



## COUNCIL SUMMONS

To Members of the Metropolitan Borough Council

Dear Councillor

You are requested to attend a Meeting of the Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to be held on **Thursday 17th November, 2022 at 6.30 pm at the Town Hall, Southport** to transact the business set out on the agenda overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Dwaine D.", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Chief Executive

Town Hall,  
Southport

Wednesday 9 November 2022

Please contact Steve Pearce, Interim Democratic Services Manager  
on 0151 934 2068 or e-mail [steve.pearce@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:steve.pearce@sefton.gov.uk)

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.

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# **A G E N D A**

## **1. Apologies for Absence**

## **2. Declarations of Interest**

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

Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting 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. Minutes of Previous Meeting**

(Pages 5 - 28)

Minutes of the meeting held on 29 September 2022

## **4. Mayor's Communications**

### **Public Session**

## **5. Matters Raised by the Public**

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

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

## **Council Business Session**

### **6. Questions Raised by Members of the Council**

To receive and consider questions to Cabinet Members, Chairs of Committees or Spokespersons for any of the Joint Authorities upon any matter within their portfolio/area of responsibility, of which notice has been given by Members of the Council in accordance with Paragraph 49 to 51 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, set out in Chapter 4 of the Council Constitution.

- 7. Health and Wellbeing Board - Terms of Reference** (Pages 29 - 38)  
Report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health
- 8. Treasury Management Position to September 2022** (Pages 39 - 48)  
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 9. Financial Management 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2022/23 - Additional Estimates** (Pages 49 - 52)  
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 10. Financial Management 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 - Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2024/25** (Pages 53 - 74)  
Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services
- 11. Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Alex Greenwood** (Pages 75 - 80)  
Report of the Executive Director - People
- 12. Membership of Committees 2022/23**  
To consider any changes to the membership of any Committees etc.
- 13. Motion Submitted by Councillor Doyle - Expansion of Free School Meals** (Pages 81 - 82)  
Copy attached

## COUNCIL

### MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Carragher) in the Chair  
The Deputy Chair (Councillor June Burns) Vice  
Chair

Councillors Atkinson, Bennett, Bradshaw, Brodie -  
Browne, Brough, Danny Burns, Byrom, Cluskey,  
Corcoran, Cummins, Dodd, Doyle, Evans,  
Fairclough, Grace, Halsall, Hansen, Hardman,  
Hardy, Howard, Irving, John Joseph Kelly,  
Sonya Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lloyd-Johnson, Lunn-  
Bates, Ian Maher, Chris Maher, McKinley, Moncur,  
Morris, Murphy, Myers, O'Brien, Page, Prendergast,  
Pugh, Richards, Riley, Roche, Roscoe, Sathiy,  
John Sayers, Shaw, Spencer, Thomas,  
Anne Thompson, Lynne Thompson, Tweed,  
Veidman, Waterfield, Sir Ron Watson and Webster

#### 40. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Brennan, Carling, D'Albuquerque, Dowd, Jones, John Kelly, McGinnity, Robinson and Wilson.

#### 41. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

#### 42. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 14 July 2022 be approved as a correct record.

#### 43. TRIBUTES TO HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

The Mayor reported that she wished to pay tribute to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II following her sad death on 8 September 2022. Her Late Majesty served our nation and the Commonwealth magnificently for 70 years and we celebrated her Platinum Jubilee in June this year. Now we thank her, for her great service and mourn her sad loss.

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

The Mayor indicated that immediately following the death of Her Late Majesty, she had sent a letter of condolence to His Majesty King Charles III on behalf of the Council.

The Mayor stated that she had been deeply proud and privileged to attend the Merseyside Proclamation by the High Sheriff of Merseyside at the Liverpool Parish Church on 11 September 2022 and that she had read out the Proclamation herself at Bootle Town Hall and Southport Town Hall on the same day, and it had been deeply moving to see all of the public who attended the Proclamations and to read some of their messages in the Books of Condolences and on the floral tributes at Bootle Town Hall and at The Atkinson, Southport.

The Mayor also stated that along with representatives of all the local authorities in Merseyside, other local organisations, and members of the public, she had attended the Requiem Mass for Her Late Majesty at the Metropolitan Cathedral of Christ the King, Liverpool on 13 September 2022 and the Service of Celebration for Her Late Majesty at the Liverpool Cathedral on 18 September 2022, which were organised by the Merseyside Lieutenancy Office. The Mayor had also attended the 'Memorial on the Mersey' event on 14 September 2022 with the Mayors of all the Merseyside local authorities, when 20 ships on the River Mersey sounded their horns in sync, in honour of Her Late Majesty, and indicated that she was immensely proud to have attended all those events as the Mayor of Sefton.

The Mayor indicated that she wanted to thank all the Council Staff across the various Departments for the amazing work they did in arranging all the activities undertaken under Operation London Bridge in liaison with the Merseyside Lieutenancy Office.

The Mayor also indicated that she wanted personally to thank Shaun Pimblett, Debbie Campbell and Steve Pearce in the Democratic and Mayoral Services Team for their support and words of encouragement given the enormity of the task that she had to undertake during that time; Steve Williams, Mayoral Attendant, who carried out his duties with pride, professionalism and care and Members of the Council for their words of support.

Councillors Maher, Pugh, Prendergast, Sayers, Irving and Sir Ron Watson then paid tribute to Queen Elizabeth II.

The Council then observed a one-minute silence as a mark of respect for the sad passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

## **44. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

### Mayor of Sefton's Charity Quiz

The Mayor reported that on 3 November 2022 at 7.00pm, she would be holding a Mayoral Charity Quiz Night in the Albion Pub, Bootle, which

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

would be exclusive to Sefton Councillors and Officers. The entry cost was £5 per team, with a maximum of 5 people per team and a minimum of 3 people. There would also be a raffle, forfeit wheel and 'play your cards right.' All the proceeds on the night would go to the Mayor's Charity Fund. The Mayor invited Councillors and Officers to submit their team's name and entry fee to the Mayor's Office by 21 October 2022.

## Southport Flower Show

The Mayor reported that on 18 August 2022, she attended the opening day of the Southport Flower Show which was a wonderful event and a real highlight for our Borough. The Mayor indicated that she especially enjoyed her 'rent' payment for the event which was a beautiful bouquet of roses.

## Twitter

The Mayor reported that she was pleased to announce that she had reached over 2,000 followers on Twitter and that it had raised the profile of what the Mayor and the Mayor's Office does.

## Visit to Natural Alternatives

The Mayor reported that on 6 September 2022, she had been privileged to visit Natural Alternatives, which was an organisation based at the Botanic Gardens in Southport. The Mayor indicated that they are a small group, but they do wonderful work at the Gardens, and she urged her fellow Councillors to have a look at the work they do, which was really inspiring.

## Aintree Motorcycle Racing Club

The Mayor reported that on 10 September 2022, she had attended the Classic and Speed Revival event in Southport, organised by the Aintree Motorcycle Racing Club and that the sum of £22,000 had been raised to be shared between the Mayor's Charity, the Queenscourt Hospice, Southport and the Jim Clark Trust. The event celebrated over a century of motor sport in the Borough of Sefton.

The Mayor also reported that Kate Walker, a 21 year old female member of the Club was the current leader of National Steelsport Championship in the mixed sex class and on behalf of the Council, expressed the hope that Kate would be confirmed as the National Superbike Champion in the near future.

## **45. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

The Council considered a schedule setting out the question submitted by a member of the public, Mr M. Brennan of Bootle to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy), together with her response which had been circulated around the Council Chamber prior to the start of the meeting.

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

The note indicated that Mr Brennan had indicated that he was unable to attend this Council meeting and that a copy of the response from the Cabinet Member would be sent to him.

RESOLVED:

That the question and response as set out in the schedule be noted.

## **46. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL**

The Council considered a schedule setting out the written questions submitted by:

- (1) Councillor Morris to the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)
- (2) Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing (Councillor Hardy)
- (3) Councillor Brough to the Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care (Councillor Cummins)
- (4) Councillor Prendergast to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (5) Councillor Prendergast to the Cabinet Member for Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (6) Councillor Myers to the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Moncur)
- (7) Councillor Pugh to the Cabinet Member for Education (Councillor Roscoe)
- (8) Councillor Shaw to the Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)

together with responses given. A supplementary question to question 6 was responded to by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing and the Cabinet Member for Education indicated that she would send a written response to the supplementary question to question 7.

## **47. IMPACT OF COVID 19 ON THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM WORKING GROUP - FINAL REPORT**

Further to Minute No. 28 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 July 2022, the Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer in relation to Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) Impact of Covid 19 on the Primary Curriculum Working Group Final Report.

Councillor Spencer, the Lead Member of the Primary Curriculum Working Group spoke in support of the recommendations set out in the report.



COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

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

RESOLVED:

That the following recommendations be approved:

- (1) that, once data is available, the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education) be requested to submit a monitoring report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding), on primary school performance, to include school attendance and any available information on SATs results, and other performance indicators, in order to draw comparisons with 2019 performance and also with regional and national performance;
- (2) that the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education) be requested to agree in writing to all Headteachers of schools throughout the Borough, to thank teaching staff for their on-going input throughout the pandemic and to raise the following matters:
  - (a) to remind schools of the continued support available from the Council;
  - (b) to remind schools of the various options available for securing additional teaching staff, such as:
    - the graduate teaching apprenticeship scheme
    - School Centred Initial Teacher Training (SCITT)
    - Teach First
    - Degree course in Bachelor of Education (B.Ed.) and
    - a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE);
  - (c) to remind schools of the availability of mental health support, including the Young People's Emotional Wellbeing Toolkit that can be accessed via the following link:

[Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing \(sefton.gov.uk\)](https://www.sefton.gov.uk/mental-health-emotional-wellbeing)
  - (d) to encourage schools to try to re-engage with families as a source of support in schools **where possible and where practical**, particularly given covid concerns;
- (3) that the Mayor of Sefton be requested to consider hosting an event for representatives of all schools throughout the Borough, to thank them for their on-going input throughout the pandemic;
- (4) that the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education) be requested to agree to writing to the Department for Education in the strongest terms, to request additional resources for Sefton schools, particularly in view of forthcoming literacy and numeracy expectations on primary schools by 2030; and

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

- (5) that the Senior Democratic Services Officer be requested to liaise with relevant officers in order to ensure that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Children's Services and Safeguarding) receives a six-monthly monitoring report, setting out progress made against each of the recommendations outlined above.

## **48. FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT 2022/23 TO 2024/25 AND FRAMEWORK FOR CHANGE 2020 - REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE 2022/23 – SEPTEMBER UPDATE**

Further to Minute No, 50 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 September 2022, the Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services that informed of:

- (1) the current position relating to the 2022/23 revenue budget;
- (2) the current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for 2022/23; and
- (3) the monitoring position of the Council's capital programme to the end of July 2023 in respect of:
  - the forecast expenditure to year end;
  - variations against the approved budgets and an explanation of those variations for consideration by Members; and
  - Updates to spending profiles and proposed amendments to capital budgets necessary to ensure the efficient delivery of capital projects are also presented for approval.

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

RESOLVED: That

### Revenue Budget

- 1) the current position relating to the 2022/23 revenue budget be noted;
- 2) the actions included in the Remedial Action Plan to offset the budget pressures being faced in 2022/23 including the use of £2.9m of General Balances and the release of £1.666m from the Business Rates Income Reserve be approved;
- 3) the financial risks associated with the delivery of the 2022/23 revenue budget be recognised and it be acknowledged that the forecast outturn position will continue to be reviewed to ensure a balanced forecast outturn position and financial sustainability can be achieved; and
- 4) the potential implications on the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 and 2024/25 be noted.

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

## Capital Programme

- 5) a supplementary capital estimate for £2.000m for Core Disabled Facilities Grants (paragraph 57.11) be approved;
- 6) a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.064m for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement support grant (paragraph 7.13.1) be approved;
- 7) a supplementary capital estimate of £1.620m for Tranche 3 of the Active travel Fund (paragraph 7.13.5) be approved;
- 8) a supplementary capital estimate of £4.789m for the Highways Maintenance budget 2022/23 (paragraph 7.13.7) be approved;
- 9) a supplementary capital estimate of £0.680m for Phase 1 of the Strand Repurposing project funded from the Economic Recovery Earmarked Reserve as recommended by Cabinet in July 2022 (paragraph 7.18) be approved;
- 10) a supplementary capital estimate of £0.171m for the completion of the Crosby Lakeside Adventure Centre improvements, funded from the Economic Recovery Earmarked Reserve as recommended by Cabinet in July 2022 (paragraph 7.22) be approved;
- 11) a supplementary capital estimate of £3.782m for the Summerhill Primary School Expansion – Phase 1 scheme funded by Section 106 contributions be (paragraph 7.25) be approved;
- 12) a Supplementary Capital Estimate of £69.1m for the Marine Lake Events Centre (MLEC) to be funded by: £31.7m from the Town Deal; £17.7m from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority; and £19.7m to be funded by the Council as recommended by a separate report to Cabinet in September 2022 (paragraph 7.29) be approved;
- 13) it be noted that, in addition to the £69.1m identified above in resolution (12), £1.6m and £2.3m of pre-development funding, from the Town Deal and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority respectively, has already been included within the Capital Programme as approved by Council in September 2021. Therefore, the total capital scheme for the MLEC is £73m and this is the total value of the scheme which will be included within the Capital Programme;
- 14) it be noted that the finance arrangements for the Council's contribution of £19.7m to the MLEC will be agreed following consultation with the Council's Treasury Management advisors and reported to Cabinet through the quarterly Treasury Management reports and the final proposal will be included within the Budget Report;
- 15) delegated authority for the completion and signing of Grant Funding Agreement of £17.7m from the Liverpool City Region Combined

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Authority be granted to the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services, in consultation with the Executive Director (Place), the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills and Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services, should it be formally approved by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority;

- 16) delegated authority to approve the Grant Funding Agreement of £33.3m from the Southport Town Deal, following Full Business Case approval, be granted to the Chief Executive and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services, in consultation with the Executive Director (Place), the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills and Cabinet Member for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services; should it be formally approved by Government;
- 17) a supplementary capital estimate of £3m for the Southport Pier Decking Project funded from prudential borrowing as recommended by report to Cabinet in September 2022 (paragraph 7.34) be approved;
- 18) it be noted that the annual cost of borrowing for the Southport Pier Decking Project will be £0.178m and it be agreed that this is added as a growth item to the Council's medium term financial plan and as such will be funded as part of the 2023/24 budget plan; and
- 19) a supplementary capital estimate of £0.188m for Corporate Essential Maintenance funded from capital receipts (paragraph 7.37) be approved.

