

Overview
& Scrutiny



MEETING: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGULATORY,
COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES)

DATE: Tuesday 13th June, 2023

TIME: 6.30 pm

VENUE: Birkdale Room, Town Hall, Southport

Member

Councillor
Councillor Bradshaw (Chair)
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)
Councillor D'Albuquerque
Councillor Evans
Councillor Grace
Councillor Killen
Councillor McGinnity
Councillor McKee
Councillor Murphy
Councillor Sir Ron Watson

Substitute

Councillor
Councillor Harrison
Councillor Carragher
Councillor Shaw
Councillor Shaw
Councillor Catie Page
Councillor Myers
Councillor Thomas
Councillor Roche
Councillor Christine Maher
Councillor Prendergast

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser
Senior Democratic Services Officer
Telephone: 0151 934 2068
Fax:
E-mail: paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

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

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

AGENDA

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 the Previous Meeting (Pages 5 - 14)

Minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2023

4. Debt Management

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services to follow

5. Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan (Pages 15 - 40)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

6. Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Reference Group - Update (Pages 41 - 44)

Briefing note of the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services

7. Cabinet Member Report - February 2023 to June 2023 (Pages 45 - 48)

Report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer

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OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGULATORY, COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES)

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT
ON TUESDAY 28TH FEBRUARY, 2023

PRESENT: Councillor Bradshaw (in the Chair)
Councillor Byrom (Vice-Chair)
Councillors Bennett, Grace, Killen, McGinnity and
Page (Substitute Member for Councillor Carlin)

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Lappin, Cabinet Member – Regulatory,
Compliance and Corporate Services

45. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Carlin; Councillor Robinson and his Substitute Councillor Thomas.

46. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of disclosable pecuniary interests were received.

47. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

48. ANNUAL ICT UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services that provided a summary of the performance of the Managed Services ICT Contract over the last 12 months, currently outsourced to Agilisys. The report covered the following areas: Agilisys Contract Performance against key performance indicators; project delivery and security; and the wider work of the ICT Client team in relation to ICT and Digital.

The report concluded that the current contract with Agilisys had performed well and had delivered significant savings for the authority compared to the previous contractual arrangement; and that the relationship between the partners was good, with robust challenge where needed, with a shared vision and approach to service improvement and risk, which had provided significant benefits to the authority, particularly around security challenges.

ICT KPI Performance was attached to the report as Appendix A.

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Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Methods by which the Council was kept updated on risks associated with cyber security.
- The need to be vigilant of phishing and impersonation attacks.
- Difficulties associated with obtaining sufficient evidence to prosecute those responsible for phishing and impersonation attacks.

RESOLVED:

That the report on the performance of the Managed Services ICT Contract over the last 12 months be noted.

49. AIR QUALITY UPDATE 2022

The Committee considered the report of the Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) that updated on local air quality management activities/actions in Sefton during 2022.

The report indicated that Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) was introduced under the Environment Act 1995 and that evidence had shown that certain atmospheric pollutants were linked to poor health; that the Act placed a statutory duty on all Local Authorities to regularly review and assess air quality in their areas and produce a yearly Air Quality Annual Status Report (ASR) which provided a detailed account of air quality in its area; and that as a result of ongoing monitoring and assessment, air quality in the majority of Sefton had been shown to be of a good standard and levels were well within the National Air Quality Standard Objectives; but that there were however areas in the South of the Borough, where due to high levels of traffic, and other localised sources, levels of NO₂ were above or close to the national standard. Accordingly, Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) had been declared in the four locations at:

- Princess Way, Seaforth
- Millers Bridge, Bootle
- Crosby Road North and South Road Junction, Waterloo
- Hawthorne Road and Church Road Junction, Litherland

The report also provided information on:

- real time automatic monitoring stations; and the use of diffusion tubes to measure monthly NO₂ levels at 80 sites across the Borough
- particulate matter
- PM_{2.5} monitoring
- A summary of monitoring results in 2021

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- Actions to improve air quality which included Sefton Clean Air Plan Outline Business Case, Joint Sefton/ Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Emissions Enforcement Project, Low-Cost Sensor co-location project Sefton /JMU and the DEFRA grant funded behaviour change project
- Low cost AQ sensor Trial
- Traffic signal upgrade/incorporation of AQ sensors

The report concluded that air quality in the majority of Sefton was within NAQS, but that the main on-going priority in Sefton for the coming years was to fully understand the effects that the predicted increase in HGVs due to port expansion would have on air quality and how this could be mitigated; that the development of the Outline Business Case for a Sefton based CAZ under the overarching Clean Air Plan was complete and had demonstrated that a corridor HGV charging CAZ covering the A5036 and A565 could achieve significant air quality improvements within the CAZ boundary and wider borough; and the progression of the CAP scheme to the next stage, i.e. Full Business Case, would depend on a number of factors, which included key risks and constraints identified in the OBC work along with identification of a funding source.

