local Authority Maintained Secondary schools with a fall in balances of £0.243m and £0.092m respectively. In addition, there were 2 Special/AP schools with reducing balances of £0.175m.

- 4.3 At the start of 2020/21, there were 7 schools in a deficit position including 3 Maintained Primary Schools and 4 Maintained Secondary Schools with net deficit balances of £0.169m and £1.854m respectively. These 7 schools were all operating under a licensed deficit in 2020/21.
- 4.4 By the end of 2020/21, based on the outturn position, 6 Schools were in a deficit position, including 3 Maintained Primary schools, and 2 Maintained Secondary Schools, and 1 Pupil Referral Unit with net deficit balances of £0.098m; £1.297m and £0.073m respectively.
- 4.5 In 2021/22, all 6 schools have applied to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services, for permission to operate under licenced deficit conditions, having submitted their plans to the Local Authority for reducing their spending to try and get back into balance.
- 4.6 In respect of Maintained Special Schools all 5 schools saw an increase in their balances of (£0.874m), whilst the 2 PRUs saw a fall in balances (£0.175m).
- 4.7 High Needs budgets were overspent by £2.8m in 2020/21 (£4.5m in 2019/209), and efforts started from September 2019 and have been ongoing since, 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. In addition, the Local Authority is currently consulting all stakeholders within the High Needs / SEN sector over possible changes to funding SEN support costs in mainstream schools, where there has been a noticeable increase in funding awarded for top-ups over recent years.
- 4.8 Notional SEN budgets, derived from the Schools Formula, were given to schools in 2020/21 for closer monitoring of their spending on pupils with Special Needs. Other areas under review include Early Years and Post 16 funding for High Needs children/Young people. Progress continues to be made with the High Needs review, and changes may start to be implemented from later this year 2021 to bring about a change in future spending in line with budgets following a period of consultation. In the 2021/22 High Needs funding settlement, Sefton received an extra £2.8m, which should help alleviate the spending position during the year. In addition, funding awards for 2021/22 have been agreed in advance, for certain transition years only and ongoing awards of funding have been agreed for some pupils and for those with an EHCP, in a bid to reduce costs. No new funding awards will be made, except for exceptional cases, and spending will be monitored closely during the year.
- 4.9 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 2020, when the Early Years funding was determined for 2020/21. 2020/21 has been a difficult year for Early Years providers during the COVID19 pandemic and sustainability has been an issue with many. However, no closures have occurred as a result apart from 1 Nursery which may have closed anyway due to its financial position. During the year the new Early Years Development Group of Schools Forum has been meeting regularly to examine the use of Early Years funding towards training facility and other issues, including sustainability issues following the Covid19 outbreak and lockdown. Plans

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were in place to support settings during this difficult period, to ensure sufficiency of childcare through the year. Early Years balances ended the year with a surplus balance of £1.113m in 2020/21 and there are plans to utilise some of these balances in support of providers and in offering training support going forward. Some balances may be required to support a funding clawback later in 2021 related to the big reduction in headcount numbers in January 2021 due to the lockdown announced in early January 2021.

4.10 The Council holds Centrally Retained DSG reserves, 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 2020, was a deficit of £4.385m. During 2020/21, 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 £6.615m (see below).

<b><u>Centrally Retained DSG Balances</u></b>	<b><u>1 April 2020</u></b> <b>£m</b>	<b><u>Reallocation</u></b> <b>£m</b>	<b><u>Movement 2020/21</u></b> <b>£m</b>	<b><u>31 March 2021</u></b> <b>£m</b>
Schools Block	-0.544	0.000	0.023	-0.521
Early Years Block	-0.505	0.000	-0.608	-1.113
High Needs Block	5.434	0.000	2.815	8.249
	4.385	0.000	2.230	6.615

4.11 Local Authorities may 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.

4.12 However, the ESFA have determined that they have retained the right to request Local Authorities to provide more information about their DSG deficits, and to set out their plans for long term recovery. They 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. The first priority however 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 3-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.

4.13 It is hoped that with the review of High Needs underway, and the actions being taken as explained above, together with a further reasonable settlement for High Needs funding in 2022/23, the deficit position may reduce. Officers will be ready to respond to the DfE when asked to do so, in explanation of the actions being taken to date and ongoing.



## 5 Council Balances

5.1 The change in the level of Council and School Balances as at 31 March 2021 are set out in the tables below:

<b><u>Non-School General Fund Balances</u></b>	<b>£m</b>	<b>£m</b>
Actual Non-School General Fund Balances at 31 March 2020		-6.984
Less underspend in comparison to the 2020/21 Base Estimate:		
- Assumed Increase in Balances 2020/21	-1.500	
- Underspend in 2020/21	-2.734	
Actual Increase in Balances in 2020/21		-4.234
Actual Non-School General Fund Balances at 31 March 2021		<b>-11.218</b>

<b><u>Schools' Balances</u></b>	<b>£m</b>
Schools' balances as at 1 April 2020	-10.823
Overspend on Schools' Delegated Budgets	-4.853
Schools' balances at 31 March 2021	-15.676

## 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 to revenue grants and contributions that haven't been fully applied by the end of the financial year.

6.2 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.

6.3 An analysis of the Council's Earmarked Reserves, and the movement during 2020/21 is shown in the table below:

	<b>Movements in 2020/21</b>	<b>1 April 2020 £000s</b>	<b>Transfers in £000s</b>	<b>Transfers Out £000s</b>	<b>31 March 2021 £000s</b>
(a)	Environmental Warranty	-9,000	0	0	-9,000
(b)	Insurance Fund	-1,371	0	410	-961
(c)	Transforming Sefton	-5,466	-639	2,603	-3,502
(d)	Redundancy Reserve	-2,000	0	674	-1,326
(e)	Capital Priorities Fund	-42	0	42	0
(f)	Community Transition Fund	-659	0	178	-481
(g)	Contamination Clearance	-1,500	0	62	-1,438

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(h)	Rating Appeals / Reduction in NDR Income Reserve	0	-38,784	0	-38,784
(i)	Secondary School Deficit Reserve	0	-750	0	-750
(j)	Regeneration Schemes Reserve	-193	0	193	0
(k)	Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied	-14,616	-35,241	1,944	-47,913
(l)	Schools' Earmarked Reserves	4,385	-608	2,838	6,615
(m)	Other Earmarked Reserves	-5,426	-6,418	627	-11,217
		<b>-35,888</b>	<b>-82,440</b>	<b>9,571</b>	<b>-108,757</b>

6.4 The main changes in Earmarked Reserves are as follows:

- a) **Transforming Sefton** – £2.603m has been utilised to fund previously approved expenditure, primarily involving the Cost of Change budget relating to the Framework for Change programmes of 2017 and 2020.
- b) **Redundancy Reserve** – In February 2021 Cabinet were informed of the transfer of £0.500m from the Redundancy Reserve to the Transforming Sefton Reserve in order to fund the Cost of Change budget. This transfer was approved by the Section 151 officer in consultation with the Chief Executive in line with the Council's Financial Procedure Rules.
- c) **Rating Appeals / Reduction in Business Rates Income Reserve** – In response to COVID19, the Government introduced an expanded Business Rates retail relief scheme in 2020/2021. This resulted in a significant deficit on the Collection Fund which will be recovered in 2021/22. However, the Council received S31 grants to offset the reliefs granted which were received in 2020/21. These have therefore been reserved so they can be used to offset the deficit in 2021/22.
- d) **Secondary School Deficit Reserve** – Budget Council in February 2020 approved the creation of a reserve to fund the potential deficits of Secondary Schools should they transfer to academy status. A contribution of £0.750m was included in the 2020/21 budget.
- e) **Revenue Grants and Contributions Unapplied** – There has been a large increase due to the receipt during 2020/21 of various tranches of funding to support the Council's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include funding for Local Restrictions Support Grants, emergency funding and the Contain Outbreak Management Fund. These have been reserved to fund costs and loss of income that will be incurred in 2021/22.
- f) **Schools' Earmarked Reserves** – See Section 4 for an explanation of the movements in these reserves.
- g) **Other Earmarked Reserves** – The creation of a number of new reserves is proposed as detailed below:

**Children's Social Care (£1.500m)** – It is proposed that additional one -off resources be set aside to support increased staffing levels in the service in 2021/22. **Cabinet is asked to approve the creation of this reserve from the overall underspend position of the Council in 2020/21.**

**Adult Social Care (£2.054m)** – It is proposed to carry forward Adult Social Care underspends from 2020/21 to offset potential additional backdated costs relating to joint funded care. The utilisation of the reserve will be in accordance with Financial Procedure Rules and any amounts not required will be credited back to the revenue

budget in 2021/22. **Cabinet is asked to approve the creation of this reserve from the Adult Social Care underspend position in 2020/21.**

**Economic Recovery (£1.500m)** – It is proposed to carry forward an underspend on the emergency funding received by the Council in 2020/21 to fund additional support for economic recovery following the pandemic. This will fund an in-house team with additional resource and expertise for a period of two years. **Cabinet is asked to approve the creation of this reserve from the emergency funding underspend position in 2020/21.**

**Commissioning (£0.250m)** – It is proposed to carry forward an underspend on the emergency funding received by the Council in 2020/21 to fund additional capacity for improvements in Adult Social Care and Children’s Social Care market management following the pandemic. This will fund additional staffing for a period of two years. **Cabinet is asked to approve the creation of this reserve from the emergency funding underspend position in 2020/21.**

**Agile Working (£0.300m)** – It is proposed to carry forward part of the underspend on the pay award provision in 2020/21 to fund the additional costs associated with future ways of working following the pandemic. **Cabinet is asked to approve the creation of this reserve from the pay award provision underspend position in 2020/21.**

## **7 Revenue Outturn 2020/21 - Conclusion**

- 7.1 In February 2020, the Council set a one-year budget. Through the application of stringent financial management throughout the year, the Council continued to meet the financial pressure from demand led services and was still able to underspend by £2.734m. In addition, it was able to withstand the financial pressures that arose from COVID19 by utilising the resources provided by the Government to support the Council’s response.
- 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 still facing significant financial pressure from some of its main demand led budgets, Children’s Social Care, Children with Disabilities, 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 in order that these pressures are aligned with the delivery of the overall savings target that the Council has to meet. This approach and pressure were identified within the Budget report of March 2021 and significant additional resources were included in the budget for 2021/22.
- 7.3 The Council’s accounts will be completed by the end of July 2021. 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 September 2021 for consideration, together with the ISA 260 report that will reflect their findings and conclusions.

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## Capital Outturn 2020/21

### **8 Overall Position for 2020/21**

8.1 The approved capital budget for 2020/21 was £27.932m against which capital expenditure of £23.728m has been incurred at the year end. This has resulted in a year end variance of £4.204m. A service by service breakdown is shown in the following table:

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Budget 2020/21</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure 2020/21</b>	<b>Variance to Budget</b>
	£m	£m	£m
<b>Adult Social Care</b>	2.923	2.330	-0.593
<b>Communities</b>	0.339	0.252	-0.087
<b>Corporate Resources</b>	1.171	1.213	0.042
<b>Economic Growth &amp; Housing</b>	4.648	2.869	-1.779
<b>Education Excellence</b>	3.619	3.584	-0.035
<b>Highways &amp; Public Protection</b>	12.825	11.839	-0.986
<b>Locality Services</b>	2.407	1.641	-0.766
<b>Total Programme</b>	<b>27.932</b>	<b>23.728</b>	<b>-4.204</b>

8.2 In addition to the core programme, capital expenditure totalling £2.475m was incurred by the Council. This included Schools Devolved Formula Capital which is provided directly to and managed by schools and capitalisation of Highways expenditure. Total capital expenditure in 2020/21, including this was £26.203m.

### **9 Programme Funding**

9.1 The table below shows how the capital programme has been funded in 2020/21:

<b>Source</b>	<b>£m</b>
Grants	<b>18.453</b>
Prudential Borrowing	<b>6.117</b>
Section 106	<b>0.288</b>
Capital Receipts	<b>1.164</b>
Contributions	<b>0.181</b>
<b>Total Programme Funding</b>	<b>26.203</b>

## **10 Key Explanations of Full Year Outturn Variance 2020/21**

### **10.1 Adult Social Care**

The variation of £0.593m was mainly attributed to the timing of issuing capital grants for Care Home Improvements. A number of applications were received in the year, but due to the time required to carry out the proper scrutiny and assessment

of the applications through a formal panel, the actual payment of the grant money did not take place until early 2021/22 financial year.

## 10.2 Economic Growth & Housing

### 10.2.1 Strategic Acquisitions – Bootle (-£0.275)

The majority of acquisitions have been completed to schedule. The underspend is in part due to demolition tender being less than estimated and two lease surrenders did not complete by 31st March which was within the programme deadline. Additional work has been identified to pick up the demolition contract underspend, however tender returns did not come in until the end March limiting expenditure in 2020/21 financial year. A change control has been requested from the LCR Combined Authority to extend funding into 2021/22 financial year.

### 10.2.2 Cambridge Road Development (-£0.276m)

Programme slippage has occurred due to a combination of a slight delayed start to contract commencement, clarifications requested from contractor, changes from the client and additional unanticipated work outside of contract to the basement area requiring instruction from the contract manager. A change control has been submitted to LCR Combined Authority for a time extension to project.

### 10.2.3 Crosby Lakeside Development (-£0.701m)

Procurement of the contractor took much longer than anticipated which led to a delay in signing the construction contract. The actual programme and spend profile for the project were only confirmed once the contractor was appointed. This has led to a significant underspend in the project. A change control document has been submitted to the LCR Combined Authority to move the underspent grant funding into 2021/22.

### 10.2.4 Southport Market (-£0.334m)

The variance on project is due to a small delay in the programme of works due to the lead in time for steel. Also, the dates of the valuation certificates have caused a slight variance with regards to spend. It is still anticipated that project will be complete in the first half of 2021/22.

### 10.2.5 Strategic Acquisitions – Ainsdale (-£0.191m)

Covid and the lockdown restrictions that were implemented prevented earlier inspections of the properties, in order to value and progress negotiations with leaseholders and complete transactions in 2020/21.

## 10.3 Highways and Public Protection

### 10.3.1 Kirkby to Maghull Cycle Route (-£0.225m)

Start of construction was delayed due to land ownership issues which meant the scheme was not completed by the end of 2020/21. Delays in the completion of

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conveyancing for land purchase has meant the financial transactions have been deferred to 2021/22.

## 10.3.2 A565 Corridor Improvements (-£0.276m)

Delays in the commencement of the works until January 2021 have meant that the project was not completed by the end of 2020/21.

## 10.3.3 Bootle and Southport Town Centre Cycle Lanes (-£0.398m)

Emergency Active Travel schemes were delivered for less than the budget estimate, owing to the cancellation of part of the original proposals in Bootle following consultation with Merseytravel and the lack of availability of the originally intended materials. The remaining funding is being used to undertake a review of the schemes, upgrade the routes following delivery of the original materials, together with any remedial measures identified.

## **10.4 Locality Services Provision**

The underspend of £0.766m relates to the purchase of several refuse vehicles. Delays were experienced in inspections and approvals at DVSA testing stations meaning that the supplier delivered the vehicles later than scheduled. Purchases were therefore completed in early 2021/22.

## **11 Programme Delivery 2020/21**

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:

### **11.2 Adult Social Care**

#### 11.2.1 Disabled Facilities Grants Core Programme (£0.923m)

During 2020/21 there were 125 adaptations certified as complete on behalf of clients including items such as stair lifts, vertical lifts, bathroom adaptations, extensions and hoists.

#### 11.2.2 Integrated Community Equipment (£0.238m)

Loan equipment has been purchased to issue to Sefton residents with medical needs or a disability to enable them to remain safe and independent in their own homes. The equipment provided includes walking aids, bathing aids, toileting aids and patient handling equipment to enable carers to assist and care for residents in a safe manner. All equipment is issued on a loan basis and ownership is retained by the Equipment Service. When no longer needed by service users it is collected, decontaminated in accordance with strict infection control procedures and recycled for future issue to others.