## **49. TREASURY MANAGEMENT OUTTURN 2021/22**

Further to Minute No, 35 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 28 July 2022, the Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services that provided a review of the Treasury Management activities undertaken during 2021/22; and advised that the Cabinet and Council received the outturn report to allow monitoring against the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and Prudential Indicators approved by Cabinet and Council in March 2021.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That the Treasury Management position during 2021/22 and the update to 31 May 2022; the effects of decisions taken in pursuit of the Treasury Management Strategy and the implications of changes resulting from regulatory, economic and market factors affecting the Council's treasury management activities be noted.

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

**50. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE AUDIT AND GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE 2021- 2022**

Further to Minute No, 24 of the meeting of the Audit and Governance Committee held on 7 September 2022, the Council considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services which formally presented the Annual Report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021-2022

It was moved by Councillor Roche, seconded by Councillor Spencer and

RESOLVED:

That the annual report of the Audit and Governance Committee 2021/22 be approved.

**51. ALLOCATION OF SUPPLEMENTAL SUBSTANCE MISUSE TREATMENT AND RECOVERY GRANT**

Further to Minute No. 48 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 1 September 2022, the Council considered the report of the Director of Public Health seeking authority to accept the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant and allocate it accordingly. The report indicated that in February 2022, the Office of Health Inequalities and Disparities (OHID) Department of Health and Social Care announced additional supplemental drugs funding which all Local Authorities were eligible to receive through a Section 31 Grant to support the delivery of the December 2021 national drug strategy. In April 2022, the Council received notification of the 3 years funding from 2022/23 to 2024/25 subject to the submission of a OHID approved plan. The Sefton high level plan and 2022/23 detailed plan has now been approved. Detailed plans outlining the interventions for 2023/24 and 2024/25 will be required to be submitted for approval before the start of each of those years.

Sefton Council will receive this enhanced funding for 3yrs starting from 2022/23. See allocation table below:

	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25
Supplemental Sub Misuse Treatment & Recovery Grant	£1, 002,318	£1,642,287*	£3,169,979*

\* Indicative Figures

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

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to the acceptance of the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant as detailed within the report.

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

## **52. COUNCIL CONSTITUTION - RULE 46, (WAIVING CALL-IN) PROVISIONS**

The Council considered the report of the Leader of the Council in relation to a matter that was dealt with in accordance with Rule 46 (waiving call-in) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Council Constitution, whereby “call-in” was waived.

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

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

## **53. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2022/23**

(1) The Mayor reported on the following changes to the representatives on the Health and Wellbeing Board:

- Dr Rob Caudwell to attend the Board in his new role as the Place Clinical Director of the NHS Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board (Sefton Place) and there will no longer be any representatives from the two Primary Care Networks.
- Adrian Hughes to replace Louise Shepherd as a representative of the Alder Hey Children’s NHS Foundation Trust on the Board.
- John Turner to be the representative of Healthwatch, Sefton on the Board.
- Janine Hyland to replace Sue Potts as the representative from the Every Child Matters Forum.
- Mark Thomas to replace Ged Sheridan as the representative from the Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service.
- Sara Alldis, Assistant Director of Adult Social Care to be the representative of the Councils Adult Social Care Service.

(2) The Mayor also reported that the following changes had be submitted by the Labour Group:

### Licensing and Regulatory (Urgent Referrals) Committee

Councillor Burns to be the Substitute Member for Councillor Waterfield on the Committee.

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health)

Councillor Sonya Kelly to be the Substitute Member for Councillor John Joseph Kelly on the Committee.

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

Councillor Robinson to be the Substitute Member for Councillor Hardman on the Committee.

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

Councillor Christine Maher to be the Substitute Member for Councillor Killen on the Committee.

Planning Committee

Councillor Lunn-Bates to be the Substitute Member for Councillor Sonya Kelly and Councillor Bradshaw to be the Substitute Member for Councillor McGinnity on the Committee.

Local Joint Consultative Committee

Councillor Waterfield to be the Substitute Member for Councillor O'Brien on the Committee.

Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Councillor Howard to be the Council's Scrutiny Link on the Committee in place of Councillor Waterfield.

- (3) The Leader of the Council, Councillor Maher proposed the following change:

Armed Forces Member Champion

Councillor Carragher to be the Armed Forces Member Champion in place of Councillor Brennan.

RESOLVED:

That the changes as detailed above be approved.

**54. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUGH - PUBLIC HEALTH PERFORMANCE FRAMEWORK**

It was moved by Councillor Pugh, seconded by Councillor Lloyd-Johnson:

This Council has considered the Public Health Outcomes Framework Report (as submitted to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) on 21 June 2022, (link attached: [Sefton Home](#)) in conjunction with recent reports from Sefton Healthwatch and is seriously concerned by the growing pattern of health inequalities in the borough.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Moncur, seconded by Councillor Cummins that the following text be added at the end of the motion:

“following the introduction of austerity policies by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition and continued by successive Conservative Governments.”

Following a debate on the **amendment** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **amendment was carried** by 42 votes to 13.

Following a debate on the **Substantive Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Substantive Motion was carried** by 42 votes to 12 and it was:

RESOLVED:

This Council has considered the Public Health Outcomes Framework Report (as submitted to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) on 21 June 2022, (link attached: [Sefton Home](#)) in conjunction with recent reports from Sefton Healthwatch and is seriously concerned by the growing pattern of health inequalities in the borough following the introduction of austerity policies by the Conservative/Liberal Democrat coalition and continued by successive Conservative Governments.

## **55. ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

The meeting was adjourned by the Mayor at 8.20 p.m. for a period of 10 minutes.

## **56. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR IRVING - PART 5 OF SECTION 6.7 OF SEFTON COUNCILS STATEMENT OF COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT**

It was moved by Councillor Irving, seconded by Councillor Sayers:

That Part 5 of Section 6.7 of Sefton Council's Statement of Community Involvement which currently states:

“5. Other minor development / changes of use other than (2) and (3) above  
No notification - site notice at front of the property with other notices displayed dependent on-site characteristics”



COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

be amended to read:

“5. Other minor development / changes of use other than (2) and (3) above Notification - require consultation with Parish Councils and Ward Members and site notice at front of the property with other notices displayed dependent on-site characteristics”.

Background:

Support is sought to amend part 5 of Section 6.7 of Sefton Council’s Statement of Community Involvement in order to remove the unnecessary ill feeling that it has or could cause as on this occasion to Formby Residents with alleged threats of violence and damage resulting in Police involvement. It also brought Sefton Council’s Planning Department into disrepute even though they used the correct procedure in this matter. Amending this section would give clarity to the present planning system in Sefton M.B.C. and stop similar situations arising in future.

Following a debate on the Motion, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was lost** by 4 votes to 42 with 8 abstentions.

## **57. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR IRVING - BANNING THE SALE OF DISPOSABLE BARBECUES IN ENGLAND**

It was moved by Councillor Irving, seconded by Councillor Bennett:

I ask that this Council support this motion in writing to the Government in the hope that they take the initiative in bringing legislation forward for a national ban on the sale of disposable barbecues throughout England.

Background

Disposable barbecues have been cited as the main cause of many fires by Senior Fire Officers in England this year, in which over 500 areas of outstanding natural beauty have been severely damaged by fire. Urgent action is needed now to see a national ban on the sale of disposable barbecues which can be bought for as little as £5.00 and cause untold damage, especially when the grass is as dry as it has been over the last few months. Sefton Council in their wisdom banned the use of Barbecues in our area in 2021 and continued their ban on them this year. Large brightly painted banners have been displayed at the entrances to Formby’s Special Area of Conservation which is the jewel in the crown for Sefton’s Environment attraction. The signs which state No Barbecues or Fires have been ignored repeatedly by visitors and the area has suffered a serious grass fire. You only have to walk around the Dunes to see the remnants of the used barbecues left behind. Should this situation be ignored I fear that we could suffer a serious environmental disaster to our area.

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Byrom, seconded by Grace that:

The first paragraph of the motion be retained; the remaining text in the motion be deleted and the following text be added:

“This Council supports national Fire Service and LGA campaigns seeking primary legislation to ban disposable BBQ’s.

Limited restrictions will not stop them being used or brought into these spaces. This also does nothing to counter the damage they do outside these areas. We are calling for an outright ban on their use and sale in the UK.

Whether it is massive environmental damage, life changing injuries & deaths, food poisoning or single use waste that comes with disposable BBQ’s, there are simply too many issues, risks and dangers when buying and using them.

It’s not enough to stop their sale ‘near’ beaches or moorland.

It’s not enough to dismiss the countless problems and blame people for being ‘irresponsible’.

Disposable BBQ’s themselves carry too many risks and our call is for them to be banned completely.

With growing fuel poverty, these dangerous products could be used by people desperate to heat their homes and these products should be banned from retail, wholesale, and online sales with an accompanying information campaign to help people understand how dangerous they can be.”

Following a debate on the **amendment** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **amendment was carried** unanimously.

Following a debate on the **Substantive Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Substantive Motion was carried unanimously**, and it was:

RESOLVED:

That this Council supports this motion in writing to the Government in the hope that they take the initiative in bringing legislation forward for a national ban on the sale of disposable barbecues throughout England.

This Council supports national Fire Service and LGA campaigns seeking primary legislation to ban disposable BBQ’s.

Limited restrictions will not stop them being used or brought into these spaces. This also does nothing to counter the damage they do outside

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

these areas. We are calling for an outright ban on their use and sale in the UK.

Whether it is massive environmental damage, life changing injuries & deaths, food poisoning or single use waste that comes with disposable BBQ's, there are simply too many issues, risks and dangers when buying and using them.

It's not enough to stop their sale 'near' beaches or moorland.

It's not enough to dismiss the countless problems and blame people for being 'irresponsible'.

Disposable BBQ's themselves carry too many risks and our call is for them to be banned completely.

With growing fuel poverty, these dangerous products could be used by people desperate to heat their homes and these products should be banned from retail, wholesale, and online sales with an accompanying information campaign to help people understand how dangerous they can be.

## **58. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PRENDERGAST - DISCLOSURE AND BARRING SERVICE (DBS) CHECKS FOR ELECTED MEMBERS**

It was moved by Councillor Prendergast, seconded by Councillor Brough:

In addition to complying with the provisions of The Local Government (Disqualification) Act 2022, this Council recognises that due to the roles and responsibilities of being a councillor, it would be in the best interests of this Council, councillors and members of the public that all elected members are subject to a Basic DBS Check on taking office.

This would give the public confidence that the members who represent them are held to high standards (in line with many professions), in keeping with what one would expect from those who hold public office.

It is resolved that:

1. Within 28 days of this meeting all current Sefton MBC councillors or within 28 days of becoming elected in the future, all councillors of Sefton MBC should apply for a Basic DBS Check (which they should pay for themselves) and make the results known to the Council's Monitoring Officer.
2. It will be recorded on the Council's website that a basic DBS Check has been undertaken and the results are such that the councillor is not barred from being a councillor of Sefton MBC.

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Councillor Shaw indicated that if the Motion was approved, he intended to move the following Procedural Motion in accordance with Paragraph 61 (d) of Chapter 4 in the Council Constitution:

“That the matter be referred to the Audit and Governance Committee for further consideration.”

Following debate on the Motion, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Motion was lost** by 4 votes to 51.

## **59. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR SIR RON WATSON - FREEDOM OF THE BOROUGH**

It was moved by Councillor Sir Ron Watson, seconded by Councillor Prendergast and

RESOLVED Unanimously:

On 15 July 2021, the Council agreed to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Aintree and Liverpool NHS Foundation Trust, Southport and Ormskirk NHS Trust, Alder Hey Children’s NHS Trust and Mersey Care NHS Trust and for representatives of those bodies to be invited to an Extra-ordinary Council meeting and civic reception in due course, in recognition of their hard work and dedication during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Council would like to put on record that whilst the honour is to be bestowed on the organisations named above, the Council extends its gratitude to all NHS institutions who have provided services within Sefton and to Sefton residents during the pandemic and no discourtesy is intended by naming the four organisations as representatives of the wider NHS community.

## **60. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR MONCUR - SMOKING IMPACT ON PUBLIC HEALTH**

It was moved by Councillor Moncur, seconded by Councillor Lappin and

RESOLVED Unanimously: That:

Sefton Council notes that:

- Preventable disease continues to have a massive impact on the public’s health, the NHS and the economy.
- Tobacco is the biggest preventable cause of cancer and premature death in the UK.
- Decades of comprehensive policy action have meant adult smoking prevalence in the UK in 2019 was at a record low at 14.1%, but this masks significant inequality.

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

- Differences in smoking rates make it one of the leading drivers of health inequalities, responsible for half the difference in life expectancy between the lowest and highest income groups in England.

Further notes:

- That through their public health duties, local authorities are responsible for improving the health of their population and do this through services such as stop smoking services and wider tobacco control activities.
- Believes that Sefton must be adequately resourced to fulfil their public health duties.
- Supports Cancer Research UK's calls for a Smokefree Fund (a fixed annual charge on the tobacco industry, making the tobacco industry pay for the damage their products cause, without being able to influence how the funds are spent) to fund local tobacco control work, and urges this Conservative Government to consider implementing a Smokefree Fund as part of its efforts to tackle health inequalities.

## **61. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR PUGH - RAW SEWAGE ENTERING THE WATER COURSE**

It was moved by Councillor Pugh, seconded by Councillor Sathiy:

This Council:

- (1) is seriously disturbed by reports of raw sewage entering Sefton water courses and the potential impacts on health and tourism
- (2) recognises its legal responsibilities in relation to public health
- (3) calls on the relevant Water Utility companies to provide for the Council monthly data on these incidents and details of progress made to prevent and mitigate such episodes
- (4) believes that councils should have powers to fine water utility companies for preventable sewage dumping

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Prendergast, seconded by Councillor Brough that:

The following text be added at the end of Paragraph (1) in the Motion:

“and recognises the efforts being made following the enactment of the Environment Act to improve the situation.”

The deletion of all the text in Paragraphs (3) and (4) of the Motion and the addition of the following text:

“(3) calls on the Chief Executive of Sefton Council to write to the Chief Executive of United Utilities to:

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

(3.1) request a quarterly meeting (or other frequency of meetings as agreed between the parties) with representatives from each organisation to provide data from United Utilities on instances of sewage discharge along the Sefton coast (or which impact the Sefton coast but occur elsewhere) and enable Sefton Council officers with responsibility for coastal management to voice their concerns/suggestions

(3.2) request an action plan from the Chief Executive of United Utilities on the steps they will be taking to mitigate such instances of sewage discharge with such plan to be reviewed on a 6 monthly basis (or other frequency as agreed between the parties) and setting out how they are complying with their legal obligations on this issue as laid down in primary legislation.”

Following a debate on the **amendment**, the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **amendment was lost** by 4 votes to 47.