Peter Moore, Assistant Director of Place (Highways and Public Protection) and Helen Cumiskey, Strategic Infrastructure Planner gave a presentation that outlined:

- What the Air Quality Update Report Provided;
- Local Air Quality Management;
- Air Quality Management (AQMA);
- Location of AQMAs;
- AQ Monitoring Results – Automatic Sites;
- AQ Monitoring – Automatic Sites – Locations and Pollutants Monitored;
- Automatic Monitoring – NO₂ – Results and Trends;
- NO₂ 2021 Automatic Monitoring Results;
- NO₂ Diffusion Tube Monitoring;
- NO₂ Diffusion Tube Results 2021;
- PM₁₀ Results – Automatic Monitoring;
- PM_{2.5} Results – Automatic Monitoring;
- New National Standards Limit Value for PM_{2.5};
- Summary of AQ Monitoring Results;
- Actions to Improve AQ;
- Clean Air Plan (CAP) Outline Business Case (OBC) – Background/Rationale;
- OBC Considered Four HGV – Clean Air Zones (CAZ) Boundary Options – Focus on key port traffic routes & AQMA Locations;
- CAP OBC Overview;
- CAP OBC Strategic Objectives;
- CAP OBC – Case for Change/Key Outputs;

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- CAP OBC – Defining the Preferred Option;
- CAP OBC – Financial Considerations;
- CAP OBC – Summary & Conclusions;
- CAP OBC – Aligned Communication & Engagement Strategy;
- CAP OBC – Recommendations & Considerations;
- CAP OBC – Next Steps;
- Joint Sefton/Driver & Vehicle Standards Agency (DVSA) Emissions Enforcement Project;
- Sefton/Liverpool John Moores Co-Location Study;
- DEFRA Grant Funded Educational Behaviour Change Project;
- Low-Cost Sensors School Streets/Traffic Light AQ Monitoring; and
- Conclusions.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Outcomes from the 2012 Port Access Steering Group, anticipations of increased traffic associated with the port, and how this would align with aspirations towards net carbon zero.
- Concerns regarding increasing numbers of HGVs on major routes accessing the port.
- Any developments with rail access to the port.
- A lack of a national strategy in the development of public transport.
- The contribution of older HGVs to pollution i.e. in terms of the number/proportion of HGVs that would be impacted by the charge.
- The charge to HGVs using the proposed Clean Air Zone.
- The need for a national strategy in encouraging the use of public transport, modernising HGVs, switching to cleaner fuels, and the requirement for technology to catch-up with aspirations.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the report updating on local air quality management activities/actions in Sefton during 2022 be noted; and
- (2) Peter Moore and Helen Cumiskey be thanked for their informative presentation.

50. ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT – UPDATE ON RECOMMENDATIONS

Further to Minute No. 35 of the meeting held on 11 January 2022, the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that updated on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Ethical Business Practices Working Group that was approved by the Council in February 2020; and to seeking approval for the cessation of further updates.

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The latest update of the Assistant Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (Strategic Support) on the recommendations were contained in the report; and it was the Assistant Director's view that all the recommendations contained in the Final Report had now been implemented. Accordingly, it was recommended that no further update reports be submitted to the Committee.

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the report updating on the implementation of recommendations contained in the final report of the Ethical Business Practices Working Group be noted; and
- (2) no further update reports be submitted to the Committee.

51. CORPORATE COMMUNICATIONS AND COVID-19

Further to Minute No. 34 (3) of the meeting held on 10 January 2023, the Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that advised of the deliberations of the informal meeting of the Committee held on 3 February 2023, in respect of Corporate Communications and Covid-19; and which sought formal approval of the recommendations made at the informal meeting.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following matters:

- It was considered that the Council had reacted positively in disseminating information and advice to local communities during the pandemic and that Corporate Communications was essentially a profession.

RESOLVED: That the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be requested to approve the following recommendations:

That:

- (1) In respect of the need to connect with specific individuals, communities and groups across Sefton:
 - (a) the production of print-off information such as the Cost-of-Living flyer for elected members to distribute in their communities be supported and continued;
 - (b) the provision of elected members with regular e-shot updates on Council news stories and information be supported and continued;
 - (c) Sending press releases directly to elected members when

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- they were sent to the media be supported and continued;
- (d) the use of local area Facebook groups through group administrators who since COVID were happy for the Council to continue to post on the groups rather than do it for the Council be supported and continued;
 - (e) Investigating corporate use of messaging through Next Door network which people used to share local messages with neighbours and communities be continued and supported; and
 - (f) Accessing and using any statistical ward-based intelligence that could inform the Council of localised preferences so that the Council can tailor messages and the way they are delivered be supported and continued;
- (2) In respect of connecting better with young people across Sefton:
- (a) it was noted that feedback and research showed that young people were increasingly less likely to engage with traditional social media channels used by Sefton Council – Twitter/Facebook/Instagram. Therefore, the use of TikTok for that target age group be investigated; and
 - (b) It was noted that young people were also more likely to access information through video which would require the Council making more engaging, better-quality videos for them to be shared through the Council's corporate communications channels. This concept be supported;
- (3) In respect of recognising the level of people with restricted digital access:
- (a) the provision of regular e-shot updates (similar to those sent to elected members) to the Council's network of Community Gatekeepers who were in direct touch with their local communities or specific groups to spread important health and other messages such as financial reminders guidance be supported and continued;
 - (b) the production of print-off information such as the Cost-of-Living flyer for elected members to distribute in their communities be supported and continued;
 - (c) the provision of elected members with regular e-shot updates on Council news stories and information to disseminate to constituents be supported and continued; and