## 11.2.3 Single to Double Handed Care Equipment (£0.246m)

The equipment purchased, predominantly for patient handling, is specifically designed to enable a reduction in the number of carers required to care for an individual. The service provides gantry hoists, specialist slings and a variety of patient handling pieces taking advantage of new product development and techniques, with the ultimate aim of reducing a care package for the individual whether that care be provided by family or formal carers. The benefits of the equipment provide a more dignified care process for the recipient. All equipment is issued on a loan basis and when no longer needed by the service user, collected and recycled for further use.

## 11.2.4 ICT Development and Transformation (£0.236m)

The development of the functionality of the Controcc system for both Adult and Children's Social Care, to make payments and improve management information has continued. Both Adults and Children's systems are now implemented and planning for upgrade and system enhancements has commenced as part of 2021/22 activity.

## 11.2.5 Community Equipment Stores (£0.093m)

Upgrades to the storage facilities continued during 2020/21 to allow the stores to operate with greater efficiency. Two new vans were also purchased as part of the ongoing programme of vehicle replacement.

## **11.3 Economic Growth and Housing**

### 11.3.1 Strategic Acquisitions – Bootle (£1.113m)

The assembly and acquisition of a key canal side site as part of first phase of Bootle town centre transformation has been completed including demolition and making good the site. This project is an integral element of town centre diversification and place making and a key element to enable the delivery of the wider strategy for repurposing and reimagining Bootle Strand Shopping Centre.

### 11.3.2 Cambridge Road Project (£0.529m)

By the end of March 2021 approximately 50% of the project had been completed. All window refurbishment work had been done, all redundant cabling removed and works started on mechanical and electrical installation, and the roof and other outstanding survey works were complete. The project will also deliver significant social value output, in particular:

- Employment and Skills: 2 Cunard Construction Training Programmes were delivered in partnership with Sefton@Work, which offered up to 20 local residents the opportunity to gain CITB qualifications, and 9 individuals took advantage of the programme.
- A new design of the Community pantry and Bistro has been drawn up ready for delivery

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- Direct support for the Community Pantry is ongoing, through donating dedicated staff time as volunteer hours, and directly distributing goods, toys, hampers etc.

## 11.3.3 Crosby Lakeside Redevelopment (£0.299m)

The progress achieved by end of March 2021 was: appointment of construction contractor, development of RIBA stage 4 works, site set-up and strip out works started on site.

## 11.3.4 Southport Market Redevelopment (£0.566m)

A comprehensive refurbishment and refit of the traditional market hall into a new food and drink offer has been completed with a flexible events space capable of holding events and temporary markets. Reopening is scheduled for July 2021.

This redevelopment will allow for the diversification of the town centre and is a key opportunity to change the town centre offer to attract new visitors, generate footfall and help draw people into new areas as part of a market quarter.

## **11.4 Education Excellence**

### 11.4.1 Schools Programme (£2.918m)

The main programme delivery achievements were as follows:

- Linacre Primary School – a number of repairs and alterations were completed;
- Completion of remodelling at Great Crosby Primary School;
- Completion of improvements to school access at Hatton Hill Primary School;
- Phased completion of electrical wiring systems at Netherton Moss and Woodlands Primary school;
- Replacement and improvement of heating systems at Farnborough Road infants, Freshfield primary, The Grange and Hudson Primary School;
- Various essential repairs and refurbishments across several sites including improvements to building fabric, toilets, flooring, window replacement, roof surfaces, boundary walls, playground surfaces and security fencing;
- Various inspections relating to statutory compliance activities in school buildings.

### 11.4.2 Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) (£0.641m)

The following has been accomplished in support of SEND provision:

- Crosby High School – Internal alteration works to improve accessibility and circulation;
- Rowan park school – Provision of classroom, hygiene facilities, physiotherapy office and store;
- Freshfield Primary – ASD provision;
- Various alterations and repairs to building fabric, fire precautions, security and toilets at several SEND facilities.



## 11.5 Highways and Public Protection

- **Major Transport Schemes (£0.968m)** - Completion of major highway scheme to construct new slip roads at junction one of the M58.
- **Kirby to Maghull (£0.545m)** - Phase 2 of the cycle route scheme linking Kirby to Maghull was commenced in 2020/21 and completed in June 2021 to create a new 1.7km cycle path.
- **A565 Corridor Improvements – Great Georges Road (£0.424m)** - The latest phase of improvements to the A565 in Crosby commenced along Great Georges Road in December 2020 and were completed in June 2021.
- **Southport East West Links (£1.521m)** - 1km of new cycle route and 5.9km of widened cycle path were completed as part of the Southport East West links project.
- **A59 Maghull Route Management (£0.920m)** - Completion of the A59 Dover Road junction improvement (commenced in 2019) was completed, along with a new signalised junction at Damfield Lane as part of the A59 Route management improvements.
- **Strategic Planning (£0.246m)** - The outline business cases for the Maritime Corridor and Southport Eastern Access projects have been completed and the projects have been allocated resources by the Combined Authority to develop Full Business Cases.
- **Structures and Bridges (£0.158m)** - Phase 1 of the Hightown Footbridge maintenance scheme was completed. Phase 2 to be completed in 2021/22.
- **Street Lighting (£0.292m)** - The maintenance programme has replaced 296 street lighting columns, 85 illuminated sign poles, 135 bollards, 792 street lighting lanterns and 124 sign lighting units.
- **Carriageway Maintenance (£3.035m)** - Work has been completed on 82,080m<sup>2</sup> of carriageway resurfacing.
- **Winter Service Facility (£2.632m)** - purchase of the facility was completed in September 2020.

## 11.6 Locality Services

### 11.6.1 Plant and Machinery (£0.213m)

A number of items of essential plant and machinery were purchased to assist with maintenance operations, grass cutting and backup works.

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## 11.6.2 North West Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme (£0.481m)

The Northwest Strategic Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme collects coastal process data on behalf of the north west maritime authorities. The programme is 100% grant funded by the Environment Agency and is hosted by Sefton Council. The previous funding package (2015-2021) is coming to an end and a new one will be added to the capital programme for the period (2021-2027).

Expenditure from the outgoing programme has included:

- the purchase of a new mobile laser scanning system to survey a variety of coastal types and structures across the north west,
- installation of autonomous radar system to monitoring beaches and waves at locations in Crosby and Fylde.
- costs for topographic (level surveys) and hydrodynamic surveys (waves and currents).

## 11.6.3 Surface Water Management Plan (£0.035m)

A consultant has been employed to update surface water flood risk models with latest data and identify hotspots to be taken forward for option analysis. The additional assessments have been completed and this has led to the Norburn Crescent through to the Redgate Estate being taken forward for option assessment, this is currently underway. The other areas have not identified sufficient surface water flood risk to warrant taking forward for individual option analysis. Maghull risks are being reviewed by a multiagency officer group for coordination with other opportunities in the Maghull area.

## 11.6.4 Bootle Golf Driving Range Development (£0.021m)

Work has started on the construction of the new 10 bay Bootle Golf Driving range in March 2021 which includes improvements to the onsite toilets and drainage work on site. Work is expected to be completed by the end of Summer 2021.

## 11.6.5 Vehicle Replacement Programme (£0.631m)

The following replacement vehicles were purchased during the year:

- Two refuse collection vehicles
- A 7.5t caged tipper required for street cleansing
- Four 4x4 pickups for use by Sefton's coastal rangers
- Four vans for use by the Green Sefton service
- One van for Sefton Arc.

## **12 Capital Outturn 2020/21 - 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 2020/21**

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.

13.3 As a result, the Council's Corporate Performance Report for 2020/21 is attached as Appendix A and provides:-

- An introduction and contextual statement from the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, the Leader of the Council 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 2020/21 and how these compare to 2019/20.

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. In addition, as would be expected, the impact of the COVID19 pandemic has had an impact on most, if not all, areas of the Council. 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 second Corporate Performance Report produced by the Council and will continue to be reported annually at year end.

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# Corporate Performance Report 2020/21

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## 1 | FOREWORD

I'm pleased to introduce our second 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.

In these challenging times, it is vital that the Council considers very carefully where it can make the biggest difference and throughout the year the Council focused on working with our many partners to support our communities in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The lockdowns and associated measures had 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 continued to be second to none.

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. Our Core Purpose underpinned by the Council's Framework for Change Programme targets capacity at a carefully sequenced set of key priorities. Over recent 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 and put the foundations in place that enabled us to respond swiftly to the impact of the pandemic.

Sefton Council will continue to develop performance reporting and robust scrutiny alongside this Annual Report.

I would like to thank all our staff, all ward councillors, volunteers, trade unions 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



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## A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADER

The last 12 months have been unlike any other within living memory. Alongside the rest of the world, Sefton has faced unprecedented challenges due to coronavirus (COVID-19).

During the pandemic local people and businesses have pulled together to support our most vulnerable residents. Our key workers made amazing efforts to keep the us all safe and to continue to deliver essential services.

So I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to our workforce, the thousands of volunteers and all those key workers for everything they have done.

While a great deal of our work has focused on responding to the pandemic business as usual has not stopped. The Council is committed to tackling inequality, climate change, improving services for children and regenerating our town centres.

Leader of the Council, Ian Maher





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## A MESSAGE FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

Welcome to our second annual performance report.

As Chief Executive I have never been prouder to be part of a team supporting so many in our communities, delivering the everyday services that people expect and planning for the future. 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 all areas and some have required specific attention such as Special Educational Needs and Disability services and following the findings of an Ofsted and Care Quality Commission visit, we acted quickly, engaging national, regional and local partners to implement a programme of improvement. This led to multi-million-pound investment across the partnership and with the improvements in engagement with parents, carers and young people this has helped start us on the improvement journey, and the visit by the Department of Education in January 2021 told us we were improving and heading in the right direction.

Despite the pandemic the regeneration of our towns has been a major factor and the award of £37.5M for the Southport Town Deal and the investment in Crosby Lakeside and the Strand Shopping centre will provide new jobs for people in our Borough and hopefully trigger more investment in these communities and surrounding areas.

Despite the financial pressures I was delighted that Members of the Council agreed in March 2021 to increase investment in Children Services and the £7 Million will enable us to support the workforce with additional staffing and will make further resources available to support children, families and carers.

Our Local Government Association review of our 2017 peer review was postponed in 2020 because of the pandemic and I am really keen to see the team return later in 2021 to review our progress.

The pandemic has shone a light on the pressures on Council services, but I am very proud in the way that all staff have responded to the pandemic I want to thank all of our staff, volunteers, trade unions 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.

## **Delivering Sustainability**

### **Climate Emergency**

The Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Since then we have reduced the Council's carbon footprint by 10% from last year's baseline and this means we are on track to meet net zero carbon by 2030. We have a number of key projects that will support this and you can find out more about this area of work in the Climate Change Annual Report 2020/21.

### **Ethical Business & Social Value**

During the year our Treasury Management Strategy was updated so that Council investments and deposits are aligned to our Core Values. All Procurement staff have received Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Ethical Accreditation, this training ensures that Procurement staff have built their understanding of how to behave ethically and establishes a commitment to ethical behaviour.

Also the Procurement team has received Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Ethical Accreditation, this training ensures that Procurement staff have built their understanding of how to behave ethically and establishes a commitment to ethical behaviour. During 2021 we will continue with this work.

### **Improving Children's Services**

Over the last twelve months we have made significant progress in delivering our Special Educational Needs and Disability Improvement Plan. We have taken a true partnership approach in delivering this change and the latest feedback from the parent carer survey demonstrates that trust and confidence is increasing.

We recognise that there is more work to do in improving Children's Services and have increased investment in this area to enable us to make the change needed. Demand for support is increasing and we will continue to call on the government to increase the level of funding available and make the reforms required.

## Financial Sustainability

2020/21 posed the great challenge in the management of the Council's budget. From the start of the year the impact on the Council's cash flow and approved budget in addition to responding to the pandemic was a primary area of focus for members and officers. The Council experienced a significant loss of income from council tax and business rates receipts in addition to the fees and charges it traditionally charges for services. In addition it experienced significant pressure on its key service including Children's services and waste management. The Council focused on ensuring that key services continued to be provided to residents and where a response to the pandemic was required it met that requirement – this was supported by detailed financial management, maximising existing resources and lobbying for additional support from central government both to support provision of services and to administer grant payments or other reliefs to residents and businesses. The Council has placed financial sustainability as a key priority and this approach ensured that in 2020/21 the Council's budget is reporting an underspend which will ensure that its financial health is maintained.



TOGETHER

# A STRONGER COMMUNITY

Sefton communities are known for their generosity, giving of their time and talents and this year saw so many in our communities benefitting from the work of so many volunteers. Their dedication and generosity enabled the Council to maintain those vital services that matter so much.

The Council's **purpose of place leadership and influencer** continued to be vital in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic as we worked with partners to unlock the borough's collective resources for the benefit of all and to ensure that people were well informed. The Council coordinated a group of partners to ensure that a robust community response and support plan was in place and being delivered to respond to the changing levels of need within our communities.

Working with our partners we offered support to over 24,000 people identified as clinically extremely vulnerable people in our communities. Over 32,000 contacts were made with those that needed continued welfare support during the lock down periods. In addition to this Contact Centre operated 7 days per week taking more than 9,000 calls regarding access to testing facilities, supermarket referrals, Test & Trace Self-Isolation payments and over 50,000 text messages were sent to clinically extremely vulnerable people to direct them to support were sent to those shielding. The Council also delivered over 1700 emergency food parcels to clinically extremely vulnerable people who needed support whilst shielding, this was in addition to planned contributions to Food banks, donations from ward budgets and Sefton's Emergency Limited Assistance Scheme (ELAS).

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Over the year Sefton's local businesses and voluntary organisations provided packed lunches, food hampers and meals to local families. The Council also responded quickly to the need to deliver a Free School Meals scheme in place in October, issuing over 5000 vouchers to eligible families. The promotion of the scheme also led to an increase in the number of families applying for Free School Meals.

We worked hard with our partners across Merseyside to make people aware that we are still here and available to support those who need our support. The Council joined partner organisations across the Liverpool City Region to launch a new domestic abuse campaign telling anyone experiencing abuse during the Coronavirus pandemic: #YouAreNotAlone. This multi-agency initiative aimed to raise awareness, remind those experiencing abuse that support is still available, and encourage victims to report incidents to the police.

In October 2020 during Black History Month we highlighted historic moments, events, achievements and contributions of black people in our Sefton communities and across Merseyside, as well as shining a light on people who are striving for equality and diversity in our borough. In the same month, as part of Hate Crime Awareness week and in partnership with Stop Hate UK, we raised awareness and encouraged the reporting of hate crimes and incidents which continues to be a priority for the Council. As part of LGBT+ History Month in February 2021 we celebrated some amazing people who form part of the LGBT+ community's past and present.

Since the start of the pandemic, as part of our role to **Commission, broker and provide core services**, the Council worked extremely hard to secure PPE. In the early stages we worked with other Local Authority's in Merseyside to ensure we could maintain a supply of PPE to our care homes and social care workforce through collaborative procurement and mutual aid with a focus on keeping staff and vulnerable people safe throughout the pandemic. We continued to respond to changes in guidance and as government supply became more reliable have provided PPE to a range of settings including unpaid carers.

The Council website and social media was updated on a regular basis so that our communities were well informed and had access to the latest information. The Council also worked hard to ensure that information was accessible to those with communication needs and provided information direct to others such as care homes and support groups.

**Place leadership and influencer** - Through our #ShowThemYouCare campaign, local people once again demonstrated their generosity donating biscuits, boxes of cakes and sweets and flowers, plants and treats, to brighten up the day for the people living in local residential homes. Also, many local children sent paintings, drawings, poems and letters to cheer up care home residents and local test centres.