Following a debate on the **Original Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Original Motion was lost** by 4 abstentions to 47 votes against.

## **62. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR ROSCOE - AIR QUALITY AROUND SCHOOLS**

It was moved by Councillor Roscoe, seconded by Councillor Lappin:

This Council notes:

Poor air quality affects people’s health and damages the environment. In Sefton, there are two main pollutants of concern: nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter. The main source of these pollutants is road traffic, in particular diesel engines.

Sefton Council is committed to improving Air Quality in the Borough and is working on a number of initiatives to ensure that Sefton will be a place where improved health and wellbeing is experienced by all. This includes, but is not limited to, junction improvement works, measures to reduce congestion, a DEFRA funded Schools behaviour change project and Development of an Outline Business Case (OBC) for the consideration of a Sefton Based Clean Air Zone (CAZ), initiating a “school streets” scheme for some schools in Southport and plans to extend this programme into Bootle. This work directly supports Sefton’s 2030 vision of a cleaner, greener, and healthier Borough

Poor air quality has a negative impact on public health, with potentially serious consequences for individuals, families, and communities. Identifying problem areas, prioritising vulnerable residents, and ensuring that actions are taken to improve air quality forms an important element in protecting the health and wellbeing of Sefton’s residents.

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Studies have shown that children's lungs are disproportionately vulnerable to air pollution as their lungs are still growing and that children who are exposed to severe air pollution are up to four times more likely to have poor lung development. Children are also more susceptible to respiratory infections and daily exposure to pollution has been shown to contribute to increased inflammation of the airways in healthy children and children with asthma. Children's height means they tend to be exposed to more roadside pollution than adults. <sup>(1)</sup>

Asthma + Lung UK have commissioned research that found that more than 25% of all British schools and colleges are surrounded by 'dangerously high' levels of air pollution. This is impacted by idling vehicles and unnecessary car trips to school instead of walking or cycling. <sup>(2)</sup>

Recent national research by Living Streets <sup>(3)</sup> found the following: -

1. Over a third (36%) are scared about walking to school because of speeding traffic.
2. One in five children and young people are concerned about the lack of safe crossing points on their journey to school.
3. Over a third of primary school children surveyed reported being scared about walking to school because of speeding traffic. COVID Risk management restrictions have meant that classroom windows have to be left open increasing the risk of pollution to children, particularly in those buildings close to roads. Children and their families have to wait outside schools, making them more exposed to air pollution.

Recently, in a landmark decision, a nine-year-old girl Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, who died in 2013 following an asthma attack has become the first person in the UK to have air pollution listed as a cause of death and that air pollution "made a material contribution" to her death after she was exposed to "excessive" levels of pollution. <sup>(4)</sup>

There are no safe levels for air pollution.

This Council resolves to:

Measure air quality around a sample of schools in the borough at child-head height to identify the level of air pollution children are being exposed to at school drop-off and pick-up.

Work with schools and local partners to swiftly identify and prioritise those schools in the borough that could put a "school streets" scheme in place where maximum benefit and impact could be achieved.

Work with schools and local partners to enable all schools that wish to take part in the "school streets" scheme to do so – taking advantage of experimental traffic orders and new statutory guidance over fast-tracked Traffic Regulation Orders where necessary.

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Work with Southport Eco Centre to promote their clean air resources to local schools throughout the borough.

Introduce a 'healthier air around our school' award initiative that is linked to use of the resources and evidence of activity tackling parking around the school and encouraging active travel or sustainable transport to school.

Add 'anti idling' clauses to contracts that Sefton Council agrees with transport providers such as coach companies.

Continue to identify and pilot additional measures to improve air quality particularly near schools such as 'living green walls and tree planting.

Continue to work alongside Steve Rotherham, the Liverpool City Region and all other local authorities who face similar air quality issues and to campaign nationally to improve air quality for all our residents, but particularly children.

(1) <https://www.blf.org.uk/sites/default/files/DEFRA%20consultation%20-%20draft%20UK%20air%20quality%20plan%20-%20May%202017.pdf>

(2) <https://www.asthma.org.uk/about/media/news/schools-surrounded-by-pollution/>

(3) <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/1398/breakingdownthebarriers.pdf>

(4) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-55330945>

all accessed 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne that the following text be added at the end of the Motion:

“Write to Steve Rotherham and also to local bus operators (including Arriva, Stagecoach and Cumfybus) asking that bus drivers turn off their engines while waiting at level crossings when the barriers are down (the most notorious problem area being Birkdale Station level crossing) in order to assist in improving air quality.”

Following a debate on the **amendment** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **amendment was lost** by 14 votes to 37.

Following a debate on the **Original Motion** the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer officiated a vote and the Mayor declared that the **Original Motion was carried unanimously**, and it was:

RESOLVED:

This Council notes:



COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Poor air quality affects people's health and damages the environment. In Sefton, there are two main pollutants of concern: nitrogen dioxide and fine particulate matter. The main source of these pollutants is road traffic, in particular diesel engines.

Sefton Council is committed to improving Air Quality in the Borough and is working on a number of initiatives to ensure that Sefton will be a place where improved health and wellbeing is experienced by all. This includes, but is not limited to, junction improvement works, measures to reduce congestion, a DEFRA funded Schools behaviour change project and Development of an Outline Business Case (OBC) for the consideration of a Sefton Based Clean Air Zone (CAZ), initiating a "school streets" scheme for some schools in Southport and plans to extend this programme into Bootle. This work directly supports Sefton's 2030 vision of a cleaner, greener, and healthier Borough

Poor air quality has a negative impact on public health, with potentially serious consequences for individuals, families, and communities. Identifying problem areas, prioritising vulnerable residents, and ensuring that actions are taken to improve air quality forms an important element in protecting the health and wellbeing of Sefton's residents.

Studies have shown that children's lungs are disproportionately vulnerable to air pollution as their lungs are still growing and that children who are exposed to severe air pollution are up to four times more likely to have poor lung development. Children are also more susceptible to respiratory infections and daily exposure to pollution has been shown to contribute to increased inflammation of the airways in healthy children and children with asthma. Children's height means they tend to be exposed to more roadside pollution than adults.<sup>(1)</sup>

Asthma + Lung UK have commissioned research that found that more than 25% of all British schools and colleges are surrounded by 'dangerously high' levels of air pollution. This is impacted by idling vehicles and unnecessary car trips to school instead of walking or cycling.<sup>(2)</sup>

Recent national research by Living Streets<sup>(3)</sup> found the following: -

1. Over a third (36%) are scared about walking to school because of speeding traffic.
2. One in five children and young people are concerned about the lack of safe crossing points on their journey to school.
3. Over a third of primary school children surveyed reported being scared about walking to school because of speeding traffic. COVID Risk management restrictions have meant that classroom windows have to be left open increasing the risk of pollution to children, particularly in those buildings close to roads. Children and their families have to wait outside schools, making them more exposed to air pollution.

# Agenda Item 3

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2022

Recently, in a landmark decision, a nine-year-old girl Ella Adoo-Kissi-Debrah, who died in 2013 following an asthma attack has become the first person in the UK to have air pollution listed as a cause of death and that air pollution “made a material contribution” to her death after she was exposed to “excessive” levels of pollution. <sup>(4)</sup>

There are no safe levels for air pollution.

This Council resolves to:

Measure air quality around a sample of schools in the borough at child-head height to identify the level of air pollution children are being exposed to at school drop-off and pick-up.

Work with schools and local partners to swiftly identify and prioritise those schools in the borough that could put a “school streets” scheme in place where maximum benefit and impact could be achieved.

Work with schools and local partners to enable all schools that wish to take part in the “school streets” scheme to do so – taking advantage of experimental traffic orders and new statutory guidance over fast-tracked Traffic Regulation Orders where necessary.

Work with Southport Eco Centre to promote their clean air resources to local schools throughout the borough.

Introduce a ‘healthier air around our school’ award initiative that is linked to use of the resources and evidence of activity tackling parking around the school and encouraging active travel or sustainable transport to school.

Add ‘anti idling’ clauses to contracts that Sefton Council agrees with transport providers such as coach companies.

Continue to identify and pilot additional measures to improve air quality particularly near schools such as ‘living green walls and tree planting.

Continue to work alongside Steve Rotherham, the Liverpool City Region and all other local authorities who face similar air quality issues and to campaign nationally to improve air quality for all our residents, but particularly children.

(1) <https://www.blf.org.uk/sites/default/files/DEFRA%20consultation%20-%20draft%20UK%20air%20quality%20plan%20-%20May%202017.pdf>

(2) <https://www.asthma.org.uk/about/media/news/schools-surrounded-by-pollution/>

(3) <https://www.livingstreets.org.uk/media/1398/breakingdownthebarriers.pdf>

(4) <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-london-55330945>

all accessed 25<sup>th</sup> May 2022



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# Agenda Item 7

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 <sup>th</sup> November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board Terms of Reference		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All.
<b>Cabinet Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member Health and Wellbeing		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

A report to present to Council a revised set of Terms of Reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board, which forms part of the Council's Constitution. This is in response to the introduction of the Health and Care Act (2022) and following a programme of development delivered in partnership with the Local Government Association.

## Recommendation:

That the revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board be approved and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Eleanor Moulton
Telephone Number:	07779162882
Email Address:	<a href="mailto:Eleanor.Moulton@sefton.gov.uk">Eleanor.Moulton@sefton.gov.uk</a>

## Appendices:

Refreshed Terms of reference for the Sefton Health and Well Being Board.

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## 1 Background

- 1.1 Sefton Health and Wellbeing Board was established under the Health and Social Care Act 2012 (the Act). It is a statutory committee of the Council with its terms of reference being part of the Council's Constitution
- 1.2 Health and Wellbeing Boards (HWBs) and the new Integrated Care Systems will be supported to work together to complement each other, with ICS being required to work closely with HWBs and have regard to the local joint strategic needs assessments and health and wellbeing strategies within the ICS footprint.
- 1.3 Following discussions with the Local Government Association (LGA), the Sefton

# Agenda Item 7

Health and Wellbeing Board agreed to hold a series of development sessions as an opportunity for the Board to consider what it needs to do to become the driver for the “Place” of Sefton. This would position the board as the primary advocate for Sefton with the Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System as established by the Health and Care Act 2022.

## 2. Introduction

- 2.1 The following section sets out the context of the importance of the Health and Wellbeing board in the emerging landscape set out by the Health and Care Act (2022).
- 2.2 Health and Wellbeing Boards are the only statutory bodies where political, commissioning, professional and community representatives are able to come together to find common purpose as equal partners. Through their elected Members, they are democratically accountable to their communities.
- 2.3 They are uniquely placed to link with other place-based strategies such as housing, regeneration, planning, community safety, in order to address the wider determinants of health. Importantly, they cover a geographical area that means something to people.
- 2.4 Moving to effective place-based leadership will require the Board to demonstrate, for example:
  - Collaboration between local government and other system players
  - Decisions taken as close to the community as possible
  - Building on local strategies and evidence to agree and work to shared activity and action plans
  - Strong co-production and commitment to engage with local people
  - Focus on preventative population health
  - Striving for best value
  - Trust, openness to innovation, learning and challenge
  - An ability to deliver measurable change • Membership that flexes as the Board’s role evolves
- 2.5 The Health and Wellbeing Board will be pivotal in setting, monitoring and driving the long-term vision for health and wellbeing in the Borough, ensuring oversight, assurance and demographic accountability. The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) will be an important platform. The Board will enhance its responsibility for the oversight, review and development of the JSNA and the Place Plan, taking account of the wider determinants of health and wellbeing.

## 3. Reviewing the Terms of Reference

- 3.1 Following a series of development sessions, the Health and Wellbeing board agreed in February that a new Terms of Reference be produced encapsulating the principles and ways of working identified in the development session and reflected in the Sefton Place partnership Collaborative Agreement.

- 3.2 The document also includes details of a broader membership which encapsulates representation from across the Health and Care system in Sefton.
- 3.3 The full Terms of Reference are appended to this report. They reflect principles of working and ambitions and vision to be achieved based on the Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

#### **4. Conclusion**

That the revised terms of reference for the Health and Wellbeing Board be approved and the Constitution be amended accordingly.

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# Health and Wellbeing Board: Terms of Reference

## 1. Purpose

Health and wellbeing boards are statutory bodies introduced in England under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, their meetings are open to the public and its papers are published on Sefton Council’s website. Established and hosted by local authorities, health and wellbeing boards bring together the NHS, public health, adult social care and children's services, including elected representatives and local Healthwatch, to plan how best to meet the needs of their local population and tackle local inequalities in health. The aim of the health and wellbeing boards is to improve integration between practitioners in local health care, social care, public health and related public services so that patients and other service-users experience more "joined up" care, particularly in transitions between health care and social care. The Health and Wellbeing Board also performs the duties of the Sefton Children’s Trust.

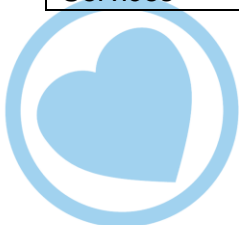
## 2. Chair

The Health and Wellbeing Board is chaired by the Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing

## 3. Membership

The membership of the Board will be as follows (this is as recommended by the Board and appointed by Council) :

Nominated Representative (Role/Title)	Organisation
3 Members of the Council: Cabinet Member for Children’s Social Care Cabinet Member for Health and Wellbeing Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care	Sefton Council
3 Statutory Directors and 1 Assistant Director Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health/Place Director Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care Board, Sefton Place. Assistance Director for Adult Social Care and Health Executive Director for Children’s Services	Sefton Council



# Agenda Item 7

Director of Public Health	
Chief Executive	Sefton Council
6 representatives from agreed health organisations (these are those organisations most significant to the Sefton Health System, as agreed by the Informal Health and Wellbeing Board, which will be reviewed on an annual basis) Chief Executive or their deputy (unless stated)	Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust Mersey Care NHS Trust Southport and Ormskirk Hospitals NHS Trust Alder Hey Children's NHS Trust foundation Sefton Place Integrated Care Board Clinical Director
Health Watch	Healthwatch Sefton
Police	Merseyside Police
Fire	Merseyside Fire and Rescue
Council for the Voluntary Sector	Sefton CVS
Independent Chair	Sefton Place Programme Delivery Group.
Provider representation at a Chief Executive level of 1 Adults Provider and 1 Children's Provider.	Sefton Health and Social Care Forum

## Board member roles

The Chair will ensure:

- All meetings are conducted in a fair, transparent, and professional manner.
- That decisions are clear, and organisations are accountable.
- That any actions required have a clearly identified lead and agreed timescale for delivery.
- That a shared culture, language, common purpose, and trust are engendered through a collaborative leadership style.