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- (d) the sending of press releases directly to elected members when they were sent to the media be supported and continued;
- (4) In respect of continuing improved Partnership working:
- (a) ongoing work through Sefton Health Information and Communications group and closer working with Sefton Partnership, including weekly updates be supported and continued;
 - (b) the use of the Sefton Health Info WhatsApp group to share updates and news with Sefton Health Information and Communications group members be supported and continued;
 - (c) the process of mutually alerting partners of messages and campaigns and sharing and boosting those messages through the appropriate channels available to the Council be supported and continued;
 - (d) Mutually sharing information in printed material and briefings be supported and continued; and
 - (e) the co-hosting Sefton Partnership health information on Sefton Council website be continued and supported;
- (5) In respect of relationships with colleagues:
- (a) it was noted that during the pandemic, the Communications team worked more closely with a broader range of departments and services and partner organisations and adapted the way it worked to ensure that each had its own Communications Officer acting like an agency Account Manager and providing the first point of call on proactive and reactive communications. This activity be supported and continued; and
- (6) In respect of relationships with media:
- (a) it was noted that using systems available to the Council to stay in contact with a broader range of local, regional and national media contacts who saw the Council as a proven reliable source of information about Sefton during COVID was successful. This activity be supported and continued;
 - (b) the promotion of Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health as a go-to source for Public Health matter articles, interviews and videos, as during the COVID-19 pandemic, be supported and continued; and

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- (c) the provision of an out-of-hours media contact service through a team on-call rota through budget continuation from April 2023 when current COVID funding ends be supported.

52. WORK PROGRAMME 2022/23, SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS AND KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that sought the views of the Committee on the Work Programme for 2022/23; the identification of potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee or at an informal meeting; the identification of any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; and that updated on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Members of the Committee asked questions/commented on the following issues:

- Training for Members on IT and cyber security in particular.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Work Programme for 2022/23, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be noted;
- (2) further consideration be given to training on IT and cyber security in particular, during 2023/24;
- (3) the contents of the Key Decision Forward Plan for the period 1 March – 30 June 2023 be noted; and
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

53. CABINET MEMBER REPORT - JANUARY 2023 - FEBRUARY 2023

The Committee considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer that included the most recent report from the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update report from the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services be noted; and
- (2) Councillor Lappin be thanked for her attendance at the meeting.

54. THANKS TO MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

The Chair, Councillor Bradshaw advised that this evening's meeting was the final meeting of the 2022/23 municipal year and she thanked all Members and officers for their help and support during the year; and indicated that the cross-party collaboration of Members had resulted in a productive year for the Committee.

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Agenda Item 5

Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)	Date of Meeting:	13 June, 2023
Subject:	Work Programme 2023/24, Scrutiny Review Topics and Key Decision Forward Plan		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To seek the views of the Committee on the draft Work Programme for 2023/24, identify potential topics for scrutiny reviews to be undertaken by a Working Group(s) appointed by the Committee or by informal meetings of the Committee; to identify any items for pre-scrutiny by the Committee from the Key Decision Forward Plan; to update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee; and to seek views on training for Members on IT and cyber security in particular, during 2023/24

Recommendation:

That:

- (1) the Work Programme for 2023/24, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be considered, along with any additional items to be included and thereon be agreed;
- (2) consideration be given to the selection of a topic(s) for review by either a Working Group or at informal meetings of the Committee;
- (3) consideration be given to items for pre-scrutiny from the Key Decision Forward Plan as set out in Appendix 3 to the report, which fall under the remit of the Committee and any agreed items be included in the Work Programme referred to in (1) above;
- (4) the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted; and
- (5) consideration be given to training for Members on IT and cyber security in particular, during 2023/24.

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Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To determine the Work Programme of items to be considered during the Municipal Year 2023/24 and identify scrutiny review topics which would demonstrate that the work of the Overview and Scrutiny 'adds value' to the Council.

The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues before making formal decisions.

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

No alternative options have been considered as the Overview and Scrutiny Committee needs to approve its Work Programme and identify scrutiny review topics.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. Any financial implications arising from the consideration of a key decision or relating to a recommendation arising from a Working Group/informal meeting review will be reported to Members at the appropriate time.

(A) Revenue Costs – see above

(B) Capital Costs – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets): None	
Legal Implications: None	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Impact on Children and Young People: No	
There are no direct children and young people implications arising from this report. Any children and young people implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Work Programme will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at	

the appropriate time.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report but the Work Programme indicates that reports will be submitted to each meeting updating on the work of the Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: None directly applicable to this report.
Commission, broker and provide core services: None directly applicable to this report.
Place – leadership and influencer: None directly applicable to this report.
Drivers of change and reform: None directly applicable to this report.
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: None directly applicable to this report.
Greater income for social investment: None directly applicable to this report.
Cleaner Greener: None directly applicable to this report but reference in the Work Programme to the submission of the report on Air Quality Monitoring will raise awareness of associated issues with Members.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5443/23) and the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD7243/23) have been consulted and have no comments to make. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the report will be included in those reports as appropriate

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report:

- Overview and Scrutiny Committee Work Programme for 2023/24
- Criteria Checklist for Selecting Topics for Review
- Latest Key Decision Forward Plan items relating to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Background Papers:

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There are no background papers available for inspection.

Introduction/Background

1. WORK PROGRAMME 2023/24

- 1.1 The proposed Work Programme of items to be submitted to the Committee for consideration during the Municipal Year 2023/24 is set out in **Appendix 1** to the report. The programme has been produced in liaison with the appropriate Executive Directors/Heads of Service, whose roles fall under the remit of the Committee.
- 1.2 The Work Programme has been produced based on items included in last year's Programme.
- 1.3 Members are requested to consider whether there are any other items that they wish the Committee to consider, that fall within the terms of reference of the Committee. The Work Programme will be submitted to each meeting of the Committee during 2023/24 to provide Members with the opportunity to add items to the Programme.