## A BOROUGH FOR EVERYONE

Schools in Sefton remained open for vulnerable children and the children of critical workers with measures in place to protect children and staff. Through good partnership working we promoted attendance, resulting in above national average attendance for vulnerable children. As part of our work to facilitate confident and resilient communities we worked closely with schools to ensure that children and young people could continue to access education and training opportunities during the pandemic, sourcing over 1100 laptops, and that families had access to the most up to date information and advice.

The Council continued driving change and reform to improve outcomes for local people. Throughout the pandemic the Council continued to prioritise the delivery of our SEND Improvement Plan with meetings continuing remotely. This work has meant that there has been a significant improvement in a number of areas during the year including the number of Education, Health and Care Plans completed within 20 weeks and the number of reviews completed, the co-production of parent carer surveys and Planning for Adulthood information.

Throughout the year the Council, acting as broker, worked hard with partners to ensure that access to COVID testing met the needs of communities and was localised. In April 2020 Sefton brokered the very first pilot mobile testing facility for key workers with Coronavirus symptoms in Cheshire and Merseyside. Following this very successful pilot mobile testing sites were implemented in Bootle, Litherland, Maghull, Aintree, Crosby and Ainsdale. July and August 2020 saw the opening the first ever Local Testing Site facilities in Cheshire and Merseyside in Bootle and Southport. October saw two new, walk-through Local Testing Sites, at Crosby Library and Netherton Activity Centre.

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In December 2020 COVID testing was further strengthened with SMART coronavirus testing for people with no symptoms becoming available at walk-through sites, at Bootle Leisure Centre, Splash World in Southport and Aintree Racecourse.

In February 2021 the Council coordinated the surge testing operation to understand the spread of a South African variant of Covid-19 in three wards in Southport, training over 200 staff, visiting over 17,000 homes and helping to register over 8000 tests in three weeks with the support of partners and many volunteers.

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.

Throughout the pandemic we have continued to find innovative ways of delivering early help to support families in need. Three Family Wellbeing Centres remained open throughout and we also delivered online support sessions to families during lockdown. When restrictions allowed, families received the support they required in their gardens or outdoors. We created support packs and delivered these to the families that needed them in a socially distanced safe way. We changed the early intervention and prevention huddle from a physical meeting to a virtual meeting ensuring that we continued to identify individuals and families that need help and support at the earliest opportunity to ensure we put the right intervention in at the right time. Partnership working flourished, as we worked together to meet the needs of families in our communities.

We continued to support vulnerable young people who need additional support, utilising a variety of digital options such as face time and zoom which enabled regular contact through challenging times. Young people responded well to this approach and continued to engage with our services well. Some of our staff delivered outreach to families to provide bespoke support through lockdown which received excellent feedback, going forward we will continue outreach support to the families who need it most.

As part of the government's response to homelessness during the pandemic, "Everyone In", we commissioned a range of emergency accommodation to ensure that no-one slept rough and became more vulnerable to the pandemic. Our focus around homelessness remains proactive rather than reactive. We are working with key partners to identify potential homeless cases at the earliest opportunity and using a variety of approaches to prevent homelessness.

We ensured our vulnerable children and families have been supported throughout the pandemic. Social Workers have maintained contact with children and families, ensuring children were being seen and having access to advice and support when required. This has been supported by members of our partnership and close working relationship with education settings.



Adult Social Care continued to provide support to and protect the most vulnerable throughout the pandemic, and where needed undertook face-to-face visits to ensure individual welfare checks were completed and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults maintained. When day care opportunities closed, impacting on over 650 individuals across the Borough, the Adult Social Care team ensured alternative provision was put in place where needed to ensure assessed need was met. Throughout the pandemic, the team worked with providers to ensure care could be delivered to the most vulnerable safely, establishing regular meetings with providers and administering over £10 million in additional grant funding to the care sector.

In February 2021 the Government published a White Paper “Integration and Innovation: Working together to improve health and social care for all” and in response to this the Council and its partners are developing an Integrated Care Partnership in readiness for the proposed implementation of this new legislation. Integrated care happens when NHS organisations come together with Council’s, Housing, third sector and other stakeholders to meet the needs of their local residents. The Council’s Health and Wellbeing Board will be central to our local integration approach and will oversee progress. The Integrated Care Partnership will involve a wide range of partner organisations from housing, public health, the Voluntary, Community and Faith sectors as well as GP’s to deliver joined up Health and Social Care services across the whole life course to improve Health and Wellbeing outcomes for the people that live in Sefton.





# LIVING, WORKING AND HAVING FUN

The Public Health team focused on the emergency response to the Covid pandemic, whilst continuing to deliver wider public health interventions. The team, along with Council colleagues and partners in Public Health England, the NHS, schools, care homes and voluntary organisations have worked together to identify cases, manage outbreaks and prevent onward transmission of the virus. Key interventions include the development of local testing and contact tracing services, surge testing to identify possible contacts when a new variant was identified and supporting those requiring to self-isolate. The impact of Covid-19 has not been felt equally. It has exposed and exacerbated many long-standing health inequalities. Going forward Public Health will work with partners to ensure activities are aligned with efforts to promote community recovery post Covid and promote health and wellbeing for all.

Our everyday services became even more important to our residents throughout the year as we all had to stay at home more. The support for our refuse collectors was incredible as they were shown how much they are valued by our communities as they carried on throughout the pandemic. Our parks and coastline saw an incredible increase in footfall as we all appreciated the beauty on our doorstep. We responded quickly and ensured increased facilities for rubbish disposal, parking at Ainsdale and toilets were available for everyone visiting the coast. Despite this, our volunteering groups worked overtime to keep our patch beautiful. Sadly, our Cemeteries and Crematoria team have also been incredibly busy and have been supported by staff from other services which had to close.

The pandemic had a significant effect on our libraries, leisure and arts sector with our facilities closed to the public for large parts of the year. Many of our staff were temporarily redeployed, during the closures, to other critical services such as Cleansing, Green Sefton, Cemeteries and Crematoria as well as testing sites and test and trace calls. We continued to offer some Leisure activities virtually to support people with their fitness and mental wellbeing during lockdown.

Our libraries offered an online lending service, access to ancestry software as well as a select and collect service when restrictions allowed. The Atkinson continued to offer a range of innovative online exhibitions throughout the lockdown periods and this was recognised in February 2021 as the Atkinson scooped 2 awards at the Liverpool City Region Culture Awards for 2020. The Peoples Choice Award for Outstanding

Contribution to Culture as well as the Impact Award – Covid 19 Creative Response, were both suitable recognition for the work the team did during the pandemic.

Sefton was delighted to be chosen as the Liverpool City Region’s Borough of Culture for 2020. Although the COVID 19 pandemic meant that we were not able to celebrate in the way that we wanted, we adapted and delivered a wide range of alternative virtual events, such as the on-line Sefton Comedy Hub and Atkinson exhibition. We also delivered new installations such as the Red Rum wall mural in Southport and worked with partners to deliver programmes that connected communities across Sefton during the challenging period of lockdown during the year.

During the year works have started on creating a new Driving Range at Bootle Golf Course. The new range will open later in 2021, providing a great new facility in the area. In October and November 2020 we also carried out public consultation on the future vision for Southport Links Golf Course and its buildings. We received a very positive response and the feedback will help to shape the vision, future developments and management of this historic course.

During the Pandemic, whilst all attention was understandably focused on health and community impacts, we recognised the challenge of sustaining the current and future economy, a series of measures were introduced by the Planning Service which sought to facilitate investment, stimulate developer interest, simplify process, flexibly extend the life of permissions and generally operate in a manner which encouraged regeneration and development. This has led to an unprecedented uplift in the number of planning applications received, which will be implemented over the coming months.

Between November 2020 and February 2021, Sefton consulted upon revisions to policy which determines the way in which social housing is allocated to our residents. The findings of this consultation will help to inform and update ‘Property Pool Plus’ (which is the system used to match people with Social Housing and housing associations across the Liverpool City Region).

The pandemic has impacted the whole retail sector, including the Strand in Bootle, but the centre remains a vital asset for local communities, and has remained safely open throughout the year. Moreover, strategic planning and development work has continued on the future of the centre, including the acquisition and demolition of the sites between the Strand and the canal, upon which new public spaces and a food, beverage and leisure offer are being delivered.

The Council launched its wholly owned housing development company, Sandway Homes Limited, in January 2019 to help accelerate the delivery of the Local Plan target for 11,000 new homes to be created in the borough by the end of the decade, deliver high quality, policy exemplar, tenure blind developments in the areas that they are needed and to generate financial returns to invest more in core services across the borough. Despite the challenges of COVID-19, the company has made strong progress and has started construction on 2 sites with a third due to commence summer 2021 delivering nearly 150 new homes over the next 24 months.



## VISIT, EXPLORE AND ENJOY

The COVID 19 pandemic impacted significantly on the number of visitors and local people being able to enjoy our local attractions, events and cultural offer, many businesses and attractions were forced to close and events cancelled. But the events programme for the coming year is already being developed, taking account of changing restrictions, and promises to be better than ever, working with local businesses and the wider community the roadmap to recovery provides a real stimulus for Sefton to reinvigorate its visitor economy. And we are already seeing businesses returning and reopening, adapting and providing life to our High Streets and town centres, supported by the Council and our partners.

Throughout the year the development of Crosby Lakeside continued which means that many will be able to enjoy many new facilities including a new fitness suite and spin studio. These changes are part of a £3.1m scheme to transform the whole of the centre. Southport Market is being transformed into a leading food, drinks and events space, with work now underway. The market is scheduled to reopen in early summer 2021. The £1.4m scheme, which is a key enabler and an early part of Sefton Council's Covid-19 recovery plan for Southport, will see 10 new food units and a feature bar installed. This will be supported by a flexible events space able to host high-quality markets along with other events.

In March 2021 it was announced that Southport is set to receive £37.5m in government funding for a range of exciting projects across the town centre and sea front, following submission of a Town Investment Plan in October 2020. The funding will help to invest in existing attractions and the creation of new all-weather attractions in the sea front area, as well as the creation of new enterprise hubs to help attract and grow businesses in the town centre. The Town Deal will ultimately help create over 1,000 new jobs plus more than 300 construction jobs and an extra 1 million visitors per year are expected to visit.



## CLEAN, GREEN

# AND BEAUTIFUL

Sefton's coastline, an internationally protected 'nature reserve', is stunning, and we understand why people want to visit. The coast saw many visitors throughout the year, in periods of lockdown and when restrictions eased. At its peak, we saw more than 24,000 people on the beaches at any one time. In its role of **Place-leadership and influencer** the Council worked closely with partners. We developed and delivered the Coastal Visitor Action Plan, to keep Sefton's coastline safe for residents, visitors and our own employees. Sadly, not everyone demonstrated the care and commitment to our natural environment leaving tons of litter behind and causing several serious incidents of serious anti-social behaviour. In December 2020 Cabinet approved funding to support over £350,000 of improvement works at Ainsdale Beach. After a year of unprecedented demand, this investment in new permanent and semi-permanent facilities, including 'off-beach' car parking arrangements, toilets and rubbish management will ensure a better experience for residents and visitors. It will also improve safety and accessibility as well as providing vital protection to the natural environment. In anticipation of continued high visitor numbers, the Council has put in place a similar Action Plan for 2021, which builds on our experience from last year.

In December 2020 we welcomed back sheep and cattle on to the Nature Reserves at Ainsdale and Birkdale, as part of the Council's continuing conservation works, a cost effective and natural way to protect our dune system.

In September 2020, in line with its existing commitment to **cleaner and greener**, the Council approved a Climate Emergency Strategy 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.

# Agenda Item 9

In January 2020, Storm Christoph brought flooding to parts of Maghull. The Environment Agency issued severe flood warnings, with more than 400 properties considered at risk of flooding. The Council played its part in a multi-Agency response to support residents and to mitigate and avert danger, including setting up a temporary Rest Centre for those forced to evacuate their homes. In the end, only a small number of homes were flooded, but the event served to highlight the risk in this and other parts of the borough, where 1 in 7 properties are at risk of flooding. Since this incident, the Council has established a Strategic Flood Resilience Working Group, bringing together Councilors, Council officers, Environment Agency and United Utilities and has signed a Joint Statement of Intent to work together and drive investment into flood risk management in Sefton.

The last 12 months have unfortunately seen a large increase in all types of waste in the borough, as people spent more time than ever at home due to COVID restrictions. The Council dealt with more than 9000 extra tonnes of waste, with increased volumes of household refuse and recycling and a 46% increase in flytipping in rear entries and other places, all whilst our own resources were stretched by the pandemic.

The Council continues to work to improve Air Quality in the borough, including exploring the feasibility of Clean Air Zones to improve air quality in our worst affected areas. Between March and May 2020, during the early stages of Covid-19 “lockdown”, we saw traffic volumes fall by up to 50%, resulting in significant reductions in levels of NO2 and a substantial improvement in air quality. This was not a permanent improvement but does show how significant improvements would result from reduced and cleaner vehicles. In March 2021 the Council found out that its bid for £122,500 of government funding, to deliver a school’s educational project, had been successful. The project will raise awareness of Air Quality and encourage behavioural changes that will have immediate and long-term positive impacts on Air Quality in Sefton.





# ON THE MOVE

In the summer of 2020, the new slip roads at Junction 1 of the M58 opened to traffic. As well as improving journey times between Maghull and North Liverpool, 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.

The Council also delivered several other important transportation schemes, including junction improvements on the A59, Maghull; and active travel schemes such as upgrading the Southport Coast Road Cycle path, creating an all-year-round multi-use and disability-friendly path at Dibb Lane, Little Crosby, and commencing work on a new Kirkby-to-Maghull Cycle Path.

Over the course of the last year, the Council developed and agreed a business case for significant investment in street lighting across the borough. This 4-year project will see more than £12m invested to fit LED lights to all street lights and illuminated bollards, signs etc. and replace life-expired street lighting columns across the borough. This will reduce the Council’s carbon emissions by 16%; energy costs by 70% and maintenance costs by 40%. The money saved on energy will make the project self-funding.





## OPEN FOR BUSINESS

The Council has supported local businesses in many ways during the pandemic. Since the start of the Pandemic, a programme of successive nationally and locally funded grants have been administered by the Council, ploughing millions of pounds into the local Sefton economy, across the most acutely impacted sectors, supporting thousands of businesses and helping to keep tens of thousands of our population in work.

Throughout 2021, Environmental Health, Licensing and Trading Standards teams have continued to support businesses to operate safely and legally. Providing advice on existing and new Covid-related legislation and guidance, through thousands of telephone conversations and visits, working closely with other agencies such as the Health and Safety Executive and Police. We have also taken the necessary enforcement action where non-compliant businesses failed to comply with the law and placed staff and customers at risk. We quickly changed or implemented new systems to keep people trading where the law allowed them to, including adapting and maintaining licensing arrangements to keep taxis running.

A key priority for Adult Social Care and Health has been to support and protect care home residents and their staff through the last 12 months and into recovery. An virtual Care Home Hub was established early into the pandemic made up of professionals across Social Care, primary care , medication management, workforce development , public health ,community health teams in Lancashire Care and Mersey Care. We developed free training and development webinars, provided weekly guidance, responsive in reach, distributed to date just over £13m of government grant with a



further £2.6m scheduled to be distributed and coordinated Sefton's response to PPE, including the supply of free equipment and training and guidance on its use.

All Social Care providers continue to be supported through the pandemic recovery and new ways of working and supporting vulnerable residents of Sefton have emerged such as an increase in personalised care and support on a 1:1 basis and creative ways of keeping in touch with people who need social care in our communities.

The Council's own Strategic Growth Programme demonstrates leadership through investment and action, as we see key developments such as the refurbishment of Crosby Lakeside, Southport market, refurbishment of Sefton Adult and Community Learning's Cambridge Road Seaforth, all progressing on site and scheduled for completion this summer. But alongside these, there are many major housing schemes which have been supported that provide investment into infrastructure, jobs and training for local people, supply opportunities for local businesses, and providing a quality and mix of housing types and tenures throughout the Borough. Support has also been provided for a number of key town centre developments, major tourism attractions, and to existing businesses. Further Council investments are in the pipeline, with a major canal side attraction in Bootle, public realm and enterprise investments as part of Southport town deal, and bids for Government's Levelling Up Funding for our town centres are being progressed.