Members of the Board will ensure that:

- They make every effort to attend meetings.
- Failure to attend three consecutive meetings will lead to a review of their membership.
- They are prepared for the meetings and have read papers circulated in advance.
- They will represent the views of the group, organisation, and / or partnership that they speak for and they will ensure that Board business is reported back to that group, organisation / partnership as required.
- They will be empowered to make decisions on behalf of the group, organisation, and / or partnership that they speak for.
- They will take forward any actions that they have agreed to develop, and then report back any progress to the group in the timescales agreed.
- They will use the available needs and assets assessments and evidence of

effectiveness to develop their views, particularly with reference to the evidence within the JSNA and other strategic needs and assets assessments

- Members will adhere to the seven principles of public life
- Members endorse the collaborative model and work to ensure its achievement.
- Members cannot nominate a deputy.

Other attendees may be requested to attend and present as required from time to time and in line with agenda items to be discussed.

The role of Health Watch on the Board is a dual role; first, to bring the voice of the local community to the HWB by leading more effective engagement; and second as a system leader, influencing decision making and commissioning and supporting the development of the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) and helping to drive the change that is required.

## 4. Quorum

A quorum will be at least 2 elected members.

## 5. Functions

- The Health and Wellbeing Board is the place for wider partnership discussions and its Executive is the place to transact other businesses that need not command the attention of the full membership.
- To encourage integrated working between commissioners of health, public health and social care services.
- To encourage those who provide services related to wider determinants of health, so such as housing, to work closely with the Health and Wellbeing Board.
- To lead on the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) and Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS) including involving users and the public in their development. To deliver the vision of creating a confident and connected borough that offers the things we all need to start, live and age well, where everyone has a fair chance of a positive and Healthier future.
- To be inclusive of all health and care partners in Sefton.
- To develop their commissioning plans and ensure that they take proper account of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy when developing these plans.

### 5.1 Principles of working

The Partners will work together in good faith and will:

Work together to deliver a single vision through a focused set of priorities to reduce the unacceptable gap in health and wellbeing inequalities

Work to achieve financial sustainability by working to create the conditions to guarantee the most efficient, effective and value for money based use of public resources in Sefton.

# Agenda Item 7

Deliver Person Centred Services informed by the voice of experts by experience through commitment to codesign, coproduction and listening at all levels to our owners – the people that need Care and Support.

Commit to acting ethically at all times with the ultimate interest of the citizen held at the heart of what we do. This is to be achieved through openness, honesty, transparency and constructive challenge.

To build on what we learnt during COVID – the power of acting as one, being risk enabled, outcome focused, and solution driven to solve our ‘wicked problems’

Invest in innovative and creative services that bring best practice to Sefton and offer digital solution that bring maximum impact and solutions to our citizens

Ensure that all that we do is informed through a population health framework that enables shared, collective data to ensure that residents are getting the best possible care and support – in the right place at the right time

## Structure

The Board has adopted 5 formal subgroups shown in figure one below:

	<b>Name</b>	<b>Function</b>
1.	<b>The Health Protection Forum</b>	A forum where statutory roles of partner’s review plans and issues that need escalation. The HP Forum is chaired by the Director of Public Health or their Deputy, and meets on a quarterly basis with representatives from the Council, Clinical Commissioning Group, NHS partners and Public Health England
2.	<b>The Adults Forum</b>	To support the delivery of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy to achieve improved health and wellbeing outcomes for Sefton’s Adults
3.	<b>The Children and Young Peoples Partnership Board</b>	To ensure that appropriate arrangements are in place to enable vulnerable children and young people to be heard, happy and healthy so that they can achieve the best possible outcomes
4.	<b>The Health and Wellbeing Executive</b>	To determine and ensure delivery of a Strategy for Integrated Commissioning, to drive forward performance, to own and manage risks relating to Integrated Commissioning, and strategically lead the change programme towards full integration
5.	<b>The SEND Continuous Improvement Board</b>	To ensure that a robust special educational needs and disabilities (SEND), Improvement plan is in place and delivered to respond to the joint OFSTED/CQC revisit to review the partnership weaknesses, which were initially identified in the SEND Inspection in November 2016. The main purpose being to improve outcomes and demonstrate impact for children and young people and support parents and carers.



## 6. Authority/Reporting

The Board is established by the constitution of Sefton Council.

## 7. Frequency of Meetings

The Health and Wellbeing Board shall meet no less than on a quarterly basis. With Informal Health and Wellbeing Board meetings held quarterly on intervening months (informal meetings allow the Board to develop its thinking prior to public decision).

Meetings will be held in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972

The Chair may call extraordinary meetings of the Board at his or her discretion, subject to providing at least 10 working days' notice to the public.

## 8. Administration

The Health and Wellbeing Board will be administered by democratic Services for Sefton Council

# Agenda Item 7

Agenda items and supporting papers must be submitted via the Mod Gov system with Financial and Legal approval 10 working days prior to the meeting date and will be published via the council's website 5 clear working days before the meeting takes place.

Minutes will be produced following the meeting and will be publicly available and published on the council's website.

## **9. Review**

The terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board will be reviewed by board members on a minimum of a 12 monthly basis.

# Agenda Item 8

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	3 November 2022 17 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Treasury Management Position to September 2022		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

This report provides Members with a review of the Treasury Management activities undertaken to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022. This document is the mid-year report to Cabinet and Council, as well as the second report of the ongoing quarterly monitoring 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 update to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022, 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 appraised of the treasury activity undertaken to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 and 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

The financial position on the external investment budget to the end of September indicates a surplus to the end of the period. The forecast to the end of the financial year also shows that investment income will exceed the level set in the budget.

# Agenda Item 8

**(B) Capital Costs**

None.

**Implications of the Proposals:**

<p><b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>          A surplus in investment income has been forecast for 2022/23 financial year 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 2022/23, 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: Support strategic planning and promote 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 (FD6984/22) is the author of the report.

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5184/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

N/A

## Implementation Date for the Decision

With immediate effect.

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

## Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 8

## 1. Background to the Report

- 1.1. As recommended under CIPFA's revised 2017 Code of Practice on Treasury Management in Public Services, the Council's Treasury Management Policy and Strategy document for 2022/23 (approved by Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022) included a requirement for regular updates to be provided on the investment activity of the Authority. This report is the second of such reports for the year and presents relevant Treasury Management information for the period ending 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022.
- 1.2. The report includes information on the investments held / entered into during the period and the interest rates obtained (with a comparison of performance against a standard benchmark figure). In addition, the report highlights whether there has been any variance from the Treasury Management Policy and Strategy and the Council's approved Prudential Indicators (the operational boundaries within which the Council aims to work).

## 2. Investments Held

- 2.1. Investments held at the 30/09/2022 comprise the following:

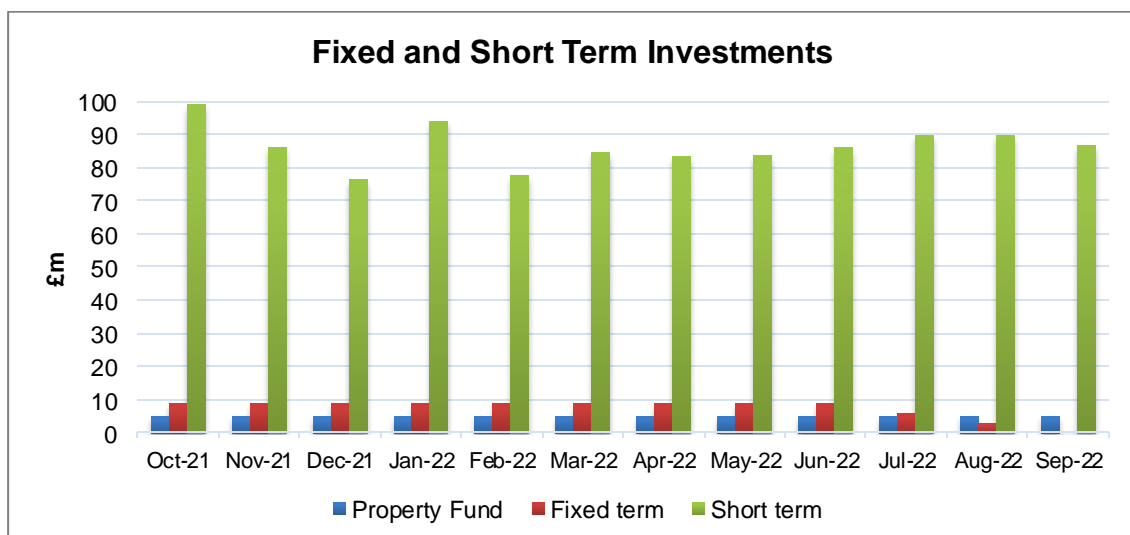
Institution	Deposit £m	Rate %	Maturity	Rating
<b>Money Market Funds:</b>				
Aberdeen	8.66	2.09	01.10.22	AAA
Aviva	8.66	1.94	01.10.22	AAA
Blackrock	8.66	1.94	01.10.22	AAA
BNP Paribas	9.19	2.20	01.10.22	AAA
Goldman-Sachs	8.66	1.97	01.10.22	AAA
HSBC	8.66	2.05	01.10.22	AAA
Invesco	8.20	2.12	01.10.22	AAA
Morgan Stanley	8.89	2.12	01.10.22	AAA
Federated	8.66	2.08	01.10.22	AAA
Insight	8.66	2.03	01.10.22	AAA
Total	86.90			
<b>Property Fund:</b>				
CCLA	5.00	3.40	n/a	n/a
Total	5.00			
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENTS</b>	<b>91.90</b>			

- 2.2. 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

# Agenda Item 8

2022/23. The balance of investments is therefore expected to fall over the coming months as the income is fully expended.

- 2.3. All of the investments made since April 2022 have been with organisations on the current counterparty list. The maximum level of investment permitted in the 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.
- 2.4. 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 2.8).
- 2.5. 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 3%. This is seen as a long-term investment with the potential for the capital value of the investment to vary as property prices fluctuate.
- 2.6. The Net Asset Value (NAV) of the Property Fund has increased over a 12-month period to September 2022 from 318.20p per unit to 347.79p per unit, an increase of 9.3%. The income yield on the Property fund at the end of September 2022 was 3.4% which, although lower than returns received in the past, still represents a reasonable return on the Council's investment.
- 2.7. The ratio of overnight deposits (short term) to fixed term investments and the property fund is shown below:





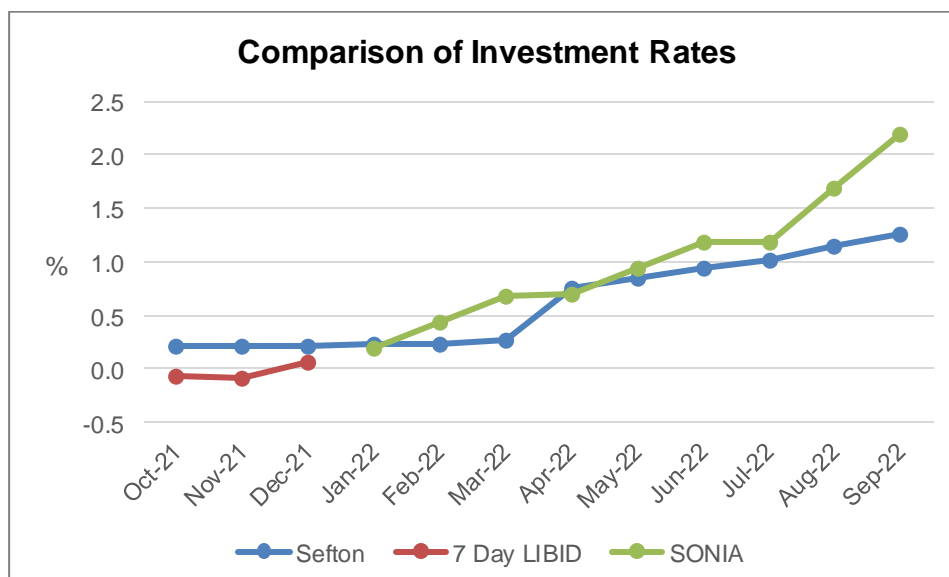
## 3. Interest Earned

- 3.1. The actual performance of investments against the profiled budget to the end of September 2022 and the forecast performance of investments against total budget at year end is shown below:

	Budget £m	Actual £m	Variance £m
<b>September-22</b>	0.345	0.587	0.242

	Budget £m	Forecast £m	Variance £m
<b>Outturn 2022/23</b>	0.789	1.173	0.384

- 3.2. The forecast outturn for investment income shows the level of income to be above target against the budget for 2022/23. Investment rates have increased significantly in the first half of 2022 (see 3.4. below) largely in response to rises in interest rates. The forecast income for 2022/23 has therefore been set at a higher level when compared to previous financial years.
- 3.3. As mentioned in paragraph 2.9, it is not envisaged that increased rates will lead to a significant improvement in the forecast income from investments for the remainder of 2022/23 as cash balances are diminishing and held in short term deposits. Interest rate uncertainty has also made future returns difficult to forecast and a prudent approach has therefore been taken when forecasting returns for the rest of the year.
- 3.4. The Council has achieved an average rate of return on its investments of 1.27%. The chart below shows the average rate of return plotted against the 7-day LIBID and SONIA benchmarks.



# Agenda Item 8

- 3.5. On 5th March 2021 the Financial Conduct Authority announced the cessation of the LIBOR benchmark from the start of 2022. This deadline has now passed and as a result some LIBOR benchmarks such as the 7-day LIBID have been discontinued. LIBOR has primarily been replaced by the Sterling Overnight Index Average (SONIA) benchmark as the new widespread reference rate.
- 3.6. On the advice of its treasury management advisors, Sefton has adopted the SONIA rate as a replacement for the 7-day LIBID when benchmarking its investment performance from January 2022 onwards. As can be seen from the chart above, Sefton's investments have underperformed (by 0.92%) compared to SONIA to the end of September 2022, although the investment income received is above target as per the 2022/23 budget as shown in paragraph 3.1 (above).