2. SCRUTINY REVIEW TOPICS 2023/24

- 2.1 It is usual practise for the Committee to appoint a Working Group(s) to undertake a scrutiny review of services during the Municipal Year.
- 2.2 Last year the Committee agreed to hold an informal meeting to consider a topic (Corporate Communications and Covid-19) rather than establishing a Working Group. The informal meeting was held on 3 February 2023. Other Overview and Scrutiny Committees also adopted the new approach of holding informal meetings to consider a topic rather than establishing Working Groups.
- 2.3 The Committee's views are therefore sought on whether any topics for review should be held via Working Groups or informal meetings of the Committee.
- 2.4 For the information of Members a criteria checklist for selecting and rejecting potential topics to review is attached at **Appendix 2**.

3. PRE-SCRUTINY OF ITEMS IN THE KEY DECISION FORWARD PLAN

- 3.1 Members may request to pre-scrutinise items from the Key Decision Forward Plan which fall under the remit (terms of reference) of this Committee. The Forward Plan, which is updated each month, sets out the list of items to be submitted to the Cabinet for consideration during the next four-month period.
- 3.2 The pre-scrutiny process assists Cabinet Members to make effective decisions by examining issues beforehand and making recommendations prior to a determination being made.
- 3.3 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has requested that only those key decisions that fall under the remit of each Overview and Scrutiny Committee should be included on the agenda for consideration.

- 3.4 The latest Forward Plan is attached at **Appendix 3** for this purpose. For ease of identification, items listed on the Forward Plan for the first time appear as shaded.
- 3.5 Should Members require further information in relation to any item on the Key Decision Forward Plan, would they please contact the relevant Officer named against the item in the Plan, prior to the Meeting.

4. LIVERPOOL CITY REGION COMBINED AUTHORITY OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

- 4.1 As Members will be aware, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees considered a report on the guidance produced by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities following on from the Communities and Local Government Select Committee's inquiry into Overview and Scrutiny. This Committee considered the matter at its meeting held on 22 October 2019 (Minute No. 20).
- 4.2 The Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and the four Overview and Scrutiny Committees all agreed the recommendations contained in the report, one of which being that updates on Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee (LCRCAO&S) be included in the Work Programme report considered at each Overview and Scrutiny Committee meeting.
- 4.3 In accordance with the above decision, information on the LCRCAO&S is set out below.
- 4.4 **Role**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee was established by the Combined Authority in May 2017 in accordance with the Combined Authorities Order 2017.

The role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to:

- Scrutinise the decision and actions taken by the Combined Authority or the Metro Mayor;
- Provide a 'critical friend to policy and strategy development;
- Undertake scrutiny reviews into areas of strategic importance for the people of the Liverpool City Region; and
- Monitor the delivery of the Combined Authority's strategic plan.

4.5 Membership

The Committee is made up of 3 elected Members from each of the constituent Local Authorities of the LCR Combined Authority, along with one elected Member from both the Liverpool City Region Liberal Democrat Group and the Liverpool City Region Conservative Group.

Sefton's appointed Members are Councillors Desmond, Hart and Howard.

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Councillor Howard is Sefton's Scrutiny Link.

Representatives of the Liberal Democrat Group and Conservative group on the Committee will be reported to Members at the next meeting.

4.6 Chair

The Chair of the LCRCAO&S cannot be a Member of the majority group. The Chair will be appointed at the first meeting of the Committee in July 2023.

4.7 Quoracy Issues

The quorum for meetings of the LCRCAO&S is 14, two-thirds of the total number of members, 20. This high threshold is not set by the Combined Authority but is set out in legislation. This has on occasion caused meetings to be inquorate.

4.8 Meetings

Information on all meetings and membership of the LCRCAO&S can be obtained using the following link

<https://moderngov.merseytravel.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=365&Year=0>

Latest Meeting - 19 April 2023

The latest meeting of the LCRCAO&S scheduled to be held on 19 April 2023 was cancelled.

4.9 The next meeting of the LCRCAO&S will be held in July 2023. Matters discussed at this meeting will be reported to Members at the next meeting of the Committee.

4.10 The Committee is requested to note the update on the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

5.0 TRAINING FOR MEMBERS ON IT AND CYBER SECURITY IN PARTICULAR

5.1 At its meeting held on 28 February 2023, as part of consideration of the Work Programme a comment was raised regarding training for Members on IT and cyber security in particular.

5.2 The Committee resolved that further consideration be given to training on IT and cyber security in particular, during 2023/24.

5.3 Members views are therefore sought on this issue.



**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE (REGULATORY, COMPLIANCE AND CORPORATE SERVICES) WORK
PROGRAMME 2023/24**

Tuesday, 13 June 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport	
Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group – Update	Margaret Jones
Debt Management	Stephan Van Arendsen/Diane Turner
Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

Tuesday, 12 September 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Bootle	
Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
Financial Performance Monitoring	Stephan Van Arendsen/Paul Reilly
Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures and Sickness Absence Monitoring	Paul Cunningham/Marie Lambert
Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group – Update	Margaret Jones
Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

Tuesday, 31 October 2023, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport	
Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
Financial Performance Monitoring	Stephan Van Arendsen/Paul Reilly
Disposal of Surplus Council Owned Land/Asset -Management Strategy	Stephan Van Arendsen/Dom Ellis
Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group – Update	Margaret Jones
Update on Progress of LCR Digital Inclusion Strategy	Andrea Watts
Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