**READY FOR**

# THE FUTURE

The Council supports its workforce to develop and this year saw 18 new apprentices employed and a further 58 members of the Council's workforce take up the opportunity to take up an apprenticeship. The inaugural North West finals of the National Apprenticeship awards saw our digital marketing apprentice highly commended as an advanced level Apprentice. The digital marketing apprenticeship develops skills in social media, improving people's access to websites and making them easy to navigate. 2021 will see us make further improvements to the Council website and continue to develop the Local Offer.

In December 2020, Sefton's Kickstart Gateway Organisation status was confirmed. The Kickstart scheme provides funding to create new jobs for 16 to 24-year olds on Universal Credit and who are at risk of long-term unemployment. This allows the Council - both as an employer but also working with the business community - to facilitate access to employment, and to act as a job brokerage and employability support services via its Sefton@Work team. In addition, the Council is also involved in the local set up of the government's 'Restart Scheme', whereby the Council will work alongside DWP in delivering this employment initiatives to support individuals (who have spent between 12 and 18 months claiming Universal Credit) to return to sustained employment in the Intensive Work Search Regime.

Our IT transformation programme continued, with much of the work focused on improving our ability to improve agile working and this work has enabled many Council staff to work from home during the COVID 19 pandemic and for many democratic meetings to take place remotely. These changes included the procurement and deployment of a cloud-based contact centre software, within ten days, the new 'cloud contact centre' was up and running and 40 staff were able to work-from-home taking

and making calls. This enabled vital Council services to continue and meant people who were shielding across Sefton could access much-needed support.

During the year plans have also been put in place to procure and deploy telephony and bulk print and mail solutions.

In February 2021 Cabinet approved the Digital Strategy an overarching plan which articulates the Council's ambitions and is based on key priorities identified within the 2030 Vision for Sefton. Working with our partners the Council will develop approaches that will see our communities and businesses benefit from new digital technologies that keep people informed and connected.

As a result of the pandemic, Cabinet received monthly reports throughout the year that detailed performance against the Council's approved budget, however in light of the financial pressures that were presented by COVID 19 both in terms of impact on Council expenditure but just as importantly the impact on income sources including Council tax and Business rates and extensive supplementary commentary and risk analysis was also contained. These reports included detail of engagement with government departments and those grant and support schemes that the council administered to support residents and local businesses.

These monthly reports supported the Council in not only managing the in-year budget but also the development of the 2021/22 budget that was subsequently approved by Council in March 2021.

In 2020/21 the Council spent £25.9m on its Capital Programme, investing both in the development and improvement of our highways, schools amongst many other areas.

At Cabinet in January 2020, Members agree the first phase of the Council's Asset Disposal Strategy. The work undertaken on the back of this was further reported to Cabinet in 2020/21 and capital receipts from this programme are due to be received from 2021/22.

The census survey takes place every 10 years and gives us the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in our area. The information from the census helps us to understand need, develop policies and plan for the future. It is important that local people complete and return their census, because without a complete picture we will have gaps in the data that enables the Council to make decisions. Getting the best possible response rates for the census will make sure that decisions are based on accurate, high-quality data.

Our Business Intelligence and Corporate Communications Teams, worked closely with the National Census 2021 team, launching a wide-reaching marketing communications campaign to raise awareness of the census, highlight the importance of the census and explain why and how people should take part; through public and media relations, and adverts targeted at both the general population, and others addressing the needs of specific groups, such as students, older people, or people who may not speak English as their first language.

# FOCUS ON DELIVERY

Over **1000** more volunteers to support our communities



Over **24,305**

Shielding



**1,735**

Emergency Food Parcels have been delivered locally



**32,427**

welfare calls have been made in total to local those people shielding in Sefton



**£44.36m**

business grants to

**3713**

businesses



**1<sup>st</sup>**

Mobile test unit in Cheshire and Merseyside



Over **650**

planning decisions and applications have been made



**223**

complaints dealt with by Trading Standards and Environmental Health



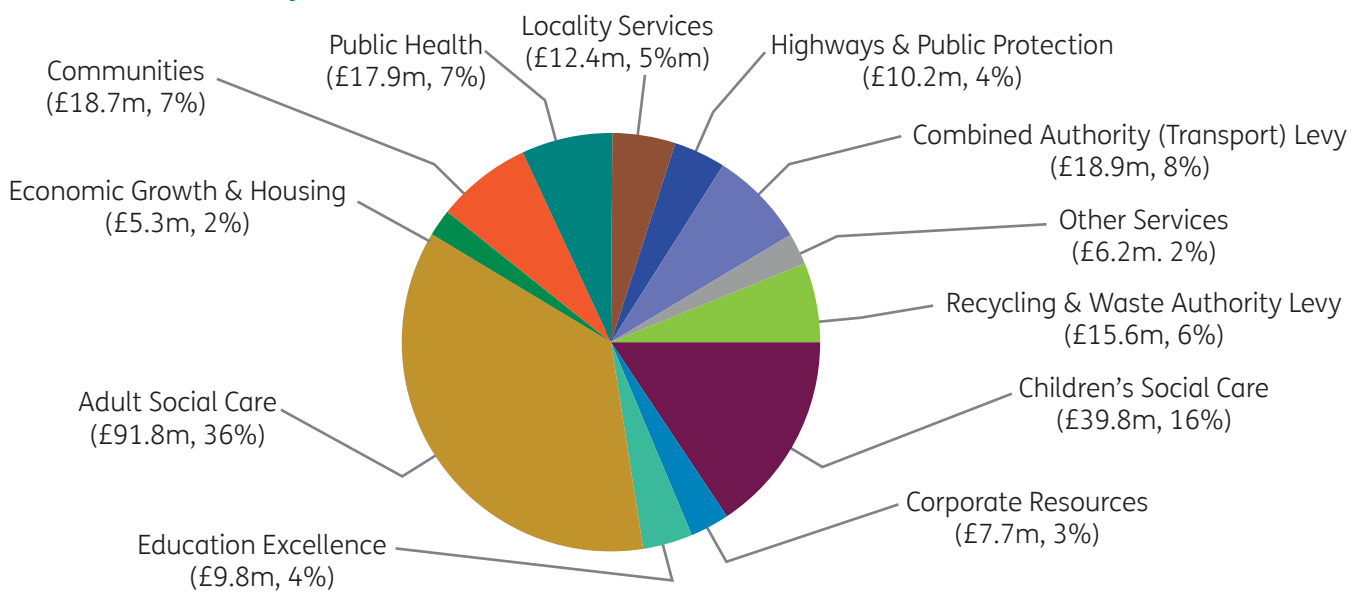
**15%**

increase in the amount of recycling collected

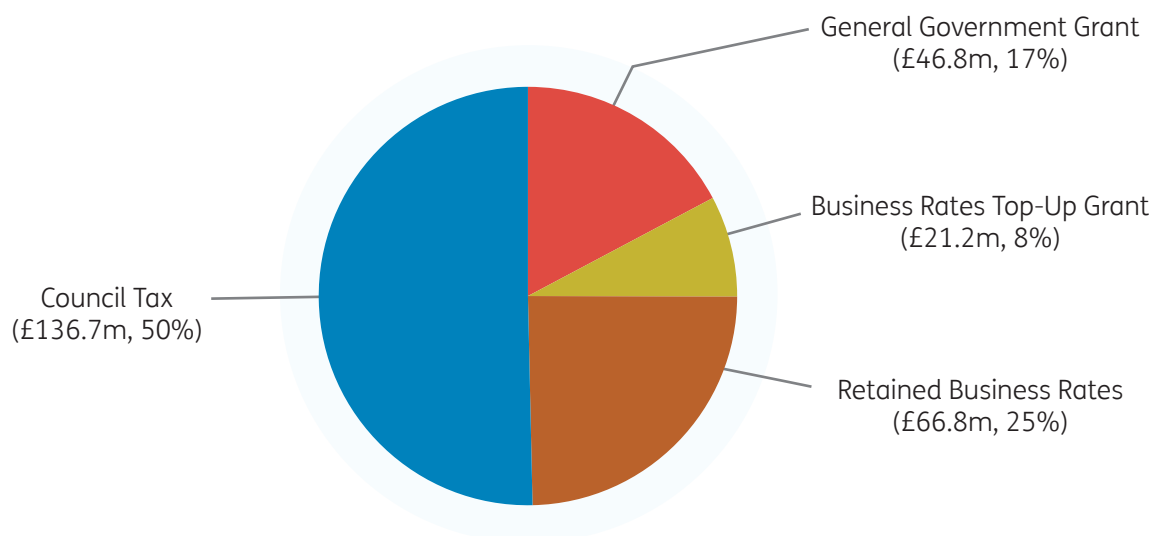


# FOCUS ON PERFORMANCE

## Service Expenditure 2020/2021



## Sources of Funding for 2020/2021 Budget Requirement



# Agenda Item 9

## Children's Social Care

During the year demand pressures continued to increase in Children's Social Care. The pandemic has had an impact on the number of adoptions and foster carers, the Council is currently developing an Improvement Plan.

Looked After Children Rate per 10,000 Population	
Sefton 19/20	105
Sefton 20/21	114.5
National 19/20	67

Child Protection Plans Rate per 10,000 Population	
Sefton 19/20	48
Sefton 20/21	46.6
National 19/20	43

Children in Need (Rate per 10,000 Population)	
Sefton 19/20	420
Sefton 20/21	427
National 19/20	324

Percentage of Looked After Children Adopted	
Sefton 19/20	13%
Sefton 20/21	7%

Number of Foster Carers	
Sefton 19/20	123
Sefton 20/21	73

## Special Educational Needs & Disabilities

The SEND Continuous Improvement Board has overseen significant progress this year and the Council is now in line with national averages

Education Health & Care % Plans Issues within 20 Weeks	
Sefton 19/20	23%
Sefton 20/21	67%

## Early Help

The early help offer see the Council working with partners, communities and families to provide effective early help. The pandemic impacted this area of work as the Council and partners were unable to carry out some interventions due to restrictions. Up to the end of November claims were 30% lower compared to the same period last year, however in November the numbers started to increase and the trend continues.

Early Help Number of Episodes Started	
Sefton 19/20	<b>3,910</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>4,299</b>

Early Help Percent Re-referred in Year	
Sefton 19/20	<b>20%</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>12%</b>

Early Help Percent Ended 'Aim Achieved'	
Sefton 19/20	<b>19%</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>18%</b>

Troubled Families Families Turned Around	
Sefton 19/20	<b>953</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>357</b>

Troubled Families Turn Around Funding	
Sefton 19/20	<b>1.7m</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>0.285m</b>

Youth Offending First Time Entrants	
Sefton 19/20	<b>41</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>17</b>

Youth Offending Custodial Remands	
Sefton 19/20	<b>1</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>0</b>

Youth Offending Custodial Sentences	
Sefton 19/20	<b>1</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>0</b>

Initially during the pandemic reporting of domestic abuse incidents to the police fell but as restrictions eased more people came forward to ask for support. The Council worked with partners throughout to ensure that access to support remained available throughout the pandemic. The Council also secured additional funding and is currently recruiting three more independent domestic violence advisors.

Domestic Abuse Police Recorded Incidents	
Sefton 19/20	<b>4,360</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>4,552</b>

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As part of the government's response to homelessness during the pandemic, "Everyone In", we commissioned a range of emergency accommodation to ensure that no-one slept rough and became more vulnerable to the pandemic.

<b>Homelessness</b>	
<b>Number of New Cases</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>1,796</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>1,126</b>

Adult Social Care continued to provide support to and protect the most vulnerable throughout the pandemic, and where needed undertook face-to-face visits to ensure individual welfare checks were completed and the safeguarding of vulnerable adults maintained.

<b>Adult Social Care</b>	
<b>Percent of Contacts Signposted</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>14%</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>23%</b>

<b>Adults in Social Care</b>	
<b>Clients in Long Term Care</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>4,474</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>4,166</b>

<b>Local Welfare Scheme</b>	
<b>Applications Receiveds</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>8,954</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>7,226</b>

<b>Local Welfare Scheme</b>	
<b>Awards Made</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>6,113</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>5075</b>

<b>Local Welfare Scheme</b>	
<b>Expenditure £000s</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>467</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>395</b>

<b>Unemployment Rate</b>	
<b>ONS Modelled Rate</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>3.4%</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>4.3%</b>
Northwest 20/21	<b>4.2%</b>



## Leisure and Libraries

The pandemic had a significant effect on our libraries, leisure and arts sector with our facilities closed to the public for large parts of the year.

Library Visits Average Per Month (000s)	
Sefton 19/20	<b>72.9</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>7.3</b>
20/21 Excludes March	

Library Computer Use Average Per Month (000s)	
Sefton 19/20	<b>9.2</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>0.6</b>
20/21 Excludes March	

Library Loans Average Per Month (000s)	
Sefton 19/20	<b>62.7</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>19.2</b>
20/21 Excludes March	

## Tourism

The tourism sector as a whole has been adversely impacted and will take sometime to fully recover, recovery plans are being put into place to ensure the sector returns to 2019 levels within the next two years. As part of the recovery Sefton have secured £37.5m from The Town Deal, one of the major projects will see a new Events Centre built in Southport capable of hold entertainment events, conferences and E-sports event and will be pivotal to Sefton's recovery.

Day Visitors Millions	
Sefton 19/20	<b>8.4</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>3.3</b>

Tourism Economic impact £ Millions	
Sefton 19/20	<b>597</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>258</b>

Total Tourism Employment Numbers	
Sefton 19/20	<b>850</b>
Sefton 20/21	

Staying Visitors (000s)	
Sefton 19/20	<b>759</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>350</b>

# Agenda Item 9

## Highways

The Council maintains over 600 miles of roads.

Lighting Faults Fixed within 5 Days	
Sefton 19/20	5,693
Sefton 20/21	5,263

Highway Maintenance Percentage of All Pickups	
Sefton 19/20	6,834
Sefton 20/21	6,330

Weed Spraying Spend 000s	
Sefton 19/20	135
Sefton 20/21	325

Highway Defect Repairs Numbers undertaken	
Sefton 19/20	11,375
Sefton 20/21	10,389

Gritting Spend in £000s	
Sefton 19/20	856
Sefton 20/21	1,182

## Waste

Waste services continued throughout the pandemic. Unfortunately the level of fly tipping increased throughout the year

Waste Recycled / Reused Percentage	
Sefton 19/20	34%
Sefton 20/21	35%

Residual Waste 000s of Tonnes	
Sefton 19/20	73
Sefton 20/21	81

Fly Tipping Clearance Costs £000s	
Sefton 19/20	304
Sefton 20/21	315

Bins Not Emptied Percentage of All Pickups	
Sefton 19/20	0.12%
Sefton 20/21	0.15%

Total Bin Pickups Millions	
Sefton 19/20	7.8
Sefton 20/21	7.6*

## Planning

A series of measures were introduced by the Planning Service which sought to facilitate investment, stimulate developer interest, simplify process, flexibly extend the life of permissions and generally operate in a manner which encouraged regeneration and development. This has led to an unprecedented uplift in the number of planning applications received, which will be implemented over the coming months.