## 4. Borrowing Strategy

- 4.1. The Council's chief objective when borrowing has been to strike an appropriately low risk balance between securing low interest costs and achieving cost certainty over the period for which funds are required, with flexibility to renegotiate loans should the Council's long-term plans change being a secondary objective. The Council's borrowing strategy continues to address the key issue of affordability without compromising the longer-term stability of the debt portfolio.
- 4.2. Over the April-September period short term Public Works Loans Board (PWLB) rates rose dramatically, particular in late September after the Chancellor's 'mini-budget', included unfunded tax cuts and additional borrowing to fund consumer energy price subsidies. Exceptional volatility threatened financial stability, requiring Bank of England intervention in the gilt market. Over a twenty-four-hour period some PWLB rates increased to 6%, before the intervention had the desired effect, bringing rates back down by over 1% for certain maturities.
- 4.3. Interest rates rose by over 2% during the period in both the long and short term. As an indication the PWLB 5-year maturity certainty rate rose from 2.30% on 1st April to 5.09% on 30th September; over the same period the 30-year maturity certainty rate rose from 2.63% to 4.68%. Further commentary on interest rates is provided in paragraph 5 (below).
- 4.4. The Council has a significant PWLB loan maturity of £17.9m due in March 2023 comprising several historic loans. The Council pursues a strategy of internal borrowing as per the Treasury Management Strategy approved by Council in March 2022. Cash balances will therefore be reduced to replace maturing loans where possible and when interest rates on deposits remain lower than PWLB borrowing rates.
- 4.5. Following consultation with the Council's treasury advisers, it is considered prudent to continue to pursue the above strategy in view of recent interest rate uncertainty. The borrowing position will be kept under review however and further advice sought should the need arise to take out external borrowing from the PWLB.

## 5. Interest Rate Forecast

5.1. Arlingclose, the Council's treasury advisors, have provide the following interest rate view:

	Current	Dec-22	Mar-23	Jun-23	Sep-23	Dec-23	Mar-24	Jun-24	Sep-24	Dec-24	Mar-25	Jun-25	Sep-25
<b>Official Bank Rate</b>													
Upside risk	0.00	0.50	0.75	0.75	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
<b>Arlingclose Central Case</b>	<b>2.25</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>5.00</b>	<b>4.75</b>	<b>4.25</b>	<b>3.75</b>	<b>3.25</b>
Downside risk	0.00	-1.00	-1.00	-0.75	-0.50	-0.50	-0.50	-0.75	-1.25	-1.50	-1.75	-1.75	-1.75

- Monetary policymakers are behind the curve having only raising rates by 50bps in September. This was before the “Mini-Budget”, poorly received by the markets, triggered a rout in gilts with a huge spike in yields and a further fall in sterling. In a shift from recent trends, the focus now is perceived to be on supporting sterling whilst also focusing on subduing high inflation.
- There is now an increased possibility of a special Bank of England MPC meeting to raise rates to support the currency. Followed by a more forceful stance over concerns on the looser fiscal outlook. The MPC is therefore likely to raise Bank Rate higher than would otherwise have been necessary given already declining demand. A prolonged economic downturn could ensue.
- Uncertainty on the path of interest rates has increased dramatically due to the possible risk from unknowns which could include for instance another Conservative leadership contest, a general election, or further tax changes including implementing windfall taxes.
- The government's blank cheque approach to energy price caps, combined with international energy markets priced in dollars, presents a fiscal mismatch that has contributed to significant decline in sterling and sharp rises in gilt yields which will feed through to consumers' loans and mortgages and business funding costs.
- UK government policy has mitigated some of the expected rise in energy inflation for households and businesses flattening the peak for CPI, whilst extending the duration of elevated CPI. Continued currency weakness could add inflationary pressure.
- The UK economy already appears to be in recession, with business activity and household spending falling. The short- to medium-term outlook for the UK economy is relatively bleak.
- Global bond yields have jumped as investors focus on higher and stickier US policy rates. The rise in UK government bond yields has been sharper, due to both an apparent decline in investor confidence and a rise in interest rate expectations, following the UK government's shift to borrow to loosen fiscal policy. Gilt yields will remain higher unless the government's plans are perceived to be fiscally responsible.
- The housing market impact of increases in the Base Rate could act as a “circuit breaker” which stops rates rising much beyond 5.0%, but this remains an uncertainty.
- The MPC is particularly concerned about the demand implications of fiscal loosening, the tight labour market, sterling weakness and the willingness of firms to raise prices and wages.
- The MPC may therefore raise Bank Rate more quickly and to a higher level to dampen aggregate demand and reduce the risk of sustained higher inflation. Arlingclose now expects Bank Rate to peak at 5.0%, with 200bps of increases this calendar year.

# Agenda Item 8

- This action by the MPC will slow the economy, necessitating cuts in Bank Rate later in 2024.
- Gilt yields will face further upward pressure in the short term due to lower confidence in UK fiscal policy, higher inflation expectations and asset sales by the BoE. Given the recent sharp rises in gilt yields, the risks are now broadly balanced to either side. Over the longer term, gilt yields are forecast to fall slightly over the forecast period.

## 6. Compliance with Treasury and Prudential Limits

- 6.1. During the first half of 2022/23 financial year, the Council has operated within the treasury and prudential indicators set out in the Council's Treasury Management Strategy Statement and in compliance with the Council's Treasury Management Practices.
- 6.2. The key treasury indicators compared to the actuals as at 30<sup>th</sup> September 2022 are shown below:

<b>External Debt:</b>	<b>2022/23 £m</b>
<b>Authorised limit for external debt</b>	220.000
<b>Operational boundary for external debt</b>	205.000
<b>Actual external debt 30.09.22</b>	166.600

<b>Maturity structure of fixed rate borrowing:</b>	<b>Upper Limit %</b>	<b>Lower Limit %</b>	<b>Actual %</b>
<b>Under 12 months</b>	35	0	21
<b>12 months to 24 months</b>	40	0	3
<b>24 months to 5 years</b>	50	0	10
<b>5 years to 10 years</b>	50	0	15
<b>10 years to 15 years</b>	75	0	12
<b>15 years +</b>	90	25	39

<b>Upper limit for principal sums invested for longer than 365 days:</b>	<b>Limit £m</b>	<b>Actual £m</b>
<b>Principal sums invested</b>	15	5



# Agenda Item 9

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thursday 17 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Financial Management 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2022/23 - Additional Estimates		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

## Summary:

This report sets out a supplementary estimate for approval in the Council's Capital Programme 2022/23 following recommendation by Cabinet on 3 November.

## Recommendation(s):

Council is recommended to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.350m for essential repairs and maintenance at two Leisure Centres funded by Prudential Borrowing.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To approve updates to the 2022/23 Capital Programme so that they can be applied to schemes in the delivery of the Council's overall financial 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 estimated cost of borrowing is £0.024m per annum over 25 years and this will be funded by an increase to Leisure Centre income targets.

### (B) Capital Costs

The total cost of the schemes will be £0.350m funded by prudential borrowing.

# Agenda Item 9

## Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
None	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
None	
<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	N
<p>The allocations of funding outlined in this report 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.</p>	

## 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.

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

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7005/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5205/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

N/A

### Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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

### Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

### Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 9

## 1. Leisure Centres – Essential Repairs and Maintenance

- 1.1. Sefton's six leisure centres are now of an age where large cost items are reaching end of life. These items are not scheduled to be replaced as part of the existing repairs and maintenance cycle and relate to both Health & Safety and compliance with the Equalities Act (EA). Furthermore, the increasing age of the buildings and the absence of building lifestyle plans and sinking funds is placing increasing pressure on maintenance budgets. There are two centres that require urgent works to be completed: Bootle Leisure Centre (BLC) and Netherton Activity Centre (NAC).
- 1.2. The roof at BLC is leaking in a number of places which results in the sports hall being out of order, this obviously affects income. The roof has a number of photovoltaic (PV) panels fitted and it is believed that some of the leaks have been caused by these panels. The panels are old and there is little or no technical knowledge about them. Several roofing contractors have been approached to carry out repairs, but they are unwilling to do any work whilst the PV panels remain. A number of options are currently being reviewed around the panels to remove, replace, do not replace or re-site. Given the age of the roof and its realistic lifespan it is recommended that the roof be replaced at an estimated cost of £202k with some potential additional cost relating to the PV panels.
- 1.3. Secondly the lift at BLC has failed. The lift was installed in 1993/94 and due to the length of time the lift has been in situ the parts needed to repair it have become obsolete and the company that installed it are no longer trading. The only option is to replace the lift with a new replacement at an estimated cost of £38k which will ensure continued EA compliance.
- 1.4. The rebound boards that surround the 3G football pitches at NAC have failed. Over time they have crumbled and split and require replacing. There have been significant issues sourcing the materials and prices have risen significantly over the last 12 months. The estimated cost to replace all boards and keep this valuable income generating facility open will be £103k. This will involve replacing the boards with fencing which also has a significantly increased life span.
- 1.5. Cabinet on 3 November recommended to Council to approve a supplementary capital estimate of £350,000 financed by Prudential Borrowing for the essential repairs and maintenance listed above at BLC and NAC. The cost of borrowing will be funded by an increase to Leisure Centre income targets. It is believed that a nationally benchmarked external analysis of Leisure Centre income and expenditure could highlight opportunities to generate increased revenues that could not only be utilised to cover the cost of borrowing, but also pay for the cost of a marketing function and the longer-term preservation of the assets.

# Agenda Item 10

<b>Report to:</b>	Cabinet	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thursday 3 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Financial Management 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 - Medium-Term Financial Plan 2023/24 to 2025/26		
<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** and **Council** of: -

1. The update to the Medium-Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for 2023/24 to 2025/26 taking account of all currently available information.
2. The position in respect of the Council's High Needs Budget, the commencement of the Delivering Better Value programme and within this the need to reach an annual financially sustainable position. In addition, these plans will be shared with the Council's external auditor.

## Recommendation(s):

**Cabinet** is recommended to: -

- 1) Note the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and any assumptions made.

**Council** is recommended to: -

- 1) Approve the updated Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2023/24 to 2025/26 and any assumptions made.

## Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

In March 2022 Council approved a one-year budget plan for 2022/23. As part of this report, an indicative budget gap of £8.9m for 2023/24 to 2024/25 was reported, before any decisions on the level of Council Tax. The MTFP for this period has subsequently been updated to reflect the latest information available and to reflect the ongoing service pressures the Council is facing. The MTFP period has also been extended by a further

# Agenda Item 10

year to 2025/26. In approving the recommendation laid out in this report, the Council will continue to ensure resources are well managed and reflect the key priorities of the residents of Sefton.

## **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 a total budget gap of **£47.612m** is currently forecast for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26, prior to decisions about Council Tax and any further budget savings being made. However, there is considerable uncertainty around some of the assumptions made, particularly around government funding.

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

None

## **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>	
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	N

## **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.

<p><b><u>Protect the most vulnerable:</u></b> See comment above</p>
<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 6986/22)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and has no comments on the report (LD 5186/22).

**(B) External Consultations**

N/A

**Implementation Date for the Decision**

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting and immediately following Council.

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

# Agenda Item 10

## **Appendices:**

There are no appendices to this report

## **Background Papers:**

There are no background papers available for inspection.



## 1. Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2022, Council approved a one-year budget plan for 2022/23. The forecast revenue outturn position for 2022/23 is being reported to Cabinet each month as a key element of effective financial management and ensuring that informed decision making can take place within the severe financial environment that is currently being experienced.
- 1.2 The budget report presented to Cabinet on 10 February 2022 and Council on 3 March 2022 outlined an initial forecast for the potential budget gaps for 2023/24 to 2024/25. An initial estimate of the potential budget gap for the two-year period was £8.9m before any decision on increasing Council Tax. However, the report indicated that this initial estimate could vary considerably given the high level of uncertainty, particularly around Government funding.
- 1.3 This report provides members with the Council's updated Medium Term Financial Plan (MTFP) for the period 2023/24 to 2025/26. This period reflects the last two years of the current Spending Review and what would be the first year of a subsequent spending review period.

## 2 National Context for Local Government Finance

- 2.1 In autumn of 2021, central government announced the outcome of its three-year Spending Review for the period 2022/23 to 2024/25. This included details of the departmental expenditure limit for local government. Within this was some growth in support that would be available in 2022/23 as reported to Budget Council in March 2022, but then no additional financial support being available from 2023/24 onwards. At the time many commentators, including the Institute for Fiscal Studies, stated that without further support being made available in these latter two years, or councils having the ability to raise additional income through higher council tax increases, service reductions would be required to balance local authority budgets.
- 2.2 Crucially, this Spending Review which would see no additional support being provided in the latter two years, was based upon an assumed inflation rate of 2-3% for the period and was made before international energy prices increased substantially from the early part of 2022.
- 2.3 With inflation reaching almost 10% in September 2022, the impact on local government has been well documented with financial pressure on pay awards, energy (over 100% increase) and all contracts seeing councils having to put in remedial plans in the current year to ensure budgets can be balanced and financial sustainability maintained. Similarly, whilst current year pressure has had to be met on a temporary basis this year, the longer-term impact will be severe for councils. Pressure funded on a temporary basis this year will require permanent funding in 2023/24 and this will be compounded as there is no sign of the prevailing market conditions changing. Thus, there will be at least two years of pressure in these core areas that is substantial:-
  - Pay
  - Energy
  - Contracts

# Agenda Item 10

- 2.4 This pressure, in the absence of any further central government support or the ability to raise further income from taxation, will severely impact the financial sustainability of the sector. For example, the Local Government Association have recently conducted work and identified a funding gap of £3.6bn in 2023/24, rising to £4.5bn in 2024/15 (when this work was undertaken inflation was at 8%, it has since increased to 10%).
- 2.5 This position is further compounded by the cost-of-living crisis that is and will continue to affect residents and increase the demand for council services, which in turn will place further financial pressure on councils.
- 2.6 In recent years councils, the Local Government Association, SOLACE, etc., have all lobbied for further financial resources to be provided to support Adults and Children's Social Care. These two areas continue to experience significant cost pressure and the government's own report into children's social care by Josh MacAlister suggested that a fundamental review of the system was required and funding of £2bn would be needed.
- 2.7 The range and extent of these pressures that exist within local government will therefore be reflected in the financial challenge to set and deliver robust and sustainable budgets for this medium-term financial plan period.
- 2.8 In developing the Medium-Term Financial Plan, a number of estimates reflect central government policy and direction in advance of the actual local government financial settlement. With a new government now in place at this current time there has been no further information being made available to the sector on how or if these pressures will be addressed. At this time and on the rise of the September financial statement, ministers are advising that no further support will be made available to councils to support with these challenges and there is the risk that spending reductions will be required from central government departments to support this latest national budget. A further fiscal statement is due on 31 October 2022 (details are not known at the time of publishing this report) at which point further information may be available and the local government financial settlement should be received by councils before Christmas, however the current language and direction from central government at present does not suggest that further financial support will be received. By way of illustration with the Spending Review assumed inflation of 4% in 2022/23, reducing to 2-3% over the following two years, if inflation is 10% in 22/23 and 23/24 that will be compound rate of 22% by the end of that period, thus reflecting the scale of the financial challenge facing local government in the absence of further support.

### **3 Current Position with Sefton**

- 3.1 Members will be familiar that each month Cabinet are provided with budget monitoring reports that support informed decision making and ensure that financial sustainability is maintained. During this year's reports there has been the requirement for Members to approve remedial plans in the first six months in order to meet unexpected and unbudgeted for financial pressure. This pressure has resulted from pressure in the Children's Social Care sector / national economy around agency staff rates and accommodation costs, and also price inflation on energy and the impact of the pay award, again driven by inflation.