Tuesday, 9 January 2024, 6.30 p.m., Town Hall, Southport	
Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
Financial Performance Monitoring	Stephan Van Arendsen/Paul Reilly
Review of the Council Tax Reduction Scheme	Stephan Van Arendsen/Diane Turner
Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group – Update	Margaret Jones
Air Quality Monitoring	Peter Moore/Greg Martin
Armed Forces Covenant	David McCullough
Corporate Communications Update	Martin Driver
Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

Tuesday, 6 February 2024, 6.30 p.m., Budget Meeting - Town Hall, Bootle	
Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
Budget Report 2024/25 to 2027/28	Stephan Van Arendsen/Paul Reilly
Financial Performance Monitoring	Stephan Van Arendsen/Paul Reilly
Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities – Prudential Indicators	Stephan Van Arendsen/Graham Hussey
Treasury Management Policy and Strategy	Stephan Van Arendsen/Graham Hussey
Capital Strategy 2024/25 and Future Years	Stephan Van Arendsen/Andrew Bridson
Asset Management Strategy and Asset Disposal Policy – Update Position	Stephan Van Arendsen
Robustness of the 2024/25 Budget Estimates and the Adequacy of Reserves – Local Government Act 2003 – Section 25	Stephan Van Arendsen

Tuesday, 27 February 2024, 6.30 p.m. Town Hall, Southport	
Report/Item	Report Author/Organiser
Annual ICT Update Report (Performance of Agilisys)	Helen Spreadbury
Disciplinary and Grievance Procedures and Sickness Absence Monitoring	Paul Cunningham/Marie Lambert
Members' Welfare Reform Reference Group – Update	Margaret Jones
Cabinet Member Update Reports	Paul Fraser
Work Programme Update	Paul Fraser

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APPENDIX 2

CRITERIA CHECKLIST FOR SELECTING TOPICS FOR REVIEW

Criteria for Selecting Items
▪ Issue identified by members as key issue for public (through member surgeries, other contact with constituents or volume of complaints)
▪ Poor performing service (evidence from performance indicators/benchmarking)
▪ Service ranked as important by the community (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels)
▪ High level of user/general public dissatisfaction with service (e.g. through market surveys/citizens panels/complaints)
▪ Public interest issue covered in local media
▪ High level of budgetary commitment to the service/policy area (as percentage of total expenditure)
▪ Pattern of budgetary overspends
▪ Council corporate priority area
▪ Central government priority area
▪ Issues raised by External Audit Management Letter/External audit reports
▪ New government guidance or legislation
▪ Reports or new evidence provided by external organisations on key issue
▪ Others

CRITERIA FOR REJECTION

Potential Criteria for Rejecting Items
▪ Issue being examined by the Cabinet
▪ Issue being examined by an Officer Group : changes imminent
▪ Issue being examined by another internal body
▪ Issue will be addressed as part of a Service Review within the next year
▪ New legislation or guidance expected within the next year
▪ Other reasons specific to the particular issues.

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APPENDIX 2

SCRUTINY CHECKLIST DO'S AND DON'TS

DO
◆ Remember that Scrutiny <ul style="list-style-type: none">◆ Is about learning and being a "critical friend"; it should be a positive process◆ Is not opposition
◆ Remember that Scrutiny should result in improved value, enhanced performance or greater public satisfaction
◆ Take an overview and keep an eye on the wider picture
◆ Check performance against local standards and targets and national standards, and compare results with other authorities
◆ Benchmark performance against local and national performance indicators, using the results to ask more informed questions
◆ Use Working Groups to get underneath performance information
◆ Take account of local needs, priorities and policies
◆ Be persistent and inquisitive
◆ Ask effective questions - be constructive not judgmental
◆ Be open-minded and self aware - encourage openness and self criticism in services
◆ Listen to users and the public, seek the voices that are often not heard, seek the views of others - and balance all of these
◆ Praise good practice and best value - and seek to spread this throughout the authority
◆ Provide feedback to those who have been involved in the review and to stakeholders
◆ Anticipate difficulties in Members challenging colleagues from their own party
◆ Take time to review your own performance

◆ DON'T
◆ Witch-hunt or use performance review as punishment
◆ Be party political/partisan
◆ Blame valid risk taking or stifle initiative or creativity
◆ Treat scrutiny as an add-on
◆ Get bogged down in detail
◆ Be frightened of asking basic questions
◆ Undertake too many issues in insufficient depth
◆ Start without a clear brief and remit
◆ Underestimate the task
◆ Lose track of the main purpose of scrutiny
◆ Lack sensitivity to other stakeholders
◆ Succumb to organisational inertia
◆ Duck facing failure - learn from it and support change and development
◆ Be driven by data or be paralysed by analysis - keep strategic overview, and expect officers to provide high level information and analysis to help.

APPENDIX 2

KEY QUESTIONS

Overview and Scrutiny Committees should keep in mind some of the fundamental questions:-

Are we doing what users/non users/local residents want?
Are users' needs central to the service?
Why are we doing this?
What are we trying to achieve?
How well are we doing?
How do we compare with others?
Are we delivering value for money?
How do we know?
What can we improve?

INVESTIGATIONS:-

To what extent are service users' expectations and needs being met?
To what extent is the service achieving what the policy intended?
To what extent is the service meeting any statutory obligations or national standards and targets?
Are there any unexpected results/side effects of the policy?
Is the performance improving, steady or deteriorating?
Is the service able to be honest and open about its current performance and the reasons behind it?
Are areas of achievement and weakness fairly and accurately identified?
How has performance been assessed? What is the evidence?
How does performance compare with that of others? Are there learning points from others' experiences?
Is the service capable of meeting planned targets/standards? What change to capability is needed.
Are local performance indicators relevant, helpful, meaningful to Members, staff and service users?