<b>Planning Applications</b>	
<b>Major Determined on Target</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>90%</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>78%</b>

<b>Planning Applications</b>	
<b>Minor Determined on Target</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>91%</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>85%</b>

<b>Planning Applications</b>	
<b>Plan Checks on Target</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>100%</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>91%</b>

<b>New Homes</b>	
<b>Granted Planning Permission</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>1,088</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>1,654</b>

<b>New Homes</b>	
<b>Granted Planning Permission</b>	
Sefton 19/20	<b>736</b>
Sefton 20/21	<b>476</b>

# Agenda Item 9

## Council Tax & Business Rates

The Council's financial model relies on income in respect of business rates and councils tax and the council has an excellent performance record in collection which means key services to residents can be delivered- during the year both of these sources came under pressure as businesses were forced to close or operate at reduced capacity meaning their income was lower and residents were faced with financial challenges caused by the pandemic- as a result these income sources were lower in year as set out. The council has engaged with residents and business throughout the year to offer support and some government support has been made available to the council to alleviate an element of the impact with the collection of outstanding balances continuing into 2021/22

Council Tax £ millions		
	Collected	Target
19/20	154.8	155.8
20/21	157.7	160.1

Business Rates £ millions		
	Collected	Target
19/20	70.8	71.0
20/21	31.9	32.7



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<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Cabinet</b>	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Treasury Management Outturn 2020/21		
<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 outturn report provides Members with a review of the Treasury Management activities undertaken to 31st March 2021. Cabinet receives this outturn report to allow monitoring against the Treasury Management Policy & Strategy and Prudential Indicators approved by Cabinet and Council in February 2020. This report is also provided to Audit & Governance Committee, whose role it is to carry out scrutiny of treasury management policies and practices.

**Recommendation(s):**

Members are requested to note the Treasury Management position to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and the update to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021, to review the effects of decisions taken in pursuit of the Treasury Management Strategy and to consider the implications of changes resulting from regulatory, economic and market factors affecting the Council's treasury management activities.

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

To ensure that Members are fully apprised of the treasury activity undertaken to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 in order to meet the reporting requirements set out in Sefton's Treasury Management Practices and those recommended by the CIPFA code.

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

N/A

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

**(A) Revenue Costs**  
None

**(B) Capital Costs**  
None

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## Implications of the Proposals:

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b> A shortfall in investment income has been experienced for 2020/21 financial year and is expected to continue into 2021/22 due to prevailing market conditions.</p>									
<p><b>Legal Implications:</b> The Council has a statutory duty under the Local Government Act 2003 to review its Prudential Indicators and Treasury Management Activities.</p>									
<p><b>Equality Implications:</b> There are no equality implications.</p>									
<p><b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b></p> <p>The recommendations within this report will</p> <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Have a positive impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a neutral impact</td> <td>Y</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Have a negative impact</td> <td>N</td> </tr> <tr> <td>The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors</td> <td>N</td> </tr> </table> <p>The Council has during 2020/21, invested its reserves and balances overnight with either banks or money market funds in order to maintain high security and liquidity of such balances. It has not had the opportunity to invest in longer term financial instruments or investment funds for which there may be a chance to consider the impact on the Council's Climate Emergency motion.</p> <p>In the event that the Council has more surplus balances available in future that may lead to longer term investing, the Council will take account of the climate emergency when discussing the options available with the Treasury Management Advisors.</p>		Have a positive impact	N	Have a neutral impact	Y	Have a negative impact	N	The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N
Have a positive impact	N								
Have a neutral impact	Y								
Have a negative impact	N								
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N								

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: n/a
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: n/a
Commission, broker and provide core services: n/a
Place – leadership and influencer: Good treasury management supports strategic planning and promotes innovative, affordable and sustainable capital investment projects through application of the CIPFA Prudential Code.
Drivers of change and reform: The Treasury Management function ensures that cash flow is adequately planned, and cash is available when needed by the Council for improvements to the borough through its service provision and the Capital Programme.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: Pursuit of optimum performance on investments activities and minimising the cost of borrowing and the effective



management of the associated risk continues to contribute to a balanced budget for the Council.
Greater income for social investment: n/a
Cleaner Greener: n/a

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

### **(A) Internal Consultations**

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 6447/21) is the author of the report.

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 4648/21) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### **(B) External Consultations**

The Council's external Treasury Management Advisors: Arlingclose have provided advice with regards to Treasury Management activities undertaken during the financial year.

## **Implementation Date for the Decision**

Immediately following the meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Graham Hussey
Telephone Number:	0151 934 4100
Email Address:	Graham.Hussey@sefton.gov.uk

## **Appendices:**

None

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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## BACKGROUND:

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1. The CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities (The Prudential Code) was introduced following the Local Government Act 2003. The Prudential Code details a number of measures / limits / parameters (Prudential Indicators) that, to comply with legislation, must be set in respect of each financial year to ensure that the Council is acting prudently and that its capital expenditure proposals are affordable.
- 1.2. A requirement of the Prudential Code is the reporting to Cabinet and Full Council of the outturn position of indicators following the end of the financial year. In accordance with this requirement, this report outlines the 2020/21 outturn for the following Prudential Indicators:-
  - i. Capital Expenditure (Section 2);
  - ii. Capital Financing Requirement (Section 3.1);
  - iii. Gross Debt and the CFR (Section 3.2);
  - iv. Borrowing Limits (Section 3.3);
  - v. Financing Costs as a proportion of Net Revenue Stream (Section 3.4);
  - vi. Treasury Management Indicators (Section 6).
- 1.3. The Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Statements are agreed annually by the Council as part of the budget process. A requirement of the Policy Statement is the reporting to Cabinet and Full Council of the results of the Council's treasury management activities in the previous year. Treasury management in this context is defined as:

*'The management of the authority's cash flows, its banking, money market and capital market transactions; the effective control of the risks associated with those activities; and the pursuit of optimum performance consistent with those risks.'*
- 1.4. In accordance with the above this report outlines the results of treasury management activities undertaken in 2020/21 covering the following issues:
  - borrowing strategy and practice
  - compliance with Treasury Limits
  - compliance with Prudential Indicators
  - investment strategy and practice.
- 1.5. The Council's Treasury Management activities have been under significant pressure throughout 2020/21 as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. At the onset of the crisis the exact impact was unknown although it soon became clear that pro-active management and in particular the management of cash balances was key to ensuring cash was available in response to exceptional need. The cash position was reported to the MHCLG to ensure the Council could continue to operate effectively and had significant balances available for grant awards and payments to support residents and local business.
- 1.6. The results of treasury management activities in 2020/21 are reflected in the net expenditure on Capital Financing Costs included within the Council's Revenue

Budget. The Capital Programme is also agreed annually as part of the budget process. It sets out the anticipated capital expenditure to be incurred within the year.

## 2. Capital Expenditure

- 2.1. The original estimate for 2020/21 expenditure together with the actual capital expenditure calculated on an accruals basis for the financial year is as follows:

	<b>Estimate £m</b>	<b>Actual £m</b>
<b>Capital Expenditure</b>	<b>56.817</b>	<b>26.203</b>

- 2.2. Capital expenditure in 2020/21 was £30.614m less than the original estimate reported in February 2020. The Council has therefore remained within the limits for expenditure set at the start of the year. The variation is due to the phasing of capital budgets and grant allocations to future years. These adjustments were approved by Cabinet and Council as part of the monthly budget monitoring for the capital programme during 2020/21.
- 2.3. A full report on capital expenditure and the out-turn position for 2020/21 can be found in the separate Financial and Corporate Performance report also presented at this meeting.

## 3. The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

### 3.1. Capital Financing Requirement

- 3.1.1. The Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) reflects the Authority's underlying need to borrow for capital purposes and is based on historic capital financing decisions and the borrowing requirement arising from the financing of actual capital expenditure incurred in 2020/21.
- 3.1.2. The Council is currently internally borrowed meaning it temporarily uses its own cash balances to fund some capital schemes instead of external borrowing, a strategy which saves the cost of interest payments on loans. This reflects the current national low interest rates for investment of cash balances and the need to find savings for the revenue budget.
- 3.1.3. The actual level of Capital Financing Requirement as at 31 March 2021 compared to the initial estimate for 2020/21 is as follows:

	<b>Estimate £m</b>	<b>Actual £m</b>
<b>Capital Financing Requirement</b>	<b>239.544</b>	<b>230.150</b>

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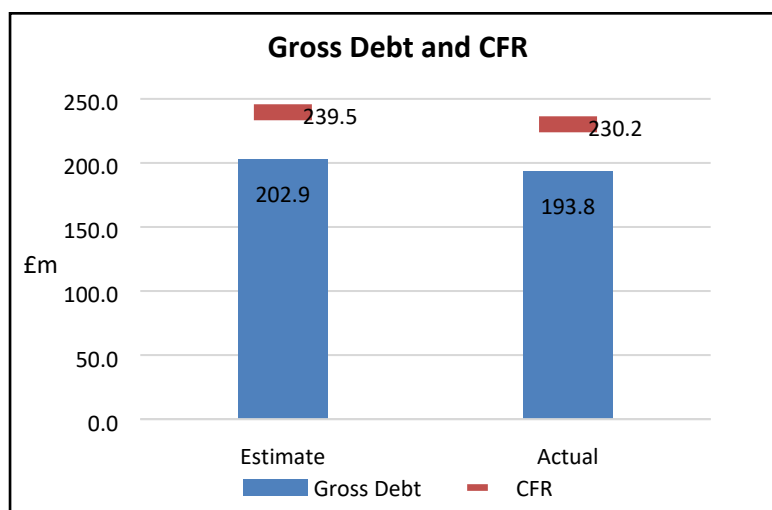
3.1.4. As mentioned in paragraph 2.2 (above), the level of capital expenditure for 2020/21 was less than anticipated and therefore the requirement for the financing of this expenditure is also lower.

## 3.2. Gross Debt and the CFR

3.2.1. CIPFA's Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities includes the following statement as a key factor of prudence:

*"In order to ensure that over the medium-term debt will only be for a capital purpose, the local authority should ensure that debt does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of capital financing requirement in the preceding year plus the estimates of any additional capital financing requirement for the current and next two financial years."*

3.2.2. In the report to Cabinet in February 2020, it was stated that the Authority would comply with this requirement in 2020/21. During the financial year, gross external borrowing did not exceed the total of the Capital Financing Requirement. The chart below shows the out-turn position compared to the original estimate:



## 3.3. Borrowing Limits

	2020/21 £m
<b>Authorised limit</b>	<b>249.000</b>
<b>Operational boundary</b>	<b>239.000</b>
<b>Maximum Gross Borrowing Position</b>	<b>212.492</b>

3.3.1. The Operational Boundary sets a boundary on the total amount of long term borrowing that the Council should enter into. It reflects an estimate of the Authority's current commitments, existing capital expenditure plans, and is consistent with its approved Treasury Management Policy Statement and practices.

3.3.2. The Authorised Limit sets a limit on the amount of external borrowing (both short and long term) that the Council can enter into. It uses the Operational Boundary as its base but also includes additional headroom to allow for exceptional cash movements.

3.3.3. The Maximum Gross Borrowing Position shows the highest level of actual borrowing undertaken during 2020/21 financial year. This level remained within the Operational Boundary and did not exceed the Authorised limit.

#### 3.4. Financing Costs as a Proportion of Net Revenue Stream

3.4.1. This indicator measures the financing costs of capital expenditure as a proportion of the net resource expenditure of the General Fund.

	<b>Estimate 2020/21</b>	<b>Actual 2020/21</b>
<b>Financing Costs / Net Revenue</b>	<b>4.1%</b>	<b>4.2%</b>

3.4.2. The overall ratio is slightly higher than the original estimate by 0.01%. There has been a reduction in the Council's revenue streams over 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 crisis, the full impact of which is subject to a separate report presented to Cabinet and Council on a regular basis. The above variance is considered minor and financing costs for 2020/21 remain at affordable levels with the total borrowing requirement remaining below the operational boundary set at the beginning of the year.

## 4. Borrowing Strategy and Practice

4.1. The Council's debt portfolio at the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and a comparison to the position at the end of last financial year is summarised as follows:

<b>Actual Debt Outstanding</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2020 £m</b>	<b>31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 £m</b>
Public Works Loans Board	162.674	185.434
Other Long-Term Liabilities	9.274	8.355
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>171.948</b>	<b>193.789</b>

4.2. The category of other long-term liabilities represents transferred debt from the Merseyside Residuary Body (£2.188m) and finance lease liabilities (£6.167m).

4.3. The Council's PWLB debt activity during 2020/21 is summarised in the following table:

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<b>Movement in Year</b>	<b>Actual £m</b>
PWLB opening debt 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2020	162.674
Less principal repayments	(20.801)
Add new borrowing	43.561
<b>Closing PWLB debt 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020</b>	<b>185.434</b>

- 4.4. The policy of internally borrowing, running down the Authority's cash balances rather than taking out new borrowing, continued with regards to the Capital Programme in 2020/21 as no new expenditure was financed from external borrowing. The Council did however, opt to make an up-front payment to Merseyside Pension Fund (£43.561m) funded from borrowing. This was approved by Budget Council on 27<sup>th</sup> February 2020.
- 4.5. The Merseyside Pension Fund offered the Council the opportunity to prepay (in April 2020) a proportion of the total expected contributions for the three-year valuation period at a discount. The Council has previously taken a similar opportunity at the start of the last two valuation periods. Officers discussed the proposal with both the Merseyside Pension Fund and the Council's external auditors.
- 4.6. The borrowing will be repaid across the three years of the valuation period, funded by the Council making significantly reduced payments the Merseyside Pension Fund each month during the period. After allowing for these borrowing costs, as stated, this will generate a significant net saving to the Council.
- 4.7. The average rate of interest on Council loans with the Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) in 2020/21 and a comparison to the previous year is shown below:

	<b>2019/20</b>	<b>2020/21</b>
<b>Average PWLB Interest Rate in Year</b>	<b>3.94%</b>	<b>3.54%</b>

- 4.8. The reduction in the average rate of interest from 2019/20 to 2020/21 is due to new borrowing being undertaken at significantly lower rates when compared to historic loans within the portfolio that were taken out when rates were much higher.

## **5. Debt Maturity Profile**

- 5.1. This is a profile measuring the amount of borrowing that is fixed rate maturing in each period as a percentage of total borrowing that is fixed rate:

<b>Fixed Rate Debt Maturity</b>	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Lower Limit</b>	<b>Actual 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021</b>
<b>Under 12 months</b>	35%	0%	<b>13%</b>
<b>12 months and within 24 months</b>	40%	0%	<b>9%</b>
<b>24 months and within 5 years</b>	40%	0%	<b>22%</b>
<b>5 years and within 10 years</b>	40%	0%	<b>11%</b>
<b>10 years and within 15 years</b>	40%	0%	<b>12%</b>
<b>15 years and above</b>	90%	30%	<b>33%</b>

5.2. The spread of debt across the various maturity periods shows how the authority has acted prudently and controlled its exposure to refinancing risk by not having overly large amounts of debt concentrated in one period, especially those in the shorter term.

## **6. Compliance with Treasury Limits**

6.1. The following Treasury Limits were approved by Council during the 2020/21 Budget Setting process:

### **6.1.1 Borrowing Limits**

	<b>Limit £m</b>	<b>Maximum Borrowing 2020/21 £m</b>
<b>Authorised Borrowing Limit</b>	249.000	<b>212.492</b>
<b>Short Term Borrowing Limit</b>	30.0	<b>0.0</b>
<b>Proportion of external borrowing subject to variable interest rates</b>	20%	<b>0%</b>

### **6.1.2 Investment Limits**

	<b>Upper Limit</b>	<b>Maximum Invested 2020/21</b>
<b>Principle sums invested for longer than 365 days</b>	40%	<b>8%</b>

6.2. The amounts above show the maximum amounts borrowed or invested during the year compared to the limits set. The council therefore remained within the limits for borrowing and investments set for the year and no short term borrowing or borrowing subject to variable rates was undertaken.

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## 7. Investment Strategy and Practice

7.1. The Council invests all available cash balances, which includes school balances and the insurance fund, following a policy of obtaining maximum returns whilst minimising risks.

i. **Externally Managed Investments**

No externally managed funds are held.

ii. **Internally Managed Investments**

The Council's available funds during the year averaged £88.01m and were managed internally with advice from our treasury consultants.

