

Public Document Pack

Sefton Council

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: Thursday 20th June, 2024

TIME: 10.00 a.m.

VENUE: Birkdale Room, Town Hall, Southport

DECISION MAKER: **CABINET**

Councillor Atkinson (Chair)
Councillor Dowd
Councillor Doyle
Councillor Harvey
Councillor Howard
Councillor Lappin
Councillor Moncur
Councillor Roscoe
Councillor Veidman

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Debbie Campbell
Democratic Services Manager
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E-mail: debbie.campbell@sefton.gov.uk

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

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

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

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

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.

A G E N D A

Items marked with an * involve key decisions

<u>Item No.</u>	<u>Subject/Author(s)</u>	<u>Wards Affected</u>	
1	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 Minutes of the meeting held on 23 May 2024		(Pages 5 - 18)
* 4	Bootle Area Action Plan - Publication Report of the Executive Director (Place)	Derby; Linacre; Litherland; Netherton and Orrell	(Pages 19 - 30)
* 5	Annual Progress Report Climate Emergency Report of the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	All Wards	(Pages 31 - 56)

* 6

**Financial Management 2024/25 to 2027/28 -
Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2024/25
- Additional Estimates**

All Wards

(Pages 57 -
66)

Report of the Executive Director of Corporate
Resources and Customer Services

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THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON THURSDAY 6 JUNE 2024. MINUTES NOD. 9 AND 10 ARE NOT SUBJECT TO "CALL-IN".

CABINET

MEETING HELD AT THE COMMITTEE ROOM, TOWN HALL, BOOTLE ON THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

PRESENT: Councillor Atkinson (in the Chair)
Councillors Dowd, Doyle, Harvey, Howard, Lappin,
Moncur and Roscoe

ALSO PRESENT: Councillor Sir Ron Watson CBE

1. CHAIR'S WELCOME

The Chair welcomed newly appointed Cabinet Members Councillors Dowd and Harvey to the Cabinet meeting.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Veidman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

4. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decision Made:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 4 April 2024 be confirmed as a correct record.

5. FUTURE APPROACH TO COMMISSIONING OF RESIDENTIAL & NURSING CARE SECTOR

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health seeking approval for the future commissioning approach for the Sefton Adult Social Care Residential and Nursing Sector.

The Chair referred to the impending departure of Eleanor Moulton, Assistant Director – Integrated Life Course Commissioning, due to her taking a position in another local authority, and thanked Eleanor for all her hard work and support during her time with Sefton.

Decisions Made:

That

Agenda Item 3

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

- (1) a new Sefton framework of Residential and Nursing Care Homes that will be established for up to, and not more than, a ten-year period, commencing in the 2024/25 financial year, compliant to the latest regulations effective of 1 October 2024, be established;
- (2) decisions on the award, contracting models, contract terms and conditions and service specification to be applied to the new Framework be delegated to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health and Deputy Leader, on the basis that they can be contained within existing and approved budget provision within the service;
- (3) the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health and Deputy Leader, be given delegated authority to issue new contract terms and conditions to all care homes for adults over 18 who are commissioned by Sefton Council, to include the direct award of contracts to such homes, with the proviso that this approach and any such awards adhere to procurement regulations, and the intent that this approach maintains the prospective Care Home Residents' Choice Directive;
- (4) periodic re-opening exercises of the Framework be approved, and decisions on the awarding of contracts to successful new applicants and with respect to any such specific commissioning exercises / competitions be made; and
- (5) over the course of the new Framework, delegated authority be granted to the Executive Director of Adult Social Care and Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health and Deputy Leader, to make decisions on any amendments to its rules / operation.

Reasons for the Decisions:

To ensure that updated commissioning and contractual arrangements were put in place. These commissioning and contractual arrangements would adhere to the new CQC single assessment framework, which aimed to deliver Effective, Responsive, Safe, Caring and Well-led models of care, and which would ensure that there was greater control of the market, that future decisions on commissioning and market management could be made in a timely manner, and to put in place new contractual and service delivery arrangements which both sought to ensure market sustainability, and that there was a greater focus on commissioning high quality services with Providers that were willing to deliver services in line with the Framework arrangements.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

1. **Maintaining the status quo** – This was not considered to be a viable option due to identification of the need to establish new commissioning arrangements in Sefton for the Residential and Nursing care sector, which reflected the needs of Sefton Residents and met Sefton’s joint Social Care and Health strategic and commissioning objectives for the sector.
6. **DETERMINATION OF PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH SEND RESOURCE PROVISION AT MARSHSIDE PRIMARY SCHOOL, SOUTHPORT**

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director for Children’s Social Care and Education seeking a determination on the proposal to establish a SEN Unit at Marshside Primary School. The Public Notices and the Proposal for Establishing SEND Resource Bases were attached to the report at Appendix A.

Decisions Made:

That the proposal as detailed in the statutory notice to establish a SEN UNIT at Marshside Primary School with effect from 1 September 2024 be approved.

Reasons for the Decisions:

The local authority had the power to consider all options including expanding a school following the statutory process detailed in the report.

The proposal would build on the good standards for teaching and learning already in place at the school. The development would provide places for children and young people with SEND within the SEN Unit. Marshside Primary School had been judged by Ofsted to be providing good quality education.