- 3.2 Combined, these three factors have required £20m to be met, using temporary and one-off funding. Within that funding package, £3.6m of general fund reserves has been utilised, thus reducing the overall level to 5% and £12.1m – the minimum level considered appropriate for Councils and now below the estimated level of 6.5% that's required based on risks facing the Council. These reserves will need to be replenished if the overall risk level remains at 6.5% of the net budget.
- 3.3 Similarly, a significant amount of this year's financial pressure will continue into 2023/24 and require permanent funding in order to meet it- as reflected earlier in this report this will be compounded by the cost pressure from the same issues that will be experienced again in 23/24, and for which no further central government funding is forecast to be received. This is the fundamental issue facing the Council in the next Medium-Term Financial Plan period- substantial and continued cost pressure from national economic factors, historic and current lack of funding in core services, e.g., children's social care, and at the current time no indication of further central government support to meet this.
- 3.4 As a result, and as can be seen later in this report, the Council will be required to make substantial budget decisions over the period in order to maintain financial sustainability.

## **4 Initial Development of the Medium-Term Financial Plan for 2022/23 to 2024/25**

- 4.1 The Budget Report considered by Cabinet and Council in March 2022 indicated that an initial forecast of the budget gap for 2023/24 to 2024/25 was £8.9m. This was considered to be the Council's best estimate and included the following assumptions:
- a) A reduction in general Government funding for the Council which assumed that potential changes to the way funding for local authorities is distributed would have a negative impact for the Council.
  - b) Resources to fund pay awards, increases in the pension future service rate, specific contracts and potential price increases from care providers.
  - c) No increases in costs relating to demand led services; and,
  - d) No increases in Council Tax.
- 4.2 The report indicated that the initial estimate of £8.9m could vary considerably given the high level of uncertainty, particularly around Government funding. The 2022/23 year was a one-year settlement for local authorities, as part of a three-year Spending Review. This, coupled with the number of short-term additional funding announcements over the past four years, meant that much was unknown regarding medium and long-term core funding from central government beyond 2022/23.

### **Key MTFP Updated Assumptions**

- 4.3 Within this MTFP, there are a number of initial key assumptions that will impact upon the funding gap facing the Council in the period 2023/24 to 2025/26 as well as a number of other budget changes. These are set out as follows:

# Agenda Item 10

Resources to fund pay awards, increases in the pension future service rate, specific contracts and potential price increases from care providers

- 4.4 In line with previous MTFPs, the Council makes provision for the estimated costs of annual increases in pay, pensions etc. Provisions for these items initially totalled **£5.300m** per year, although certain assumptions have been subsequently revised, as described later in the report.

Levy Increases

- 4.5 The Council is required to pay levies to various bodies, the largest two of which are the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (for Transport) and the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority. A provision has been included for the potential costs of increases in these levies in each of the three years (**£0.700m per year**). Sefton should receive notification of provisional figures for 2023/24 in December 2022.

Non-Recurring Items

- 4.6 Significant Treasury Management savings were built into the budget for 2016/17 following the review of policy – however, the annual value of this saving reduces at **£0.200m** each year going forward.
- 4.7 In addition, 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. After allowing for borrowing costs, there was a net saving of **£1.300m** in 2022/23 only. Therefore, this saving has been reversed in 2023/24.
- 4.8 The Council received additional New Homes Bonus in 2022/23 only. Due to the unexpected and one-off nature of this receipt, this was reserved, with the use determined during the year. This growth is therefore reversed in 2023/24 (**£0.639m**).
- 4.9 As a result of the grant allocations from government being focussed on 2022/23, with no further grant being received in 2023/24 or 2024/25, a one-off revenue sum of **£2.229m** was reserved in 2022/23, with its use to be determined during the year. This growth is therefore reversed in 2023/24.

Review of Relative Needs and Resources (formerly the Fair Funding Review):

- 4.10 The Government has previously announced that it is committed to reviewing the allocation of funding available to local authorities through the Review of Relative Needs and Resources. When announcing the Provisional Settlement for 2022/23, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities stated that “Government is committed to ensuring that funding allocations for councils are based on an up-to-date assessment of their needs and resources” and “Over the coming months, we will work closely with the sector and other stakeholders to update this and to look at the challenges and opportunities facing the sector before consulting on any potential changes”. Therefore, at the time of setting the 2022/23 budget in March 2022 it was assumed that the Review of Relative Needs and Resources would be completed in time to be used in allocating funding for 2023/24 onwards.

- 4.11 The Government also said that as part of the consultation they would look at options to support local authorities through transitional protection. Previously this has meant that any changes in funding have been phased in across a number of years. However, the Services Grant received in 2022/23 won't be included in any transitional protection arrangements which potentially gives the opportunity to phase in changes more quickly.
- 4.12 As mentioned in previous reports, Sefton's relative decline in population is likely to have a negative impact on the Council's overall funding position as part of the Review of Relative Needs and Resources. However, the exact impact is unknown as it will depend on the transitional arrangements put in place to protect those local authorities who would see a reduction in funding (the Local Government Association has argued that no council should see a reduction in its funding as a result of the changes). The Spending Review 2021 indicated that, apart from funding for Adult Social Care Reform and additional income from Council Tax, there won't be any increases in funding for local government in 2023/24 or 2024/25. Without additional funding for local government some local authorities will therefore see reductions in their funding.
- 4.13 However, the outcome is even more complex due to the differential impact austerity had on individual local authorities. Those local authorities that had received the most Government funding received the largest reductions in spending power whilst those who could raise more Council Tax income were less impacted. Therefore, the link between need and funding diverged, particularly in the early years of austerity, with the total spending power of two similar authorities now very different. This should also have an impact on the outcome of the Review and the funding being allocated. When announcing that 75% Business Rates Retention would no longer be proceeding, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities stated, "*You have a situation where those local authorities that have the most resilient council tax base and also the highest portion of business rates are, relatively speaking, in a stronger position...*".
- 4.14 At the time of setting the budget for 2022/23 it was considered prudent to assume that the Review will result in a reduction in funding for Sefton, and that this would be **£1.000m** in each of 2023/24 and 2024/25. This assumption is discussed more later in the report.

#### Business Rates Retention:

- 4.15 Sefton's Business Rates baseline was last set in 2013/14. Sefton's retained rates income is forecast to be above its funding baseline for 2021/22, so the Council is expecting to achieve a gain from Business Rate retention. As part of the Liverpool City Region 100% Business Rates Pilot Agreement the Council has retained a 99% share of growth in Business Rates since April 2017.
- 4.16 As part of the Fair Funding Review, the Business Rates baseline will be re-assessed and changed. Therefore, the benefit of these gains is expected to be lost going forward. As stated above, at the time of setting the 2022/23 budget in March 2022 it was considered prudent to assume this would take place in 2023/24. It was forecast that this reassessment will see the Council's funding reduce by **£1.000m** in 2023/24. This assumption is discussed further later in the report.

# Agenda Item 10

- 4.17 Also, nationally the proportion of Business Rates retained by local authorities will increase from 50% to 75%. It is expected that pilot authorities will also move to 75% retention so a lower proportion (74%) of any future growth will be retained by the Council.

## New Homes Bonus

- 4.18 As mentioned in paragraph 4.8, the Council received additional New Homes Bonus, but for 2022/23 only. This funding has therefore been reversed in 2023/24.

## Housing Benefit / Council Tax Admin Subsidy

- 4.19 In recent years the amount of subsidy received by the Council to help fund the administration costs of Housing Benefits and the Council Tax Reduction Scheme has been reducing year on year. It is anticipated that this will continue in future years with an estimated reduction of **£0.050m** a year.

## Council Tax Base – additional properties

- 4.20 The Council Tax Base is set by Council in January each year. It reflects changes, and forecast changes, in the number of properties and the value of exemptions and discounts. For forecasting purposes, it was initially assumed that there will be growth in the Tax Base for additional properties that would generate **£0.500m** in each of the three years.

## Council Tax losses

- 4.21 The Council Tax Base is set by Council in January each year. Due to the impact of COVID-19 on the number of Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS) claimants, the reduced collection rate and the slowdown in housing growth, there was a significant reduction in the Base for 2021/22. This reduced the Council Tax Requirement by approximately £3.600m.
- 4.22 It was assumed that this reduced income would unwind across three years from 2022/23 as the number of CTRS cases reduces and collection rates increase to levels experienced before the pandemic. Therefore, the Council Tax Base is forecast to result in increased income (excluding housing growth) of **£1.000m** in each of 2023/24 and 2024/25.

## Framework for Change 2020 – Demand Management Savings

- 4.23 The 2020/21 Budget Report presented to Council in February 2020 outlined the workstreams that would be established in order to review demand led budgets. Due to the size, complexity and demand for these services, a continual review would be undertaken to ensure that the cost base for these services reduces, an early intervention and prevention programme is embedded, and residents are supported in 'moving down the system' so as to reduce the demand for Council services and particularly those at the acute end.
- 4.24 From the initial work of the Adult Social Care workstream, savings of £3.300m were identified in 2020/21, which were built into the Base Budget for 2021/22. The continuing work of the Adult Social Care workstream identified further savings of £3.800m, which partly relates to the full year impact of previously implemented savings, as well as new savings that have been identified. Of these, £2.800m were built into the 2022/23 Base Budget, with **£1.000m** assumed to be achieved in 2023/24. These savings are considered to be permanent at this stage but will continue to be reviewed as part of the Demand Management Project.

Contribution to School Closure Reserve

- 4.25 The 2022/23 Base Budget includes a contribution of £0.750m to the reserve. This will result in the reserve standing at £1.750m at the end of 2022/23. This is considered prudent given the risks the Council might face relating to potential deficits. Therefore, the planned contribution to balances of **£0.750m** in 2023/24 would no longer be required and can be taken from the budget.

Income from the Strand Shopping Centre

- 4.26 The 2021/22 Budget Report highlighted that since the purchase of the Strand, surplus income of over £1.000m had been raised which has been used to support the Council's budget, and indeed the shopping centre had made a positive financial return each year. However, due to the significant impact of COVID-19 on retail businesses it was expected that there would be a reduction in income in 2021/22 and future years as businesses close and others experience difficult trading conditions.
- 4.27 The current business case forecasts that this income loss will be £0.500m in 2022/23 and will increase again by **£0.300m** in 2023/24. As would be expected these figures will be the subject of change and updates will be provided to Cabinet when required.

Sandway Homes Dividend – Phase One

- 4.28 The Business Case for Sandway Homes forecasted that there would be a surplus of £1.350m once Phase One of its development programme had been completed. Therefore, a dividend of **£1.350m** would be paid to the Council on completion of Phase One, expected to be received in 2024/25. As would be expected given the current economic climate, this figure could be the subject of change and updates will be provided to Cabinet when required.

**Initial MTFP Position 2023/24 to 2025/26**

- 4.29 Based upon the revisions relating to specific Government funding and the updated MTFP assumptions it was initially estimated that the funding shortfall between 2023/24 and 2024/25 would be **£8.882m**. This is before any Council Tax decisions are made and excludes any additional service and inflationary pressures and before any additional service delivery options are considered. A detailed analysis is shown below:

	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>
	<b>£'m</b>	<b>£'m</b>
<b>Key MTFP updated assumptions:</b>		
- Provision for Pay Inflation	2.600	2.600
- Provision for Pension Increases	0.600	0.600
- Provision for Inflation on Contracts	0.100	0.100
- Assumed increase in Care Provider costs re. Adult Social Care	2.000	2.000
- Levy increases	0.700	0.700
	<b>6.000</b>	<b>6.000</b>
<b>Non-Recurring Items:</b>		
- Treasury Management	0.200	0.200

# Agenda Item 10

- Prepayment of Pension Contributions	1.300	0.000
- Growth funded by New Homes Bonus	-0.639	0.000
- Revenue One-off funding for 2022/23	-2.229	0.000
	<b>-1.368</b>	<b>0.200</b>
<b>Government Funding:</b>		
- Fair Funding Review	1.000	1.000
- Business Rates Retention	1.000	0.000
- New Homes Bonus	0.750	0.000
- Housing Benefit / Council Tax Admin Subsidy	0.050	0.050
	<b>2.800</b>	<b>1.050</b>
<b>Other Budget Changes:</b>		
- Council Tax Base – additional properties	-0.500	-0.500
- Council Tax losses	-1.000	-1.000
- Demand Management Savings – Adult Social Care	-1.000	0.000
- Contribution to School Closure Reserve	-0.750	0.000
- Income from the Strand Shopping Centre	0.300	0.000
- Sandway Homes Dividend – Phase One	0.000	-1.350
	<b>-2.950</b>	<b>-2.850</b>
<b>Initial MTFP Funding Gap – excluding Council Tax</b>	<b>4.482</b>	<b>4.400</b>
<b>Total MTFP Funding Gap</b>		<b>8.882</b>

## 5 Government Funding Impact

5.1 The Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2021 was announced on 27 October 2021 and made a number of announcements relating to the financing of local government in 2022/23 and future years. The impact on Sefton for 2023/24 won't be fully known until the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24 is published in December 2022. Similarly, the impact for future years will only be fully known when the settlements for 2024/25 and 2025/26 are published. However, for planning purposes officers have assessed the announcements in the CSR and estimated their impact on Sefton. These funding streams are described below:

### General Council Tax increase

5.2 The Government has announced that local authorities are expected to be able to increase Council Tax by 2% in 2023/24 and the following year without the need to hold a referendum. Within the CSR the Government have assumed that all local authorities will increase Council Tax by the maximum amount. The Government will announce the full details of the referendum limits for each year in the preceding December as part of the Local Government Finance Settlements. This is discussed further in section 9.

### Social Care Grants

5.3 In 2021/22, the Government provided £1,710m of Social Care Grant funding which was distributed using the Adult Social Care Relative Needs Formula. Sefton's allocation was £11.820m. As outlined in paragraph 2.6, it was unknown whether



this represented short-term additional funding. The Settlement has confirmed that this funding would continue to be paid in 2022/23.

- 5.4 The Settlement also announced that an additional £636.4m of Social Care Grant would be paid to local authorities in 2022/23. Of this, the Government distributed £556.4m using the Adult Social Care Relative Needs Formula, with the remaining £80m being distributed on a different basis aimed at providing more funding to those authorities with lower council tax bases who cannot raise as much through the Adult Social Care Precept. Sefton's allocation was £4.265m.
- 5.5 It was unclear from the CSR whether this funding would continue to be paid in 2023/24 and 2024/25. However, it is currently assumed that it will continue.
- 5.6 In addition, local authorities have been given the power raise Council Tax by a further 1% on top of the core principle as an Adult Social Care Precept. The Government expect that local authorities will use this power in full, having announced that this will raise a further £300m nationally as part of the £1bn funding announced as being available for social care. This is discussed further in section 10.