7.2. The level of the Council's investments during 2020/21 and comparable figures from the previous year are summarised in the following table:

	2019/20	2020/21
<b>Total Investment of Cash Balances at year end</b>	£42.36m	£70.26m
<b>Average Investment Balance during the year</b>	£30.37m	£88.01m
<b>Average Return on Investments</b>	1.41%	0.36%

7.3. In 2020/21 a weighted average return of 0.36% was achieved. This is more than the benchmark 7-day LIBID figure of -0.08% and is considered to be an acceptable return. The majority of the funds are invested with major banks and Money Market Funds (MMF's), with the remaining balance of £5m invested with the CCLA Property Fund. The return of 0.36% can be disaggregated into a return of 0.10% on bank and MMF investments, whilst 3.85% was returned by the CCLA investment.

7.4. Following the cut in Bank rate from 0.75% to 0.10% in March 2020, the Council had expected to receive significantly lower income from its cash and short-dated money market investments, including money market funds in 2020/21, as rates on cash investments are close to zero percent. Whilst the arrival and approval of vaccines against COVID-19 and the removal of Brexit uncertainty that had weighed on UK equities were encouraging developments, dividend and income distribution was dependent on company earnings in a very challenging and uncertain trading environment as well as enforced cuts or deferral required by regulatory authorities.

7.5. These external economic factors have therefore impacted the actual performance of investments that have under-achieved against the total budget for 2020/21 as follows:

<b>Budget Profile</b>	<b>Budget £m</b>	<b>Actual £m</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>
<b>Outturn 2020/21</b>	0.415	0.313	0.102



## 8. Treasury Position for 2021/22 – Update to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021

### 8.1. Investments Held

8.1.1. Investments held to 31<sup>st</sup> May 2021 comprise to the following:

Institution	Deposit £m	Rate %	Maturity	Rating
<b>Money Market Funds:</b>				
Aberdeen	10.86	0.01	01.06.21	AAA
Aviva	10.86	0.01	01.06.21	AAA
Blackrock	10.86	0.01	01.06.21	AAA
BNP Paribas	10.86	0.02	01.06.21	AAA
Goldman-Sachs	1.54	0.00	01.06.21	AAA
HSBC	4.28	0.00	01.06.21	AAA
Invesco	10.86	0.01	01.06.21	AAA
Morgan Stanley	10.86	0.03	01.06.21	AAA
Federated	10.46	0.01	01.06.21	AAA
Insight	6.36	0.00	01.06.21	AAA
Total	87.80			
<b>Deposit Accounts:</b>				
Bank of Scotland	2.23	0.01	01.06.21	A+
Natwest SIBA	2.43	0.01	01.06.21	A+
Santander	2.23	0.08	01.06.21	A+
Total	6.89			
<b>Notice Accounts:</b>				
Lloyds	3.00	0.03	32 days	A+
Natwest	3.00	0.10	35 days	A+
Santander	3.00	0.15	35 days	A+
Total	9.00			
<b>Property Fund:</b>				
CCLA	5.00	4.21	n/a	n/a
Total	5.00			
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>108.69</b>			

8.1.2. The Authority holds significant invested funds, representing grant income received in advance of expenditure plus balances and reserves held. The cash is initially held in a number of highly liquid Money Market Funds to ensure security of the funds until they are required to be paid out. This approach is consistent with the Council's approved Treasury Management Policy and Strategy for 2021/22. The balance of investments is therefore expected to fall over the coming months as the income is fully expended.

8.1.3. All of the investments made since April 2021 have been with organisations on the current counterparty list. The maximum level of investment permitted in the

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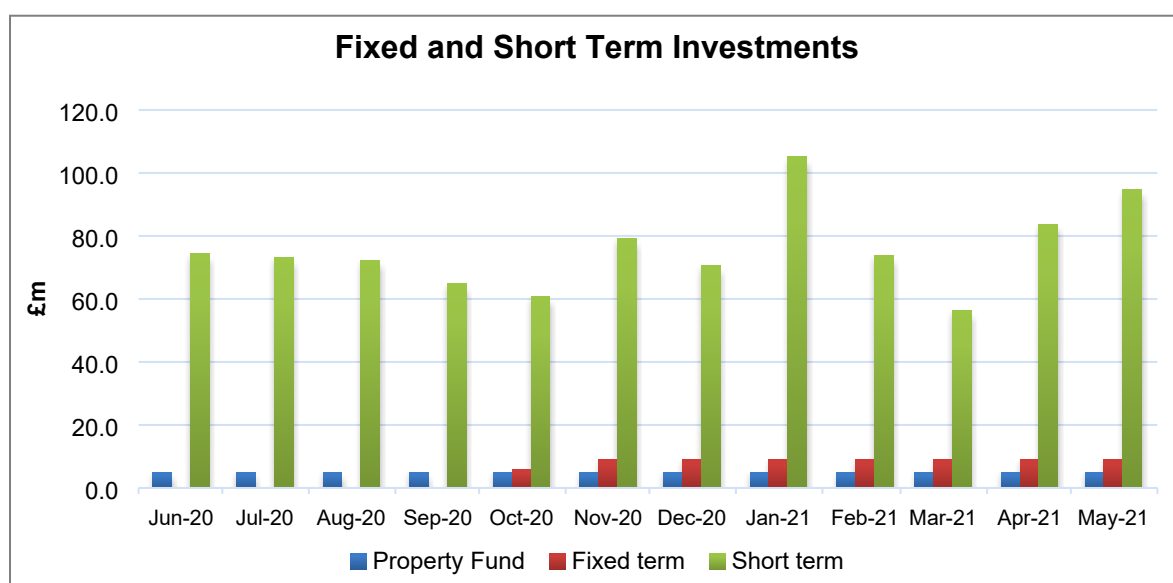
Treasury Management Strategy in any one institution, or banking group, is currently £15m. Whilst the maximum should be retained, in light of current economic conditions, a day to day operational maximum of 10% of the total portfolio is currently being imposed for investments. This will spread the risk for the Council but will have a small detrimental impact on the returns the Council will receive in the future. The Council has remained within that boundary during the year. At present, it is not expected that there will be any need to review this limit.

8.1.4. The Council will only invest in institutions that hold a minimum Fitch rating of A- for banking institutions, or AAA for money market funds. The ratings applied to investment grade institutions, and the much riskier speculative grade institutions, as defined by Fitch, have been placed into a risk matrix (paragraph 8.1.8.).

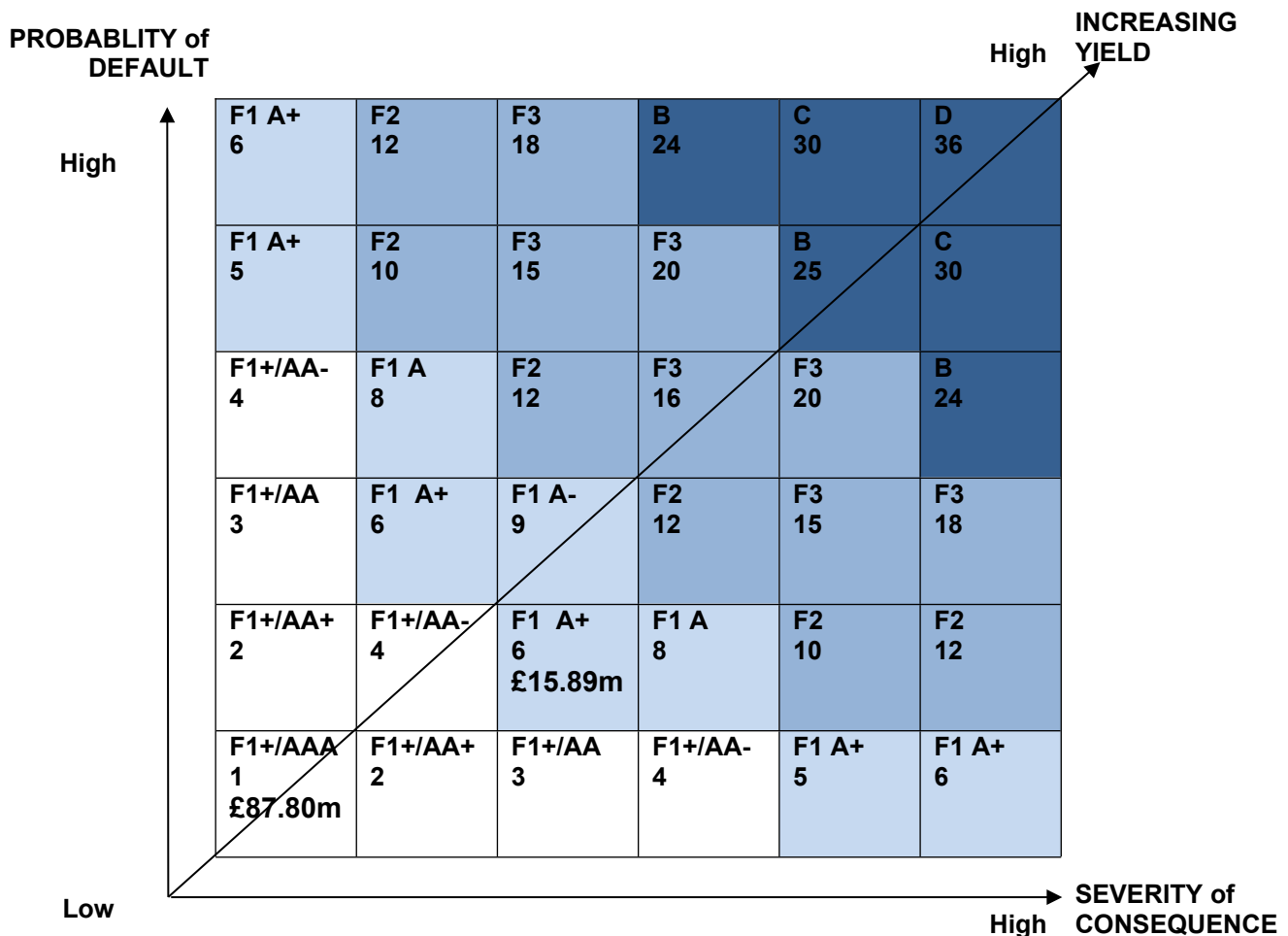
8.1.5. An investment has been made with the Church, Charities and Local Authority Investment Fund (CCLA) in June 2014. CCLA invest in commercial property which is rented out to enterprises such as retail units, warehousing, and offices. The majority of properties owned are in the south of the country where the market is often more buoyant than the north. The Council has in effect bought a share of the property portfolio and returns paid are in the region of 4%. This is seen as a long-term investment with the potential for the capital value of the investment to vary as property prices fluctuate.

8.1.6. The Net Asset Value (NAV) of the Property Fund has increased over a 12-month period to May 2021 from 283.97p per unit to 299.70p per unit, an increase of 5.5%. The yield on the Property fund at the end of May 2021 was 4.21% which is consistent with returns received in the past.

8.1.7. The ratio of overnight deposits (short term) to fixed term investments and the property fund is shown below:



8.1.8. The matrix below shows how the Council has set its risk appetite by being risk averse and putting security and liquidity before yield when investing:



**SEFTON RISK TOLERANCE:**

Risk Level	Score	Grade	Amount Invested
LOW	1 - 4	Investment Grade	£87.80m
LOW - MEDIUM	5 - 9	Investment Grade	£15.89m
MEDIUM	10 - 20	Investment Grade	£0
HIGH	21 - 36	Speculative Grade	£0

8.1.9. The Council will continue to maximise any investment opportunities as they arise, but in light of current economic conditions and low investment yields it is not envisaged that any substantial increase in returns can be achieved for the remainder of the current financial year. Cash balances available for investment will be held in overnight deposits to allow the Council to respond to any exceptional demands for cash as they arise. The possibility for making long term deposits will be reviewed once economic conditions improve.

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## 8.2. Interest Earned

8.2.1. The actual performance of investments against the profiled budget to the end of May 2021 and the forecast performance of investments against total budget at year end is shown below:

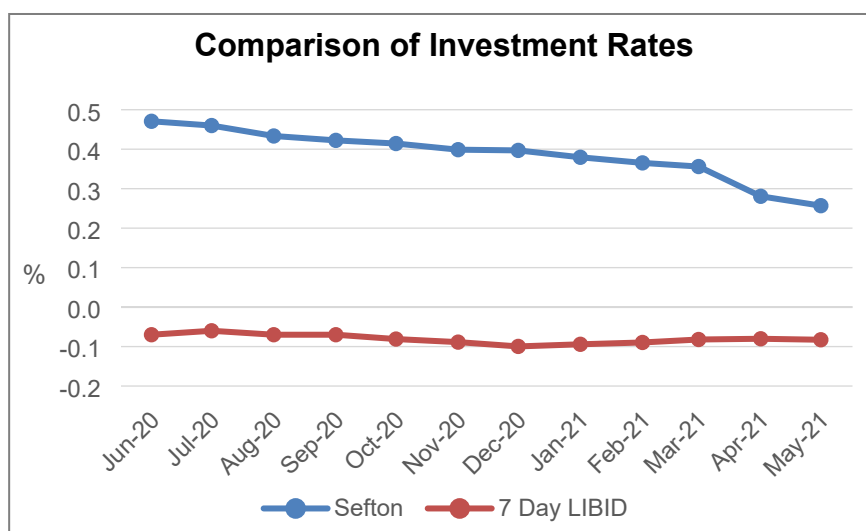
	<b>Budget £m</b>	<b>Actual £m</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>
<b>May-21</b>	0.028	0.003	0.025

	<b>Budget £m</b>	<b>Forecast £m</b>	<b>Variance £m</b>
<b>Outturn 2021/22</b>	0.415	0.275	0.140

8.2.2. The forecast outturn for investment income shows a significant shortfall against the budget for 2021/22. The impact of COVID-19 and current economic conditions in general mean that investment rates are low, and yields are expected to be well below the estimate originally forecast in the budget.

8.2.3. As mentioned in paragraph 8.1.9, it is not envisaged that improved rates will lead to a significant increase in the current forecast income from investments during 2021/22 as cash balances are diminishing and held in short term deposits.

8.2.4. The Council has achieved an average rate of return on its investments of 0.26% that has out-performed the 7-day LIBID to the end of May 2021.