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

FOR THE FOUR MONTH PERIOD 1 JULY 2023 - 31 OCTOBER 2023

This Forward Plan sets out the details of the key decisions which the Cabinet, individual Cabinet Members or Officers expect to take during the next four month period. The Plan is rolled forward every month and is available to the public at least 28 days before the beginning of each month.

A Key Decision is defined in the Council's Constitution as:

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

Anyone wishing to make representations about any of the matters listed below may do so by contacting the relevant officer listed against each Key Decision, within the time period indicated.

Under the Access to Information Procedure Rules set out in the Council's Constitution, a Key Decision may not be taken, unless:

- it is published in the Forward Plan;
- 5 clear days have lapsed since the publication of the Forward Plan; and
- if the decision is to be taken at a meeting of the Cabinet, 5 clear days notice of the meeting has been given.

The law and the Council's Constitution provide for urgent key decisions to be made, even though they have not been included in the Forward Plan in accordance with Rule 26 (General Exception) and Rule 28 (Special Urgency) of the Access to Information Procedure Rules.

Copies of the following documents may be inspected at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle L20 7AE or accessed from the Council's website: www.sefton.gov.uk

- Council Constitution
- Forward Plan
- Reports on the Key Decisions to be taken
- Other documents relating to the proposed decision may be submitted to the decision making meeting and these too will be made available by the contact officer named in the Plan
- The minutes for each Key Decision, which will normally be published within 5 working days after having been made

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APPENDIX 3

Some reports to be considered by the Cabinet/Council may contain exempt information and will not be made available to the public. The specific reasons (Paragraph No(s)) why such reports are exempt are detailed in the Plan and the Paragraph No(s) and descriptions are set out below:-

1. Information relating to any individual
2. Information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)
4. Information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the Authority
5. Information in respect of which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained in legal proceedings
6. Information which reveals that the authority proposes a) to give under any enactment a notice under or by virtue of which requirements are imposed on a person; or b) to make an order or direction under any enactment
7. Information relating to any action taken or to be taken in connection with the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime
8. Information falling within paragraph 3 above is not exempt information by virtue of that paragraph if it is required to be registered under—
 - (a) the Companies Act 1985;
 - (b) the Friendly Societies Act 1974;
 - (c) the Friendly Societies Act 1992;
 - (d) the Industrial and Provident Societies Acts 1965 to 1978;
 - (e) the Building Societies Act 1986; or
 - (f) the Charities Act 1993.
9. Information is not exempt information if it relates to proposed development for which the local planning authority may grant itself planning permission pursuant to regulation 3 of the Town and Country Planning General Regulations 1992
10. Information which—
 - (a) falls within any of paragraphs 1 to 7 above; and
 - (b) is not prevented from being exempt by virtue of paragraph 8 or 9 above, is exempt information if and so long, as in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

Members of the public are welcome to attend meetings of the Cabinet and Council which are held at the Town Hall, Oriel Road, Bootle or the Town Hall, Lord Street, Southport. The dates and times of the meetings are published on www.sefton.gov.uk or you may contact the Democratic Services Section on telephone number 0151 934 2068.

NOTE:

For ease of identification, items listed within the document for the first time will appear shaded.

Dwayne Johnson
Chief Executive

APPENDIX 3

FORWARD PLAN INDEX OF ITEMS

Item Heading	Officer Contact
St Anne's House, St Peters House and Balliol Road Car Park, Bootle	Suzanne Rimmer suzanne.rimmer@sefton.gov.uk
Land at Lunt, Sefton	Suzanne Rimmer suzanne.rimmer@sefton.gov.uk
Sustainable Warmth Funding Award (April - September 2023)	Stephanie Jukes stephanie.jukes@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4552
Sale of Ainsdale ATC and the Meadows Ainsdale	Suzanne Rimmer suzanne.rimmer@sefton.gov.uk
Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23	Graham Hussey graham.hussey@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4100
Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – July Update	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106
Financial and Corporate Performance 2022/2023	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106
Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – September Update	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106
Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – October Update	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	St Anne's House, St Peters House and Balliol Road Car Park, Bootle Proposed disposal of St Anne's House, St Peters House and Balliol Road Car Park, Bootle			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Part 3)			
Wards Affected	Derby			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings and Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	St Anne's House, St Peters House and Balliol Road Car Park, Bootle			
Contact Officer(s) details	Suzanne Rimmer suzanne.rimmer@sefton.gov.uk			

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Land at Lunt, Sefton Disposal of land			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Part 3)			
Wards Affected	Manor; Park			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Officers and Members via Cabinet Member Reference Group			
Method(s) of Consultation	Cabinet Member Reference Group			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Land at Lunt, Sefton			
Contact Officer(s) details	Suzanne Rimmer suzanne.rimmer@sefton.gov.uk			