#### Services Grant

- 5.7 The Settlement for 2022/23 provided details of a new Services Grant, worth £822m nationally, to be paid in 2022/23 to local authorities and which is being distributed based on the 2013/14 shares of the Settlement Funding Assessment. Sefton's allocation of the grant was £4.477m.
- 5.8 The Government have announced that this is effectively a one-off grant to individual local authorities, although the overall funding will still be available to local government per the Spending Review. However, the grant will be excluded from any transitional protection arrangements in future years arising as a result of the Review of Relative Needs and Resources so the Council may receive a lower level of funding. It is proposed to assume this grant as ongoing.

#### Lower Tier Services Grant

- 5.9 The Government announced a new unringfenced Lower Tier Services Grant in 2021/22, which allocated £111m to local authorities with responsibility for lower tier services (for example, homelessness, planning, recycling and refuse collection, and leisure services). Sefton's allocation was £0.430m. This grant continued into 2022/23 with Sefton's allocation increasing slightly by £0.023m.

#### Public Health Grant

- 5.10 The Spending Review announced that funding for Public Health through the Public Health Grant would be maintained in real terms. However, no additional information has been received as to what additional funding will be made available in 2023/24 and 2024/25.

#### New Homes Bonus

- 5.11 Although the Government has been undertaking a review of New Homes Bonus it is expected that the Government will continue to make payments of New Homes Bonus in 2023/24. Officers are evaluating how much of this one-off funding might be received based on increases in housing numbers.

# Agenda Item 10

## Settlement Funding Assessment / Business Rates Baseline

- 5.12 To support businesses in the near-term, the government decided to freeze the business rates multiplier in 2022/23. Local authorities were fully compensated for this decision through additional Section 31 Grant. It is currently unknown whether the Government will continue to provide support in 2023/24 and the implications of this, and the current high levels of inflation, on business rates income and the Settlement Funding Assessment.

## Review of Relative Needs and Resources / Business Rates Retention

- 5.13 As mentioned in paragraphs 4.14 and 4.17, when setting the budget for 2022/23 it was anticipated that there would be significant changes to local government funding that was expected to mean a reduction in funding for Sefton. However, there have been no recent announcements about the status of the reviews, and it is now considered too late to implement changes in time for the Local Government Finance Settlement for 2023/24. In addition, commentators have suggested that it is unlikely that and changes will take place in the current Spending Review Period. Therefore, the original assumptions included in the March 2022 budget report have been reversed pending more details being provided by the Government.

## Adult Social Care Reform Funding

- 5.14 As part of the Government's plan for health and social care, published on 7 September 2021, it was announced that £5.4bn would be made available over the Spending Review period for Adult Social Care.
- 5.15 The 2021 Spending Review confirmed that £3.6bn of this will be routed through local authorities in order to "implement the charging reforms and support local authorities to better sustain their local care market by moving towards a fairer cost for care". This is made up of £0.2bn in 2022/23, £1.4bn in 2023/24 and £2.0bn in 2024/25.
- 5.16 The Council has been working on understanding the cost implications of the elements of the reform and has been engaged with the government in advising of these potential costs. Allocations of the funding are expected to be announced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement. The Council is currently assuming that the financial impact of the fair cost of care proposals and the social care charging reforms will need to be fully offset by additional funding from the Government.
- 5.17 The Adult Social Care service has recently invested in a new staffing structure to meet the requirements of Adult Social Care reform as well as ensure it is prepared for government inspections. It should be noted that although the service has underspent for a number of years, this underspend has been reducing. Officers have started work on trying to assess the costs of the individual Adult Social Care reform proposals. Whilst the overall budget is on a sustainable footing, there is no scope to fund Adult Social Care reform costs from existing budgets so any costs will need in line with the funding received.

## 6 Other MTFP Changes 2023/24 – 2025/26

### Pay Award Provisions

- 6.1 The approved Base Budget included a provision for the 2022/23 pay award of 3%. This was line with most other local authorities who had budgeted for between 2.5% and 3% (and when the Spending Review 2021 was published, the Office for Budget Responsibility was forecasting inflation to be 4% in 2022). On 25 July 2022, the National Employers for local government services body made an offer to trade unions of a fixed increase of £1,925 (plus an additional day's annual leave from April 2023). For Sefton, this equates to an increase in the pay bill of about 6.5% or an additional **£4.100m** above the amount included in the 2022/23 budget. It should be noted that this is the latest offer and has yet to be formally accepted by Trade Unions – any increase in the offer will therefore require additional resources to be identified. This is a national issue for local government however Government have made it clear that no additional funding will be made available.
- 6.2 Given the current rates of inflation it is considered prudent to increase the pay award provisions for 2023/24 and 2024/2025. Therefore, **£4.600m** has been added to the 2023/24 provision, and **£1.500m** added to the 2024/25 provision. It is assumed that by 2025/26 inflation will have reduced sufficiently for the provision to be sufficient.
- 6.3 Partially offsetting the above pressures, the provision for the 2021/2022 pay award was in excess of the amount required to fund the award. This reduces the above pressures by **£1.300m**.

### Budget Pressures Fund

- 6.4 The 2022/23 Base Budget includes a Budget Pressures Fund of **£1.000m**. Given the inflationary pressures currently being experienced it is proposed to utilise the Fund to offset these pressures.

### National Insurance Contributions Increase

- 6.5 In September 2021, the Government announced the introduction of a new Health and Social Care Levy of 1.25%, based on National Insurance Contributions, for both employees and employers. They announced that this funding would be ringfenced for health and social care. This will be introduced from April 2022 as an increase in National Insurance Contributions before being separated out as a new distinct Levy from April 2023. The Council included **£1.250m** in its Base Budget for these costs. However, the Government have announced the reversal of this policy from November 2022. Therefore, this provision can be taken from the budget in 2023/24.

### Council Tax Base – additional properties

- 6.6 The Council Tax Base is set by Council in January each year. It reflects changes, and forecast changes, in the number of properties and the value of exemptions and discounts. For forecasting purposes, it was initially assumed that there will be growth in the Tax Base for additional properties that would generate £0.500m in each of the next three years. It is now assumed that there is the potential for additional income more in line with the growth assumed for 2022/23. Therefore, an additional **£0.250m** is assumed in each of the next three years. This will be closely monitored by officers to ensure the levels of housing growth support this assumption.

# Agenda Item 10

## **7 MTFP Changes – Additional Budget Pressures**

7.1 As is the case in each budget planning process, the Council brings together the potential budget pressures that have been identified during the year as potential additions to the budget. The following outlines the current pressures, however the amounts will be the subject of refinement over the coming months.

### Children's Social Care

7.2 Within the Council's budget report of March 2022, the financial risk to the Council from Children's Social Care was reported extensively and was reflected in the overall risk analysis that determines the reserves that the Council should hold and the main budget report that reflected that in the absence of further government funding, if costs in children's social care (and adults social care) increased then savings would be required in future years.

7.3 This risk has been reported over the last 3-5 years within the Council and has been focussed on the number and cost of accommodation for children who require support. As a result, it has been the main area of the Council where the budget has grown, increasing from £32.0m in 2018/19 to £52.1m in 2022/23.

7.4 This risk has increased exponentially in the current year for circumstances that were unforeseen at the time of budget setting- inflation has caused accommodation costs to increase substantially with an increase in rates of over 10%, the current LAC number is 73 with some accommodation costs being in excess of £24,000 per week during the current year and agency rates for social workers have increased with a dislocation in the market so that they can now amount to £100k per annum. This latter point means that the Council is seeing recruitment and retention issues and substantial cost increases as the service tries to source staff to deliver the services required. Within the current year financial pressure of £15.5m has been reported and £11.5m will continue into 23/24 for which budget will be required.

7.5 A key recommendation from the Council's DfE commissioner was to align the Medium-Term Financial Plan of the Council to the improvement plan that is in place within the service. This alignment, while always there in all budget cycles has been undertaken on a more formal basis to inform this MTFP and will be refined in advance of the budget being set in March 2023. This has seen the Director of Children's Services advise the Chief Executive, s151 officer and deputy s151 officer via a series of meetings on the resources required to fund the service, accepting that this area of the Council will continue to be extremely volatile. These discussions have focussed on the following four areas that are reflected in this MTFP:

- Right sizing the budget for next year.
- Inflation on existing accommodation costs.
- Salary budget taking into account agency costs.
- Additional budget requirement for accommodation costs, either external placements or Council owned provision.

7.6 From this work, the estimates within this report have been signed off by the Director of Children's Services and specifically take account of:-

- Current in year demand for the service and financial pressure-£7.9m

- Known inflationary costs in the sector that will inform via a specific working group, fee increases-estimated at 10% or £2.5m in each of the following 2 years.
- Impact of recruitment of permanent staff to all posts above team leader.
- Potential impact of international social worker (ISW) recruitment and the approved social worker academy- 20 ISW's that will fill existing establishment posts thereby reducing the agency number and cost.
- A forecast of children who may require accommodation support in future years (five assumed in 23/24); and
- The estimated running costs of council owned accommodation (£0.730m per annum based on a four-bed accommodation site)

7.7 As stated, these estimates will continue to be refined in advance of the budget report being published.

Adult Social Care

7.8 It is anticipated that the National Living Wage will increase significantly from April 2023. It is expected that this, and the current high levels of inflation, will create significant additional burdens on Adult Social Care Providers in 2023/24. It is therefore considered prudent to include an additional **£3.500m** in 2023/24 and 2024/25 for the potential impact of increased fees from providers. As previously reported, there is currently no additional funding for either Adults or Children's Social Care beyond 2022/23, with government providing only the ability for councils to raise Council Tax by 1% in each year to support Adult Social Care.

Home to School Transport

7.9 There has been significant pressure on the Home to School Transport budget during 2022/23. This is due to a significant increase in the number of children being transported, especially relating to out of borough placements. In addition, there has been an increase in the cost of providing the transport. It is therefore proposed to add **£1.500m** to the 2023/24 Base Budget to mitigate these pressures.

ICT Income

7.10 There has been a reduction in income received for ICT services provided to third parties. This unavoidable cost will increase the budget by **£0.150m** in 2023/24.

Southport Pier Decking Project

7.11 Council on 29 September 2022 approved a Supplementary Capital Estimate of £3.000m for the Southport Pier Decking Project, funded by prudential borrowing. The revenue costs of this borrowing are **£0.180m** per year for which there is currently no budget.

**Summary MTFP Position 2023/24 to 2025/26 including Growth**

	2023/24	2024/25
	£'m	£'m
<b>Revised MTFP Funding Gap – excluding Council Tax</b>	<b>4.482</b>	<b>4.400</b>

# Agenda Item 10

<b>Government Funding:</b>		
- Fair Funding Review	-1.000	-1.000
- Business Rates Retention	-1.000	0.000
	<b>-2.000</b>	<b>-1.000</b>
<b>Changes in MTFP Assumptions:</b>		
- Pay Award 2022/2023	4.100	0.000
- Pay Award 2023/24 and 2024/25	4.600	1.500
- Pay Award 2021/22 - Overprovision	-1.300	0.000
- Budget Pressures Fund	-1.000	0.000
- Reversal of National Insurance increase	-1.250	0.000
- Additional Council Tax Income	-0.250	-0.250
	<b>4.900</b>	<b>1.250</b>
<b>Additional Budget Pressures:</b>		
- Children's Social Care – Permanent Pressures from 2022/23	7.900	0.000
- Children's Social Care – additional accommodation and support provision	2.000	1.000
- Children's Social Care – Social Worker Academy	1.200	0.000
- Children's Social Care – Agency Permanent Budget	1.000	0.000
- Children's Social Care – additional Communications, Legal and HR Support	0.400	0.150
- Children's Social Care – Provider Inflation	2.500	2.500
- Adult Social Care	3.500	3.500
- Home to School Transport	1.500	0.000
- ICT Contract Inflation	0.150	0.000
- Southport Pier Decking Project	0.180	0.000
	<b>20.330</b>	<b>7.150</b>
<b>Revised MTFP Funding Gap</b>	<b>27.712</b>	<b>11.800</b>
<b>Total MTFP Funding Gap</b>		<b>38.512</b>

7.12 From the above table it can be seen that a funding gap of £38.512m would remain over the last two years of the Spending Review period before any council tax increases (see section 11). It is good practice for a Medium-Term Financial Plan to cover three years. This supports effective medium-term planning- as 2025/26 would represent the first year of a new Spending Review period there is no financial or policy information currently available to develop a robust planning assumption. For completeness however, if a normal financial environment was in existence of 2% inflation and no public sector spending reductions then a funding gap of around £8.1m could be expected. Therefore, this should be added to the funding gap for the next two years to get that three-year view of the financial shortfall.

## **8 Temporary Budget Pressures**

8.1 There are also other significant budget pressures that are currently considered to be temporary in nature. It is assumed that as these losses are considered temporary, they will be funded from one-off resources.

## Energy Costs

- 8.2 As has been reported in the monthly reports to Cabinet, the global increase in energy prices is having a significant impact on the Council's energy and fuel costs. This is currently estimated to increase costs in 2023/24 by around £6-£7m. This is being closely monitored as more information becomes available from the Council's framework providers on the fees being paid. It should be noted that this is a national issue affecting all local authorities. However, the Government have advised that no additional funding will be made available for local government, despite representations made both nationally and locally. The Government has set up a support programme for businesses in 2022/23 and the Council is evaluating whether any of its estimated £4.5m increase is eligible. However, there is no indication of whether any support will be available for 2023/24, and if so whether the Council would be eligible. Therefore, the Council will need to evaluate its usage in light of the substantial price increase.

## Sales, Fees and Charges Income

- 8.3 There was a significant impact on income from sales, fees and charges for a range of services during the pandemic. Whilst some income streams have fully recovered, others are expected to remain impacted, particularly for car parking and at leisure centres. It is currently forecast that this could result in a loss of income of up to £1.000m during 2023/24, reducing further in the following year, returning to normal from 2025/26. This forecast will be reviewed as there is more experience of the impact on reopened facilities.

## Children's Social Care – Social Worker Agency Costs / Managed Teams

- 8.4 As discussed earlier, there has been a need to utilise more expensive agency workers within Children's Social Care. Whilst the implementation of the Social Worker Academy and recruitment of international social workers are expected to reduce the reliance on agency workers it is considered prudent to provide some temporary budget of £1.000m to fund some short-term costs as these take effect.