## 9. Interest Rate Forecast

9.1. Arlingclose, the Council's treasury advisors, have provide the following interest rate view:

- *The medium-term global economic outlook has continued to improve with the rollout of vaccination programmes. The UK has continued to benefit from its initial rapid vaccine rollout and has shifted focus onto second vaccinations to increase protection to counter a potential third COVID wave.*
- *Arlingclose expects Bank Rate to remain at the current 0.10% level. The risk of movement in Bank Rate in the short term is low, although the risks are leaning to the upside.*
- *Gilt yields could increase in the short term but will begin to plateau and reduce once the market's expectation of rises in Bank Rate and inflation fears subside.*
- *Longer term yields may face upward pressure towards the end of our forecast period as the economy moves back to a sustained footing and policy expectations start to strengthen.*
- *Downside risks remain – the risk of further virus mutations including the delta variant could destabilise the recovery. Downside risks also arise from potential future vaccine shortages as the demand for vaccines increases.*

	Sep-21	Dec-21	Mar-22	Jun-22	Sep-22	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Average
<b>Official Bank Rate</b>														
Upside risk					0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.25
Arlingclose Central Case	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10
Downside risk	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.19
<b>3-month money market rate</b>														
Upside risk	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.30	0.25
Arlingclose Central Case	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.20	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
Downside risk	0.15	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.24
<b>1yr money market rate</b>														
Upside risk	0.10	0.10	0.15	0.20	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.32
Arlingclose Central Case	0.25	0.25	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.20	0.25	0.25	0.30	0.30	0.23
Downside risk	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15
<b>5yr gilt yield</b>														
Upside risk	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.59
Arlingclose Central Case	0.50	0.50	0.45	0.40	0.40	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.43
Downside risk	0.25	0.25	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.37
<b>10yr gilt yield</b>														
Upside risk	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.59
Arlingclose Central Case	1.00	1.00	0.95	0.90	0.85	0.80	0.80	0.80	0.85	0.90	0.95	1.00	1.00	0.91
Downside risk	0.25	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.43
<b>20yr gilt yield</b>														
Upside risk	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.59
Arlingclose Central Case	1.35	1.30	1.30	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.25	1.30	1.30	1.35	1.35	1.29
Downside risk	0.35	0.40	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.47
<b>50yr gilt yield</b>														
Upside risk	0.45	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.55	0.60	0.60	0.65	0.65	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.70	0.60
Arlingclose Central Case	1.25	1.20	1.20	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.15	1.20	1.15	1.20	1.20	1.25	1.25	1.19
Downside risk	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.40	0.40	0.45	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.50	0.45

PWLB Standard Rate (Maturity Loans) = Gilt yield + 1.00%

PWLB Certainty Rate (Maturity Loans) = Gilt yield + 0.80%

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## **10. CIPFA Consultations**

- 10.1. In February 2021 CIPFA launched two consultations on changes to its Prudential Code and Treasury Management Code of Practice. These follow the Public Accounts Committee's recommendation that the prudential framework should be further tightened following continued borrowing by some authorities for investment purposes. These are principles-based consultations and will be followed by more specific proposals later in the year.
- 10.2. In the Prudential Code the key area being addressed is the statement that "local authorities must not borrow more than or in advance of their needs purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed". Other proposed changes include the sustainability of capital expenditure in accordance with an authority's corporate objectives, i.e. recognising climate, diversity and innovation, commercial investment being proportionate to budgets, expanding the capital strategy section on commercial activities, replacing the "gross debt and the CFR" with the liability benchmark as a graphical prudential indicator.
- 10.3. Proposed changes to the Treasury Management Code include requiring job specifications and "knowledge and skills" schedules for treasury management roles to be included in the Treasury Management Practices (TMP) document and formally reviewed, a specific treasury management committee for MiFID II professional clients and a new TMP 13 on Environmental, Social and Governance Risk Management.
- 10.4. Officers will monitor the progress of the consultation process and any changes to the codes will be incorporated into the Council's future Treasury Management Policy and Strategy documents following advice from our Treasury Management Advisers.

## **11. IFRS 16 Leasing Accounting Standards**

- 11.1. The implementation of the new IFRS 16 Leases accounting standard has been delayed for a further year until 2022/23 financial year. Any impact on the Council's leases from the changes to this accounting standard will be fully assessed and reported as part of future Treasury Management updates.

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	29 July 2021
<b>Subject:</b>	Financial Management 2021/22 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2021/22 including the Financial Impact of COVID-19 on the 2021/22 Budget - July Update		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	(All Wards);
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

To inform **Cabinet** of:

1. The current financial implications of COVID-19 on the 2021/22 Budget;
2. The current position relating to the 2021/22 revenue budget;
3. The current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for 2021/22;
4. The monitoring position of the Council's capital programme to the end of June 2021:
  - 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 financial implications of COVID-19 on the 2021/22 Budget together with the key issues that will influence the final position;
- 2) Note the various Government grants that have been received to support residents and businesses which will be utilised in accordance with central government guidance;
- 3) Approve that decisions on the use of the discretionary elements of the Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund are delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing;

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- 4) Approve that decisions on the use of the Local Support Grant are delegated to the Executive Director - People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing;
- 5) Note the current position relating to the 2021/22 revenue budget;
- 6) Recognise the financial risks associated with the delivery of the 2021/22 revenue budget and acknowledge that the forecast outturn position will continue to be reviewed to ensure a balanced forecast outturn position and financial sustainability can be achieved;

## **Grant Funding**

- 7) Note and accept the offer of £969,724 Adult Education Budget funding available to Sefton Council, which is ring-fenced for the delivery of adult community learning provision for residents aged over 19.

## **Capital Programme**

- 8) Note the spending profiles across financial years for the approved capital programme (paragraph 7.1);
- 9) Approve the revised Transport Allocations for Key Route Network maintenance (£0.471m) and the Pipeline Development Fund (£0.368m) as shown in paragraph 7.7.
- 10) Recommend to Council to approve the revised Highways Maintenance allocation of £3.100m as shown in paragraph 7.7.
- 11) Approve the supplementary capital estimate of £0.195m for the Regional Coastal Monitoring programme (paragraph 7.10).
- 12) Note the latest capital expenditure position as at 30 June 2021 of £6.491m (paragraph 7.11); the latest full year forecast is £45.203m (paragraph 7.12).
- 13) Note explanations of variances to project budgets (paragraph 7.15); and,
- 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 7.18).

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

To ensure Cabinet are informed of the current position in relation to the 2021/22 revenue budget, including COVID19 pressures and additional funding being made available to the Council.

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 2021/22 a small underspend position is currently expected but that mitigating actions may be required if the position worsens.

**(B) Capital Costs**

The Council's capital budget in 2021/22 is £45.819m. As at the end of June 2021 expenditure of £6.491m has been incurred and a full year outturn of £45.203m 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:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
It is currently expected that a small underspend budget position will be achieved for 2021/22. 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. If these budgets experience further demand pressure during the remainder of the year corresponding savings will need to be identified. If this cannot take place there may be a call on the Council's General Balances.	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
None	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>	
None	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	N
Have a neutral impact	Y
Have a negative impact	N
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	N
The additional allocations of capital funding outlined in section 7 may be spent on projects that will have a high climate change impact as they could relate to new build, rebuild, refurbishment, retrofit and demolition proposals. Environmental consideration will be taken into account when specific projects are designed and tendered – which will help to mitigate negative impacts.	

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## **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.

<b><u>Protect the most vulnerable:</u></b> See comment above
<b><u>Facilitate confident and resilient communities:</u></b> See comment above
<b><u>Commission, broker and provide core services:</u></b> See comment above
<b><u>Place – leadership and influencer:</u></b> See comment above
<b><u>Drivers of change and reform:</u></b> See comment above
<b><u>Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:</u></b> See comment above
<b><u>Greater income for social investment:</u></b> See comment above
<b><u>Cleaner Greener:</u></b> 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 6465/21)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and has no comments on the report (LD 4666/21).

### **(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

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Paul Reilly
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## **Appendices:**

The following appendix is attached to this report:

APPENDIX A – Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.

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## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2021, Council approved the budget for 2021/22. This report provides an update on the forecast revenue outturn position for 2021/22, including the significant impact of COVID-19 on the Council's 2021/22 budget, and reflects the position at the end of the first quarter of the financial year.
- 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 2021/22 and forecast expenditure for 2022/23 and 2023/24. The capital budget to date is presented in paragraph 7.1. Paragraphs 7.11 and 7.12 review progress of the capital programme. Finally, paragraph 7.18 confirms that there are adequate levels of resources available to finance the capital programme.

## 2. Impact of COVID 19 on 2021/22 Budget

- 2.1 As part of the Council Budget Report presented to the Budget Council meeting in March, Members received details of the full range of financial issues that were being faced by the Council in 2021/22 arising from the pandemic, and how this cost would be funded. A summary is shown below:

	<b>2021/22</b>
	<b>£'m</b>
<b>Sales, Fees and Charges Income</b>	
Estimated Net Losses	1,500
Use of 2021/22 Emergency Funding	-1,500
	<b>0.000</b>
<b>Collection Fund deficit in 2020/21 arising from COVID-19</b>	
Net losses after government compensation scheme	5,812
Collection Fund Surplus from 2019/20	-1,072
	<b>4,740</b>
<b>Collection Fund deficit re. 2021/22</b>	
Reduction in Council Tax Base	3,564
Council Tax Support Grant	-3,471
Business Rates forecast losses	3,000
	<b>3,093</b>
<b>Temporary Mitigating Measures to Offset Council Tax / Business Rates Losses</b>	
Use of 2020/21 Emergency Funding	-4,000
Framework for Change 2020 – Council of 2023 Savings	-0,890
Forecast Underspend in 2020/21	-1,000
Vacancy Management	-0,500
School Closure Reserve	-0,500
Use of 2021/22 Emergency Funding	-0,943

	<b>-7.833</b>
<b>Net Impact on 2021/22 Budget</b>	<b>0.000</b>

2.2 An update on the pressures is provided below:

Sales, Fees and Charges Income

2.3 There was a significant impact on income from sales, fees and charges for a range of services during 2020/21. Whilst some income streams temporarily recovered when lockdown was eased and would expect to do so again once we come out of the national lockdown, others are expected to remain impacted whilst measures are still in place for social distancing, etc.

2.4 The government has announced that the compensation scheme in place in 2020/21 to provide support for a proportion of losses will be extended until the end of June 2021. Therefore, an element of losses will be funded through the compensation scheme. It is currently forecast that this could result in a net loss of income of **£1.500m** during 2021/22, which is unchanged from the figure assumed in the Budget Report. This forecast will be reviewed as there is more experience of the impact on reopened facilities, especially once all restrictions are eased from 19 June 2021. Any balance of losses not funded by the scheme will need to be covered from the emergency funding received by the Council in 2021/22. It is currently assumed that income levels will return to normal from 2022/23, however, this will continue to be assessed based on the experience once all restrictions are eased.

Collection Fund deficit in 2020/21 arising from COVID-19

2.5 The Council, in line with all other local authorities, is experiencing significant reductions in income from both Council Tax and Business Rates. This relates to increases in households eligible to claim under the Council Tax Reduction Scheme and some increases in Business Rates appeals as well as reductions in collection rates.

2.6 The government announced financial support would be provided to offset 75% of irrecoverable losses. However, Council Tax losses relating to non-collection aren't eligible for compensation under the scheme, neither are adjustments relating to previous years. The Budget Report estimated that net losses not covered by the scheme would therefore be up to £5.812m and would need to be funded. The final deficit position for both Council Tax and Business Rates, along with the amount of financial support that has been claimed from the government, have now been finalised and has resulted in a net loss of **£6.858m**. However, it is anticipated that some of these losses will be reversed in 2021/22 so the net impact will be within the £5.812m previously estimated.

Council Tax Base

2.7 The Council Tax Base is set by Council in January each year. It reflects changes in the number of properties and the value of exemptions and discounts. In recent years the Council Tax Base has increased steadily due to housing growth. However, due to the impact of COVID-19 on the number of CTRS claimants, the reduced collection rate and the slowdown in housing growth, there has been a

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significant reduction in the Base for 2021/22. This reduced the Council Tax Requirement by **£3.564m**.

- 2.8 The government has announced additional funding to support the loss of income due to increased numbers of CTRS claimants. Sefton's allocation is **£3.471m** and will be used to offset the majority of reduced funding due to the decrease in the Council Tax Base.
- 2.9 Currently, the number of CTRS claimants hasn't increased as forecast (this is mainly due to the government's "furlough" scheme being extended which may have delayed any increase) and collection rates are slightly ahead of expectations. If these factors continue then a surplus may be generated, although due to regulations this would only be credited to the Council in 2022/23.

## Business Rates

- 2.10 Business Rates collection rates reduced in 2020/21 due to COVID-19 and are expected to remain lower than normal in 2021/22. In addition, at the time of the Budget Report there were significant numbers of appeals in 2020/21 due to restrictions being in place. It was estimated that based on the 2020/21 position that £3.000m of the Council's income will be at risk as businesses no longer exist or cannot afford to pay business rates.
- 2.11 However, central government have announced that appeals relating to COVID19 won't be allowed under amended regulations. Therefore, it is forecast that the income now at risk is only **£1.600m**.

## Cost of responding to the pandemic

- 2.12 The Council has received £8.063m of emergency funding to assist with covering the financial pressures it will face in 2021/22 due to the pandemic. The budget assumes that £2.443m of this will be required to fund the potential losses described above. This leaves £5.620m to fund any further financial pressures.
- 2.13 Due to the ongoing impact of COVID-19 it is anticipated that the remaining emergency funding will be fully utilised in directly supporting the Council's response to the pandemic and any further loss of income that is anticipated between now and the end of the year. Cabinet in June 2021 agreed that the further use of this funding be delegated to the Leader of the Council following advice from the Chief Executive and the Council's s151 officer.

## Central Government Grant Programmes in Response to COVID-19

- 2.14 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 and businesses. In the same way as a number of grants received in 2020/21, the Council is being asked to administer these grants in accordance with criteria set by the Government. As in 2020/21, these will be reported to Cabinet- where there is discretion, or the Council has a choice around how to use the funding, this will be in accordance with Financial procedure rules- the following four awards reflect that approach:

## Adult Social Care Infection Control and Testing Fund

- 2.15 The Government has announced a further £250 million of funding in 2021/22 for infection control measures and rapid testing in adult social care services. This is in addition to the £341m previously announced. Sefton's allocations are **£1.110m** for Infection Prevention and Control and **£0.841m** for Rapid Testing. The funding is designed to help reduce the rate of COVID19 transmission within and between care settings and support rapid testing of staff and visitors in care homes.
- 2.16 As with previous allocations, the significant proportion of the funding must be provided directly to care providers with an element to be utilised on a discretionary basis to support the aims of the grant (£0.333m for Infection Prevention and Control and £0.229m for Rapid Testing). It is proposed that decisions on the use of the discretionary elements are delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Members for Adult Social Care and Health and Wellbeing.

## COVID Winter Grant Scheme / Local Support Grant

- 2.17 The Government has continued to provide funding in 2021/22 to local authorities to provide support to children and households who are experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, poverty, where they are impacted by the ongoing public health emergency and where alternative sources of assistance may be unavailable. Sefton have been allocated **£0.923m** for the period between the 21<sup>st</sup> June and 30<sup>th</sup> September. This is in addition to the £0.571m previously received for the period between 1<sup>st</sup> April and 20<sup>th</sup> June.
- 2.18 The Grants will be used to support vulnerable families who are in receipt of Free School Meals as well as families and individuals who require emergency assistance. An element of the grant will also be used to support affordable warmth in homes. It is proposed that decisions on the use of the grant are delegated to the Executive Director - People in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing.

## Summary

- 2.19 It should be noted that the figures included above are an early indication of the position in 2021/22 and will continue to be reviewed on a monthly basis. A full review of the position, and the use of emergency funding received in 2020/21 and 2021/22, will be conducted at the end of July and reported to Cabinet in September.

## 3. Revenue Budget 2021/22 – Forecast Outturn Position as at the end of June 2021

- 3.1 Members are provided with updates of the Council's forecast financial revenue position each month during the financial year from July.
- 3.2 In 2020/21, as in previous years, significant pressures were identified in several service areas at an early stage of the year, particularly Children's Social Care, Communities (Children with Disabilities) Education Excellence (Home to School Transport) and Locality Services. These pressures, and the unprecedented financial challenges faced by the Council in relation to COVID-19, meant the

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Council had to implement a remedial action plan was adopted to ensure a balanced budget position would be achieved. In addition, a number of financial principles that had been implemented in previous years were also adopted.