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Sustainable Warmth Funding Award (April - September 2023) Report to advise members of additional funding secured through the 'Sustainable Warmth' domestic retrofit programme, and a request to accept the funding.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet Council			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023 14 Sep 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 22/06/2023 to 27/07/2023. Reason: information is still awaited from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on the availability/granting of funding 23 May 2023 Decision due date for Council changed from 13/07/2023 to 14/09/2023. Reason: information is still awaited from the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero on the availability/granting of funding			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Service Manager, Housing Strategy & Investment; Liverpool City Region Combined Authority			
Method(s) of Consultation	Meetings; Emails			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sustainable Warmth funding award (April - Sept. 2023)			
Contact Officer(s) details	Stephanie Jukes stephanie.jukes@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4552			

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Sale of Ainsdale ATC and the Meadows Ainsdale Seek Cabinet approval to the terms and conditions for the disposal of the premises			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023 Decision due date for Cabinet changed from 22/06/2023 to 27/07/2023. Reason: negotiations are still ongoing			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Part exempt (Part 3)			
Wards Affected	Ainsdale			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Councillors as part of the above			
Method(s) of Consultation	Updates on disposal previously reported to Cabinet			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Sale of Ainsdale ATC and the Meadows Ainsdale			
Contact Officer(s) details	Suzanne Rimmer suzanne.rimmer@sefton.gov.uk			

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23 This outturn report provides Members with a review of the Treasury Management activities undertaken during 2022/23.			
Decision Maker	Cabinet Council			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023 14 Sep 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	No
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	N/A			
Method(s) of Consultation	None.			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Treasury Management Outturn 2022/23			
Contact Officer(s) details	Graham Hussey graham.hussey@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4100			

APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – July Update Financial updates and Policy decisions relating to the Council's Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan, including the monthly Revenue and Capital budget monitoring reports			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Trade Unions, Staff and relevant organisations as appropriate			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual budget saving options / amendments to the budget will be subject to consultation – internal and external to the Council (as appropriate).			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – July Update			
Contact Officer(s) details	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106			

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APPENDIX 3

SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Financial and Corporate Performance 2022/2023 Update on the Revenue and Capital Outturn position for the Council in 2022/2023, including key performance information for the year			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	27 Jul 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Trade Unions, Staff and relevant organisations as appropriate			
Method(s) of Consultation	Any budget saving options / amendments to the budget will be subject to consultation – internal and external to the Council (as appropriate).			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Financial and Corporate Performance 2022/2023			
Contact Officer(s) details	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106			

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – September Update Financial updates and Policy decisions relating to the Council's Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan, including the monthly Revenue and Capital budget monitoring reports			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	7 Sep 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Trade Unions, Staff and relevant organisations as appropriate			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual budget saving options / amendments to the budget will be subject to consultation – internal and external to the Council (as appropriate).			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – September Update			
Contact Officer(s) details	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106			

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SEFTON METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL FORWARD PLAN

Details of Decision to be taken	Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – October Update Financial updates and Policy decisions relating to the Council's Budget and Medium-Term Financial Plan, including the monthly Revenue and Capital budget monitoring reports			
Decision Maker	Cabinet			
Decision Expected	5 Oct 2023			
Key Decision Criteria	Financial	Yes	Community Impact	Yes
Exempt Report	Open			
Wards Affected	All Wards			
Scrutiny Committee Area	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services			
Lead Director	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services			
Persons/Organisations to be Consulted	Cabinet, Chief Executive, Strategic Leadership Board, Trade Unions, Staff and relevant organisations as appropriate			
Method(s) of Consultation	Individual budget saving options / amendments to the budget will be subject to consultation – internal and external to the Council (as appropriate).			
List of Background Documents to be Considered by Decision-maker	Financial Management 2023/24 to 2026/27 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2023/24 – October Update			
Contact Officer(s) details	Paul Reilly paul.reilly@sefton.gov.uk Tel: 0151 934 4106			

**Cabinet Member Brief
Overview & Scrutiny Committee
(Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)**

13 June 2023.

Welfare Reform & Anti-Poverty Update

The Welfare Reform and Anti-Poverty Cabinet Member Reference Group met on 26th April 2023. The following updates were received:

Updates from the Welfare Reform & Anti-Poverty Steering Group

Officers from Public Health provided an update from the Partnership Steering Group meeting held on 13th April 2023.

The Cost-of-Living Crisis was discussed. Updates included:

- A warm space update. During October 2022, grant funding totalling £73,000 was awarded to 24 organisations to deliver Warm Space sessions across 32 sites in Sefton throughout the winter period. During the reporting period, 698 Warm Space sessions were held.
- Officers from the DWP advised eligible individuals are entitled to up to 3 Cost of Living Payments of £301, £300 and £299 if they get any of the following benefits or tax credits:
 - income-based Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA)
 - income-related Employment and Support Allowance (ESA)
 - Income Support
 - Pension Credit
 - Universal Credit
 - Child Tax Credit
 - Working Tax Credit

The payment will be made separately from their benefit payments. People will not get a payment if they are only getting New Style ESA, contributory ESA, or New Style JSA.

The first payment is due between 25th April-7th May.

- Sefton Officers reported that the open access support fund application opened in January 2023 and closed in March 2023, with over 1100 applications and made payments of £150,000. The 2023/2024 application is now live with a continuation process, currently taking applications.

Period Poverty - A Sefton Update

Cabinet Members received an update regarding Period Poverty in Sefton. Sefton currently offers sanitary products at a cost via vending machines, the aim is to get stock in all Sefton spaces and then to look at how we can make it free through

Agenda Item 6

charitable donations to cover the cost of stock. Leisure and community staff exploring how this could be delivered and more affordable.

Sustainable Food

The Executive Director shared the Sustainable Food report with members. The report was commissioned by the combined authority.