## Waste Disposal Costs

- 8.5 It is anticipated that the levy from the Merseyside Recycling and Waste Authority will increase in 2023/24 to reflect the increased cost of disposing of household waste due to the impact of people working, holidaying and shopping from home. It is currently forecast that this could result in an additional cost of up to £0.500m during 2023/24, reducing in the following years, returning to normal from 2025/26. This forecast will be reviewed as there is more experience of the impact on costs.

## **9 Council Owned Companies**

- 9.1 Within this Medium-Term Financial Plan, there are updates in respect of the financial assumptions that reflect the Council's relationship with its three wholly owned companies :-
- Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited
  - Sefton New Directions; and
  - Sandway Homes Limited

# Agenda Item 10

- 9.2 In accordance with the agreed governance process, business plans for each of these are due for presentation to cabinet in December 2022, with the any impact being reflected in the forthcoming budget report for 2023/24.
- 9.3 Like the council, these wholly owned companies are currently and will continue to operate in a volatile and challenging financial environment with significant financial pressure being experienced in respect of pay, supplier and supply chain cost pressure, tightening of liquidity in the market, increased interest rates and the impact of the cost-of-living crisis. These are all substantial issues that could have a financial impact on the council. Any changes reported in the business plans that are being considered will be fed into this MTFP and the current budget process, with any material variation to an agreed business plan requiring member approval.

## **10 High Needs Funding**

- 10.1 In January 2022, the council received a report that outlined the current position on the High Needs Budget the increased demand for services and impact on the budget which is ring fenced within the Dedicated Schools Grant. It was agreed that quarterly reports would be provided to cabinet and council on progress in addressing this demand and the financial implications. This work and reporting cycle has commenced.
- 10.2 The key risk identified in that January report was in respect of the High Needs Budget and that despite government support increasing in recent years, costs of delivering the service driven by out of borough provision and numbers of children in receipt of an EHCP were exceeding the budget available. Like a number of local authorities this has led to the council having a deficit balance that accumulates each year. This reached over £12m at the end of 2021/22. At present there is a statutory override in place that allows this to be held on the Council's balance sheet under the Dedicated Schools Grant, however it is clear that this position is unsustainable both nationally and for this council.
- 10.3 As a result of this issue, central government have commenced two programmes of activity to support councils review their High Needs systems with a view to improving the service, reducing cost and delivering financial sustainability. There is a programme for those councils with the highest deficits and then a further Delivering Better Value (DBV) programme for a further 55 councils who are in a deficit position- the Council is in this programme and full detail has and will continue to be made available to members through the quarterly reporting.
- 10.4 At the same time, central government is current working on what the future of the statutory override will be- this was due to come to an end at the end of this financial year (2022/23), but there is uncertainty as to if this will take place and if it does what it will mean for councils with significant deficits, such as Sefton, and how they should fund them. At present the High Need Budget is within the Dedicated Schools Grant and as such there is no impact on the General Fund of the Council, however, if this position changes there could be a substantial financial risk to the Council.
- 10.5 Within the current year a further overspend of £4m is currently forecast , which would take the Council's deficit to £16m. Central government, following support



from Council officers, issued a call for evidence during the summer to inform ministerial discussions post September on the future of the override and treatment of deficits- the outcome from these discussions is still awaited by the sector. The Council has provided feedback that this issue should remain within the Dedicated Schools Grant, however if this changes it could have a material impact on this Medium-Term Financial Plan, the financial sustainability of the Council, its risk profile and future budget decisions.

- 10.6 As a result of this it is critical that the Council, with the support of the Delivering Better Value Programme, reaches financial sustainability, i.e., its expenditure matches income as soon as possible and indeed starts to reduce the deficit held. The focus on the work that is being undertaken in advance of the programme commencing, the speed and ambition of the DBV programme and the financial impact will need to be a key feature of future quarterly reports to Cabinet and Council from the Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education), will need to feed into future risk analysis (both the corporate risk register and the assessment of general fund reserves required) and clarity will need to be provided to Members on how this will impact future budget decisions and financial sustainability.

## **11 Potential Council Tax Increases**

- 11.1 As in previous years the Government will set a Core Referendum Principle for Council Tax. As is customary, the government will consult on Council Tax Referendum Principles later this year as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement. However, the Comprehensive Spending Review indicated that there is expected to be a referendum principle of 2% in 2023/24 and 2024/2025. A 1.99% increase for Sefton would generate in the region of £3.000m in each year.
- 11.2 As mentioned in paragraph 5.6, local authorities have also previously been given the power to raise Council Tax by a further amount on top of the core principle as an Adult Social Care Precept. The Comprehensive Spending Review indicated that this would also be available in 2023/24 and 2024/25 at 1%. A 1% increase for Sefton would generate an additional £1.500m in each year.
- 11.3 Therefore, the overall impact of increasing Council Tax by the full 2.99% each year would be in the region of £4.500m, or **£13.500m** across the three years.
- 11.4 The actual core referendum principle, and the level of Adult Social Care Precept, are announced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement in December each year. They could therefore be different to the figures above. The Institute for Fiscal Studies, in their initial briefing on the CSR, stated '*...things might still feel tight in other areas. Perhaps nowhere is this truer than in local government, where after a jump next year (2022/23), grant funding for existing services will be more or less frozen in the following two years - **bigger council tax rises than the government plans to allow could be necessary to maintain services.***'
- 11.5 A decision on the level of Council Tax is made by Budget Council each year. The 2022/23 Band C Council Tax is £1,569.58. It should be noted that as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review the Government assumes local authorities raise Council Tax by the maximum amount when calculating an individual authority's Spending Power and this will directly influence future years' funding allocations.

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<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	17 November 2022
<b>Subject:</b>	Honorary Freedom of the Borough - Alex Greenwood		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director (People)	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Health and Wellbeing and Communities		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	No	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	No
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

**Summary:**

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

**Recommendation(s): That**

- (1) In accordance with Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, this Council wishes to place on record its high appreciation of Alex Greenwood as an ambassador for Bootle and an outstanding role model for women and girls in sport and football, and in the light of her hard work, dedication and success, the Council resolves that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on Alex Greenwood in recognition of her outstanding achievements; and
- (2) the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services be authorised to take all the necessary actions associated with (1) above and arrange a civic reception for Alex Greenwood and invited guests to take place at the rising of an Extra-ordinary Council meeting in Bootle Town Hall on a date to be arranged.

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

To recognise the outstanding success of Alex Greenwood in sport and football in particular.

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

No alternative options have been considered.

# Agenda Item 11

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

The cost would be met from the Council's current revenue budget provision.

### (B) Capital Costs

None

## Implications of the Proposals:

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

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:  Celebrating successful residents inspires young people to reach their full potential.
Commission, broker and provide core services: N/A
Place – leadership and influencer:  N/A
Drivers of change and reform: N/A

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: N/A
Greater income for social investment: N/A
Cleaner Greener N/A

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7009/22) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5209/22) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

None

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Andrea Watts, Executive Director (People)
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2030
Email Address:	andrea.watts@sefton.gov.uk

## Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

# Agenda Item 11

## 1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 Under Section 249 (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the Council has the power to grant the Freedom of the Borough to a person or a service unit of distinction who have rendered eminent service to the Borough and it is proposed that Alex Greenwood be granted the Honorary Freedom of the Borough.
- 1.2 The conferring of the Freedom of the Borough upon any individual or service unit is the highest honour the Council can bestow and when the Freedom of the Borough is granted to a service unit, they are given the right, privilege, honour and distinction of marching through the streets of the Borough on all ceremonial occasions with colours flying, bands playing, drums beating, and bayonets fixed.
- 1.3 The scrolls of Honorary Freedom and organisations awarded Freedom of Entry to the Borough are displayed in both the Mayors Parlours at the Town Hall, Bootle and the Town Hall, Southport. Honorary Freemen/Freewomen may attend and take part in such civic receptions and functions to which all Members of the Council are invited. However, Freemen/Freewomen shall not have the right, as such, to attend meetings of the Council or a Committee, or to receive any such allowances or payments to which Councillors are entitled.

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

- 2004 - Donald "Ginger" McCain
- 2006 - James Carragher

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

- 1982 - No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 Regiment, Royal Corps of Transport, which was subsequently succeeded by No. 238 (Sefton) Squadron, 156 (North West) Transport Regiment, Royal Logistic Corps (Volunteers) in 2001.
- 2011 - RAF Woodvale
- 2017 – Duke of Lancaster's Regiment

1.5 The Council agreed on 15 July 2021 that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on the following NHS Trusts at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held at Bootle Town Hall. The meeting will take place on 26 January 2023:

- Alder Hey Children's NHS Foundation Trust,
- Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust,
- Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust,
- Southport & Ormskirk Hospital NHS Trust

1.6 The Council agreed on 17 November 2016 that the Honorary Freedom of the Borough be conferred on HMS Mersey at an Extra-ordinary Council meeting to be held on a date to be determined at Bootle Town Hall. Discussions are currently taking place with the Royal Navy on this matter, and it is currently envisaged that

the event will be held in early April 2023. Members of the Council will be advised of the arrangements once they have been finalised with the Royal Navy.

## **2.0 Alex Greenwood**

- 2.1 Alex Greenwood is an English professional footballer who currently plays as left back or centre-back for Manchester City in the FA Women's Super League and the England national team. Born in Liverpool, Alex grew up in Bootle where she attended St Monica's Primary School, and Savio Salesian High School. She joined Everton aged eight and signed her first professional contract with the club.
- 2.2 Alex has previously played for Olympique Lyonnais in the French Division 1 Féminine, as well as for the English clubs: Manchester United, Liverpool, Notts County and Everton where she began her career. She has played for the England national football team since 2014, she was also named the FA Women's Young Player of the Year in 2012. During her one-year contract with Olympique Lyonnais she won a quadruple of trophies including the Champions League.
- 2.3 Alex captained England at youth level and played at the 2012 UEFA Women's Under-19 Championship. In 2019, she was part of the England team that won the She Believes Cup in the United States and was selected as part of England's World Cup squad. Greenwood was also in the England Lionesses squad that won UEFA Women's European Championship 2022, beating Germany 2-1.
- 2.4 In previous years, Alex has been a guest speaker at the Sefton Sports Awards and used Litherland Sports Park for training before being signed as a professional footballer. In October 2022, Alex was honoured to have a mural commemorating her sporting successes painted onto the front of 320 Stanley Road in Bootle, thanks to joint funding from Sefton Council and REPT Sports. The renowned Liverpool artist John Culshaw has created the 22ft mural, and it now sits pride of place on the busy Bootle town centre thoroughfare.
- 2.5 Alex is a fantastic role model for young people (especially women and girls) in Sefton and has long been a major influence in the advancement of women and girls' football within Sefton, ensuring she takes time out of her busy footballing career to motivate and inspire future generations of sporting stars throughout the borough.

## **3.0 Conferment of Freedom of the Borough**

- 3.1 In order to confer the Freedom of the Borough upon an individual or service the Council would need to pass a resolution by not less than two-thirds of the Members voting thereon at a meeting of the Council specially convened for the purpose, where notice of the object of the meeting has been given.
- 3.2 If the Council was minded to grant the Freedom of the Borough to Alex Greenwood, Alex would be advised and arrangements made for the Freedom of the Borough to be bestowed upon her, on a date to be determined in 2023.
- 3.3 A scroll bestowing the honour would need to be ordered and produced, and arrangements made for a civic reception for Alex Greenwood and invited guests to

# Agenda Item 11

take place at the rising of the Extraordinary Council. The costs of the scroll and reception could be financed from the Mayoral Hospitality budget provision.



## **SEFTON LABOUR GROUP**

### **NOTICE OF MOTION**

#### **COUNCIL MEETING ON 17 NOVEMBER 2022**

Moved by: Councillor Mhairi Doyle MBE

Seconded by: Councillor

#### **Motion to Support the Expansion of Free School Meals**

This Council notes the latest data released by the Government on the 31st March 2022, shows that 9501 of the children in the borough of Sefton live in relative low-income families. The highest density of families living in relative poverty live in the south of the borough, but there are also areas in the north where many families face the same issues.

At Sefton Council, we are well placed to see the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on our residents and their children and families. As an authority, we are focused on ensuring that our most disadvantaged children are not left behind, in line with our anti-poverty strategy.

To help us do that, we must make sure that every child has the nutrition they need to be able to learn and work to their potential during the school day. Not doing so would undermine all the great efforts of the education and healthcare workforce to tackle inequalities. We understand the benefits free school meals provide to those currently entitled. For many, it is the only hot, nutritious meal they have in a day. A quality school meal helps improve children's concentration and behavior during lessons. We understand the effect they can have on improving school attendance, on children's health, and academic performance.

We know that, prior to the current cost of living crisis:

One in three school-age children in England living in poverty (800,000) missed out on free school meals despite cost-of-living struggles of families. In large part, this is because of the restrictive eligibility criteria and lack of universal provision for all ages.

Government action in England lags far behind Scotland and Wales, where government funding means primary schools are moving towards free school meals for all children.

The intensifying cost-of-living crisis means many more are now struggling to afford school lunches. Children are falling into school meal debt, and there is a serious threat to take-up of school meals and the viability of the catering service, not to mention risking the health and wellbeing of our pupils.

# Agenda Item 13

We hear from school leaders about the devastating reality of children coming to school unable to afford to buy lunch, because their family circumstances mean they fall outside the restrictive free school meal eligibility criteria. The Food Foundation's latest data indicates an estimated 2.6 million children live in households that missed meals or struggled to access healthy food during April 2022. Additionally, the Institute of Health Equity has estimated that by January 2023, 66% or 18 million households, in the UK will be in fuel poverty, thus adding to the crisis.

Excluding so many vulnerable children is a real barrier to learning and must be urgently addressed. Now is the right moment for the government to commit to an expansion of free school meals, providing a nutritional safety net that supports all children to learn and achieve.

The clear solution to ensuring fairness and equity across our schools is to extend universal provision, as Wales and Scotland are now committed to deliver.

Therefore, Council asks the Leader and Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Education, Kit Malthouse, to call for:

1. An alleviation of financial pressure on hard working families struggling to feed their children during the cost-of-living crisis by implementing an urgent extension of free school meals to ensure universal provision for all school age groups, for a time limited period to match the cost-of-living crisis.
2. A simultaneous review of the eligibility criteria and realistic threshold that would increase the number of children entitled to free school meals. Current eligibility for free school meals means a household on universal credit in England must earn less than £7,400 a year (after tax and not including benefits), regardless of the number of children in the family. This low threshold means that many children from working families in poverty are not entitled to free school meals. Universal provision to end only once this threshold has been implemented.
3. Food provision for children on free school meals to be provided during the school holidays as standard. Children need healthy, nutritious meals all year round, and we need certainty that this will be provided continuously, outside of term time.