- 3.3 In response to these pressures, Budget Council approved that additional resources be added to the 2021/22 budget for these services, with the amounts shown below:

<u>Service</u>	<u>Budget Pressure</u>
	£m
Children's Social Care – Placements & Packages	7.280
Communities – Children with Disabilities / PSR2	1.050
Education Excellence – Home to School Transport	1.100
Locality Services – Security Force	0.350
	<b>9.780</b>

- 3.4 Initial indications are that the additional resources will be sufficient to ensure that there will be no significant impact on the Council's overall budget in 2021/22. However, as these are demand led services this will need to be carefully monitored during the year, with the biggest risk being the cost of Children's Social Care – Placements and Packages. Any pressures arising will need to be managed as it is still 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 approval of mitigating actions, and the adoption of financial principles used in previous years, may need to be implemented at some point during the remainder of the year.
- 3.5 As at the end of June, the forecast outturn shows a small underspend of £0.160m. The table below highlights the variations:

	<b>Budget</b>	<b>Forecast Outturn</b>	<b>Variance</b>
	£m	£m	£m
<b><u>Services</u></b>			
Strategic Management	3.136	3.133	-0.003
Adult Social Care	97.000	97.000	0.000
Children's Social Care	42.323	42.323	0.000
Communities	19.873	19.677	-0.196
Corporate Resources	9.102	9.102	0.000
Economic Growth & Housing	5.942	5.957	0.015
Education Excellence	11.135	11.098	-0.037
Health & Wellbeing	18.703	18.703	0.000
Highways & Public Protection	11.103	11.103	0.000
Locality Services	12.951	12.892	-0.059
<b>Total Service Net Expenditure</b>	<b>231.268</b>	<b>230.988</b>	<b>-0.280</b>



Budget Pressure Fund	1.000	1.000	0.000
Council Wide Budgets	-13.213	-13.093	0.120
Levies	34.568	34.568	0.000
General Government Grants	(62.858)	(62.858)	0.000
<b>Total Net Expenditure</b>	<b>190.765</b>	<b>190.605</b>	
<b><u>Forecast Year-End Deficit</u></b>			<b><u>-0.160</u></b>

3.6 The key areas relating to the outturn position are as follows:

- **Adult Social Care** – The current forecast assumes that the Adult Social Care budget will break-even during 2021/22. However, there are a number of significant assumptions and uncertainties as a result of COVID-19 that could impact on this position before the year-end.

As part of the Demand Management Programme, savings of £3.300m were identified and delivered during 2020/21. Work on the Programme is continuing, and further savings are being identified that will have a part-year impact in 2021/22 and will therefore impact on the forecast outturn position. The potential value of these savings will be reported in the September Cabinet report.

- **Children’s Social Care** – The current forecast shows a potential overspend of £0.995m. However, it is estimated that this level of overspend is attributable to the impact of COVID-19. Therefore, as reported to Cabinet in June, these temporary costs will be met by the Contain Outbreak Management Fund.

The impact of this means that the Children’s Social Care budget is forecast to break-even during 2021/22.

However, as has been regularly reported over the last three years, the cost of Placements and Packages is the largest risk to the Council’s budget position. 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.

#### 4. **Additional Revenue Grant Funding - Adult Education Budget Grant to Support Sefton Adult Community Learning Service**

- 4.1 The Adult Education Budget is part of the Liverpool City Region Devolution deal on employment and skills. An offer has been made to Sefton Council for the academic year 2021/22 by the Combined Authority for a continuation of an agreement approved by Cabinet on the 29 June 2019. The level of grant available to Sefton, which totals £969,724, has been maintained at the same level as 2019/20 and 2020/21 and includes a sum of £150,000 for two new “test and learn” pilot activities focussing on innovative methods to develop new ways of working and to improve progression for learners through the use of digital technology.

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4.2 Acceptance of this offer will ensure the continued delivery of this important service for adults who need introductory or second chance learning to improve their wellbeing and employability. The Service is well established and well regarded; it fulfils a considerable need within our communities and directly contributes to the Council's Vision and values and is central to the achievement of the Council's corporate objectives.

## 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 £143.037m for 2021/22 (including Parish Precepts), which represents 84.1% of the net Council Tax income of £170.167m.

5.2 The forecast outturn for the Council at the end of June 2021 is a surplus of +£1.088m. However, it should be noted that the Council Tax Base for 2021/22 was reduced to reflect lower collection rates and increased Council Tax Reduction Scheme claimants. Therefore, this surplus is forecast in the context of a reduction in Council Tax income of £3.564m (see paragraph 2.7). This variation is primarily due to: -

- The deficit on the fund at the end of 2020/21 being lower than estimated (-£0.421m);
- Gross Council Tax Charges in 2021/22 being higher than estimated (-£0.578m);
- Exemptions and Discounts (including a forecasting adjustment) being higher than estimated (-£0.089m).

5.3 Due to Collection Fund regulations, the Council Tax surplus will not be transferred to the General Fund in 2021/22 but will be carried forward to be recovered in future years.

5.4 A forecast deficit of £5.179m was declared on the 21 January 2021 of which Sefton's share is £4.355m (84.1%). This is the amount that will be recovered from the Collection Fund in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. Any additional surplus or deficit will be distributed in 2022/23 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 £67.919m for 2021/22, which represents 99% of the net Business Rates income of £68.606m. 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 2021 is a deficit of £27.338m on Business Rates income. This is due to:

- The deficit on the fund at the end of 2021/22 being higher than estimated (+£3.467m);
- Increase in the gross charge on rateable properties (-£0.103m);
- A number of additional reliefs were announced after January 2021 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 (+£23.974m).

6.3 When taking into account the additional Section 31 grants due on the additional reliefs, a net deficit of £3.206m is forecast.

6.4 Due to Collection Fund regulations, a Business Rates deficit will not be transferred to the General Fund in 2021/22 but will be carried forward to be recovered in future years.

6.5 A forecast deficit of £39.206m was declared in January 2021. Sefton's share of this is £38.814m. This is the amount that will be distributed from the Collection Fund in 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24. Any additional surplus or deficit will be distributed in future years.

## 7. Capital Programme 2021/22 – 2023/24

### Capital Budget

7.1 The Capital Budget and profile of expenditure for the three years 2021/22 to 2023/24 is as follows:

<b>2021/22</b>	<b>£45.819m</b>
<b>2022/23</b>	<b>£17.448m</b>
<b>2023/24</b>	<b>£6.299m</b>

7.2 The following updates have been made to the capital programme budget since the initial budget report to Cabinet in February:

- £0.572m has been added to the Adult Social Care programme funded by additional Disabled Facilities Grant following confirmation of final allocations for 2021/22 and approval by Cabinet in June.
- £0.736m has been added to the Schools Programme funded by additional Schools Condition Allocation following confirmation of final allocations for 2021/22 and approval by Cabinet in June.
- £0.676m has been added to the Schools Programme funded by a new award of High Needs provision grant and approval by Cabinet in June.
- £1.900m has been added for the Green Homes Local Delivery Scheme following approval by Council in May.

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- £0.788m has been added for Bootle and Southport Town Hall Retrofit Energy Saving Works funded by the Public Sector Decarbonisation Fund following approval by Cabinet in March.
- £0.105m has been added to the Pool Watercourse project funded by additional grant awarded by the Environment Agency and following approval by Cabinet in June.

7.3 Authority has been delegated to Cabinet Member to assign funding to individual capital schemes for Adult Social Care and the Schools block allocations reported above.

## **Highways Programme**

7.4 The initial 2021/22 Transportation Capital Programme allocations were approved by Council on 4 March 2021 as part of the Capital Strategy 2021/22 to 2025/26.

7.5 These transport allocations included an estimated figure of £1.800m for Highway Maintenance, £0.900m for Key Route Network (KRN) maintenance and £0.175m for Pot Hole Funding based upon previous years allocations. Subsequently, based upon a revised funding allocation approved by the Combined Authority (at its meeting of 20 March 2021), an agreement was reached to add the Pot Hole Funding into the general maintenance allocation and decrease the proportion of funding for the Key Route Network. The approved allocations are £3.100m for Highway Maintenance and an additional £0.471m for the KRN.

7.6 Subsequently the Combined Authority (CA) have invited submissions for Pipeline development funds for the further development of Major Scheme Business Cases for improvement to Southport Eastern access and Maritime Corridor improvements. A sum of £0.368m has been requested subject to written confirmation from the Combined Authority.

7.7 Consequently, subject to confirmation of Pipeline development funding allocations from the Combined Authority, approval is sought for the following 2021/22 Local Transport Plan Capital Programme updated allocations based on the proposed funding:

	<b>Revised Allocations July 2021 £</b>
<b>LTP - Highways Maintenance Block</b>	<b>3,100,000</b>
<b>LTP - Additional Key Route Network</b>	<b>470,525</b>
<b>Pipeline Development Fund</b>	<b>367,810</b>

7.8 Authority has been delegated within the Financial Procedure Rules to Cabinet Member to assign funding to individual schemes within the Highways Capital Programme. The list of schemes for 2021/22 is being fully developed and will be presented to Cabinet Member for approval. The amounts shown in Appendix A represent the block allocations previously approved by Cabinet and Council. A full list of the approved Highways schemes will be presented in future reports to Cabinet.

## Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme

- 7.9 The Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme for 2016 to 2021 provides monitoring and analysis of coastal change along the North West coastline. The current scheme is reaching its conclusion and is due to be replaced by a new round of funding that was subject to a separate report to Cabinet in June.
- 7.10 As part of final claims for the 2016 to 2021 scheme, an additional sum of £194,563 has been made available from the Environment Agency funding to conclude the existing packages of work. Cabinet is therefore requested to approve a supplementary capital estimate for inclusion of this amount in the 2021/22 capital programme.

## Budget Monitoring Position to June 2021

- 7.11 The current position of expenditure against the budget profile to the end of June 2021 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, whilst Highways and Public Protection will complete most of its programmed works during quarters two and four of the financial year. The budget to date in the table below reflects the profiles of each individual scheme.

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Budget to Jun-21</b>	<b>Actual Expenditure to Jun-21</b>	<b>Variance to Jun-21</b>
	£m	£m	£m
<b>Adult Social Care</b>	0.660	0.620	-0.040
<b>Communities</b>	0.020	-	-0.020
<b>Corporate Resources</b>	0.001	0.002	0.001
<b>Economic Growth &amp; Housing</b>	1.335	1.299	-0.036
<b>Education Excellence</b>	0.491	0.575	0.084
<b>Highways &amp; Public Protection</b>	1.054	1.054	-
<b>Locality Services</b>	2.835	2.941	0.106
<b>Total Programme</b>	<b>6.396</b>	<b>6.491</b>	<b>0.095</b>

## Capital Programme Forecast Outturn 2021/22

- 7.12 The current forecast of expenditure against the budget profile to the end of 2021/22 and the profile of budgets for future years is shown in the table below:

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Full Year Budget 2021/22</b>	<b>Forecast Out-turn</b>	<b>Variance to Budget</b>	<b>Full Year Budget 2022/23</b>	<b>Full Year Budget 2023/24</b>
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
<b>Adult Social Care</b>	4.728	4.100	-0.628	2.972	0.750
<b>Children's Social Care</b>	0.100	0.100	-	-	-
<b>Communities</b>	1.737	1.749	0.012	0.279	-

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<b>Corporate Resources</b>	<b>5.393</b>	<b>5.393</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.404</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Economic Growth &amp; Housing</b>	<b>6.481</b>	<b>6.481</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>0.948</b>	<b>-</b>
<b>Education Excellence</b>	<b>5.075</b>	<b>5.075</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.713</b>	<b>1.831</b>
<b>Highways &amp; Public Protection</b>	<b>13.681</b>	<b>13.681</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>3.742</b>	<b>3.605</b>
<b>Locality Services</b>	<b>8.624</b>	<b>8.624</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>4.389</b>	<b>0.113</b>
<b>Total Programme</b>	<b>45.819</b>	<b>45.203</b>	<b>-0.616</b>	<b>17.448</b>	<b>6.299</b>

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

7.13 The current 2021/22 budgeted spend is £45.819m with a budgeted spend to June of £6.396m. The full year budget includes exceptional items such as £6.4m for vehicle replacement, £1.9m for Green Homes Local Delivery, previously approved amounts for essential repairs and maintenance (£3.924m) and a significant scheme to upgrade to LED Street Lighting (£3.272m).

7.14 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 2022/23 will occur as the year progresses.

7.15 An underspend of £0.628m is forecast on Adult Social Care. This is largely due to a lower estimate for Disabled Facilities Grants for 2021/22 based on previous performance when adaptations could not be progressed or were delayed due to Covid-19. It is anticipated that spend may increase as the impact of lifting restrictions is fully realised and revised estimates will be reported on future budget updates.

## **Programme Funding**

7.16 The table below shows how the capital programme will be funding in 2021/22:

<b>Source</b>	<b>£m</b>
Grants	28.063
Contributions (incl. Section 106)	0.715
Capital Receipts	5.688
Prudential Borrowing	11.353
<b>Total Programme Funding</b>	<b>45.819</b>

7.17 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.

7.18 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.

## APPENDIX A – Capital Programme 2021/22 to 2023/24

Capital Project	Budget		
	2021/22 £	2022/23 £	2023/24 £
<b>Adult Social Care</b>			
Care Homes - Fire Alarms & Emergency Lighting	98,310	-	-
Core DFG Programme	1,473,566	572,370	-
Wider Social Care Programme	3,155,502	2,399,869	750,000
<b>Children's Social Care</b>			
Support for Fostering Placements	100,000	-	-
<b>Communities</b>			
Dunes Splashworld – Essential Repairs	1,388,874	-	-
Litherland Sports Park – 3G Pitch & Lighting	250,000	-	-
Libraries - Centres of Excellence	20,000	279,301	-
S106 - Netherton & Orrell – Abbeyfield Park	11,942	-	-
S106 - Linacre - Strand Living Wall	10,665	-	-
S106 - Sudell – Moorhey Shops Parking Scheme	16,625	-	-
S106 - Ford – Stanton Avenue One Way System	9,000	-	-
S106 - Litherland – Play Equip Orrell Mount Pavilion	30,000	-	-
<b>Corporate Resources</b>			
Council Wide Essential Maintenance	2,308,330	-	-
STCC Essential Maintenance	87,680	-	-
Victoria Baths Essential Works	138,974	-	-
Bootle & Southport Town Hall Retrofit Energy Saving	798,000	-	-
Green Homes Grant Local Delivery Scheme	1,900,000	-	-
Public Sector Reform	160,000	404,337	-
<b>Economic Growth &amp; Housing</b>			
Strategic Acquisitions - Bootle	434,473	-	-
Cambridge Road Centre Development	795,123	-	-
Crosby Lakeside Development	2,791,997	-	-
Town Centre Commission Bootle	150,000	-	-
Southport Market Redevelopment	813,938	20,039	-
Strategic Acquisitions - Ainsdale	299,500	891,859	-
Housing Investment	15,188	36,180	-
Brownfield Fund for Housing Development	1,050,000	-	-
Southport Pier Project	130,886	-	-
<b>Education Excellence</b>			
Healthy Pupils Fund	1,486	-	-
Schools Programme	3,910,550	2,659,340	1,830,682
Planned Maintenance	482,364	859,043	-
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	680,868	1,194,024	-
<b>Highways and Public Protection</b>			
Transport Schemes	10,409,666	-	-
LED Street Lighting Upgrade	3,271,750	3,742,035	3,605,580
<b>Locality Services</b>			
Burials & Cremation Insourcing - Vehicles & Equip	90,663	-	-

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	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24
Formby Strategic Flood Risk Management Prog	-	43,851	-
Merseyside Groundwater Study	31,508	-	-
Regional Coastal Monitoring Programme	197,091	-	-
The Pool & Nile Watercourses	124,121	-	-
Crosby Flood & Coastal Scheme	34,641	785,839	-
Hall Road & Alt Training Bank - Rock Armour	-	45,775	-
Ainsdale & Birkdale Land Drainage Scheme	25,973	-	-
Surface Water Management Plan	18,000	81,445	-
Surface Water Modelling & Mapping	13,601	-	-
Small Watercourse Works	7,638	-	-
Water Level Monitoring Pilot	13,000	5,000	-
Parks Schemes	139,687	154,700	-
Hesketh Park Conservatory	20,407	-	-
Tree Planting Programme	68,747	126,783	-
Golf Driving Range Developments	398,822	280,280	-
Ainsdale Coastal Gateway	351,538	-	-
Crosby Marine Lake Improvements – Phase 1	155,000	-	-
Litter Bin Infrastructure	22,358	-	-
Green Sefton – Plant & Machinery	131,152	-	-
Vehicle Replacement Programme	6,359,737	1,635,493	113,000
Wheeled Bins	420,000	1,230,000	-
<b>TOTAL PROGRAMME</b>	<b>45,818,941</b>	<b>17,447,563</b>	<b>6,299,262</b>