Community Pantry Update

Cabinet Members received an update regarding Community Pantries. A report was shared with members, the report includes more case studies to illustrate the impact of interventions. The Councils Communities team will be taking over the facilitation and management of the Foodbank and Pantry Network from CVS. The aim is to ensure the sustainability of the food banks and pantries by sharing best practices, embedding ICT support, and enhancing funding opportunities.

The report highlights South Sefton foodbank increased by 40%, and North Sefton is up 26%. This is despite having a range of pantries across the borough. This presents a significant challenge in supporting the community.

Foodbanks are not reporting any significant stock issues, apart from infant formula. Local reports suggest families are finding the costs of infant formula prohibitive. Breast-feeding rates are low but have seen improvement in the last few years. Sefton has a duty of care to its mothers and ensures formula is used appropriately, while still promoting breastfeeding.

Sefton Child Poverty Launch Event

Officers from the Public Health Team updated Cabinet Members on the Sefton Child Poverty follow-up event. The conference takes place on 29th June 2023.

A save-the-date notification has been sent to guests. The formal event will start at 1:30pm. Provider marketplace will occur so a good networking opportunity.

Speakers include Deputy Chief Executive of CVS who will discuss early years and accessible and affordable childcare. LJMU Professor Joe Yates who will cover access to education and the links through health, transport, and employment. Sefton's executive directors will cover social value, procurement from a place perspective and how we can build community wealth and regeneration through training and employment opportunities.

Sefton Council Housing - cost of living challenges

Cabinet Members received an update on the cost-of-living crisis and how it is affecting housing. It was reported that Sefton is seeing a high level of homelessness. The housing Options team is supporting those under the threat of homelessness.

The team is collaborating positively with Homes England, discussing funding for temporary accommodation, and ensuring safe, high quality and low-cost temporary accommodation.

Members were aware that although numbers rough sleeping in Sefton is small, outreach work is still ongoing. Other homelessness initiatives include Housing First Initiative, which provides wrap-around accommodation for potential rough sleepers with complex needs. This initiative has been shortlisted for Northwest Housing Awards.

Other grants include the Social Housing Decarbonization Fund which saw the City Region being awarded £31.7m on top of £11.1m which was approved in 2022.

Sefton Council has employed two full-time officers to enforce MEES (the minimum energy efficiency standard) regulation in private sector properties.

Warm Hubs

Cabinet Members received an update on Sefton Warm Hubs. Both Warm Hubs and the Sefton Winter Clothes project is funded through household support fund. A spend profile has been agreed upon, ensuring Sefton now has an annual programme rather than a six-month program.

Sefton Council has confirmed with CVS an extension of Warm Hubs and Winter Clothes. This will change from Warm Hubs to Welcome Hubs for the summer period and will extend into providing access to swimming costumes and targeted initiatives through holiday activity-funded programs and free school meal vouchers.

ELAS Update

Cabinet Members received an update on ELAS performance for the Council's local welfare support scheme. It was reported that ELAS volumes are very high, but manageable from an operational perspective averaging around 200 applications each week with the majority of ELAS applications seeking support for utilities.

January 2023 saw over 15,000 ELAS applications annually, compared to the end of January 2022 at just over 7000 applications. 5200 support requests for food provision saw an increase of 41% compared to 2022. 811 Utility support requests were made, this has risen by 41%, a large increase in all areas and averaging 300 applications a week

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Requests for Action

None noted

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Report to:	Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services)	Date of Meeting:	13 June 2023
Subject:	Cabinet Member Report – February 2023 to June 2023		
Report of:	Chief Legal and Democratic Officer	Wards Affected:	All
Cabinet Portfolio:	Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To submit the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services report for the period February 2023 to June 2023 relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services report relating to the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be noted.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

No alternative options have been considered because the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

Any financial implications associated with the Cabinet Member report that are referred to in this update are contained within the respective reports.

(A) Revenue Costs – see above

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(B) **Capital Costs** – see above

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
Legal Implications:	
Equality Implications: There are no equality implications.	
Impact on Children and Young People: No There are no direct children and young people implications arising from this report. Any children and young people implications arising from the consideration of reports referred to in the Cabinet Member update will be contained in such reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	
Climate Emergency Implications: The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
There are no direct climate emergency implications arising from this report. Any climate emergency implications arising from matters referred to in the Cabinet Member report will be contained in reports when they are presented to Members at the appropriate time.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: None directly applicable to this report. The Cabinet Member update provides information on activity within Councillor Lappin's portfolio during a previous two/three-month period. Any reports relevant to her portfolio considered by the Cabinet, Cabinet Member or Committees during this period would contain information as to how such reports contributed to the Council's Core Purpose.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: As above
Commission, broker and provide core services: As above

Place – leadership and influencer: As above
Drivers of change and reform: As above
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: As above
Greater income for social investment: As above
Cleaner Greener: As above

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Cabinet Member Update Report is not subject to FD/LD consultation. Any specific financial and legal implications associated with any subsequent reports arising from the attached Cabinet Member update report will be included in those reports as appropriate

(B) External Consultations

Not applicable

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Committee meeting.

Contact Officer:	Paul Fraser
Telephone Number:	0151 934 2068
Email Address:	paul.fraser@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Cabinet Member - (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) update report – to follow

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 In order to keep Overview and Scrutiny Members informed, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board has agreed for relevant Cabinet Member Reports to be submitted to appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committees.
- 1.2 The most recent Cabinet Member report for Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services will be submitted to Members in due course.

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