The development would not have any negative impact on other schools, academies, and educational institutions in the area.

The proposed SEN Unit would not replace existing provision but would supplement and improve provision across the borough.

The addition of the SEN Unit to the school would not have a direct impact on admissions or provision at other schools within the area.

Long-term value for money would be achieved by pupils having their needs met within appropriate mainstream provision with specialist support rather than in special school provision. This would free special school places for pupils with the highest level of needs and provide the opportunity to place high need pupils within the borough, rather than in out-of-borough provision.

Agenda Item 3

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Failure to provide sufficient places for children with Special Education Needs and Disability (SEND) in the borough would result in additional costs for the Council through more expensive specialist placements.

7. CHILDREN'S SERVICES STAFF STRUCTURE

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director of Children's Social Care and Education that:

- provided the Cabinet with an overview of the proposed changes to the Children's Social Care staffing structure and to provide the rationale for those proposed changes.
- provided the cost implications for the proposed structure which would ensure that matters were dealt with within budget for this financial year.
- sought Cabinet approval for the proposals and approach to be adopted.
- Ensured the recommended proposals provide roles for all permanent staff.

Reference was made to the springboard model, in relation to the Youth Offending Team and further detailed information would be provided to Cabinet Members in due course.

Decisions Made:

That

- (1) all the structural and staffing changes detailed in the report, including the development of the new service areas (subject to the necessary consultation with staff affected, Trade Unions and the application of existing policies and practices as they apply to employees), be approved;
- (2) any prioritisation in implementation be delegated to the Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families within the approved budget for the Service;
- (3) it be noted that the review of Market Supplements will be completed within 4 months of the structure (excluding phase 2) being implemented; and
- (4) the virement of £2.450m within the Children's Social Care budget between the Placements and Packages budget to the Service's staffing budget, be approved.

Reasons for the Decisions:

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

To put into place a structure and approach which provided better service delivery and outcomes to children, young people, and families in respect of Children's Social Care and its Improvement Journey.

There were no redundancies, and the Council was creating jobs to support the service whilst also creating opportunities for staff in terms of resilience, stability, support, training, development, and advancement.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The current staffing arrangements could continue without implementing the recommended changes. However, this would have a detrimental impact on the quality and efficiency of the service delivery and outcomes to children, young people, and families. It would also prevent the Service's improvement journey as opposed to the approach within this report.

The current structure was supported by additional posts which were currently filled by agency workers due to the posts not forming part of the substantive staffing structure. Continuation of these high-cost interim posts would create a pressure on current and future budgets for children services.

8. HIGH NEEDS CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2023 - 2024

The Cabinet considered the report of the Interim Assistant Director of Children's Services (Education) indicating that the local authority continued to receive an increased demand for specialist placements for children requiring specialist SEN support due to a rise in the amount of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCP's) that had been issued.

Although the local authority had increased the number of in-house SEN places to support increased demand and reduce the number of children needing more expensive "Out of Borough" independent school placements, there were currently not enough specialist places to meet this continued increase in SEN need.

The current 2023 and proposed 2024/2025 High Needs capital programmes sought to ensure existing schools and High Needs provision could support existing and new SEND pupils and create additional places at some of its current specialist provisions.

An overview of the High Needs capital programme 2022/23 and proposed High Needs capital programme 2024 was attached to the report at Annex A

Officers and Partners were thanked for all their hard work on high needs provision.

Decisions Made:

That

Agenda Item 3

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

- (1) the High Needs schemes already approved in the 2023/24 High Needs capital programme of works, as highlighted in Section 1 of Annex A to the report, be noted;
- (2) the new High Needs schemes with a total value of £0.700m, as identified in Section 4 of the report and highlighted in Section 2 of Annex A to the report, into the proposed 2024/25 High Needs Capital Programme following formal approval of the 2024/24 High Needs capital budget by the Council, be approved; and
- (3) the new uncommitted High Needs schemes with a total value of £1.330m, as identified in Section 4 of the report and highlighted in Section 2 of Annex A to the report, into the proposed 2024/25 High Needs Capital Programme pending formal approval of the 2024/25 High Needs capital budget by the Council, be approved.

Reasons for the Decisions:

Having regard to the Children and Families Act 2014, Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014 and the SEN Code of Practice the LA was under a legal duty to secure the provision listed in Section I of the EHCP. The Council was unable to argue that a school was “full” and had to show how it would impact on the other pupils currently in attendance.

The Council was responsible for providing the provisions in Section F of the EHCP.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The purchase of the additional external placements in Independent Schools would help support the increase in the number of students requiring places in specialist SEND settings. However, this option had been rejected due to the significant cost difference compared to in-house placements.

The consultation might lead to some changes. Any decisions that might affect changes to the proposals would be presented to the Cabinet Member - Children Schools and Families.

9. MARITIME CORRIDOR SCHEME - RECEIPT OF CAPITAL FUNDING

Consideration of the report was deferred to enable further consultation with Ward Councillors to take place.

10. SOUTHPORT EASTERN ACCESS SCHEME - RECEIPT OF CAPITAL FUNDING

Consideration of the report was deferred to enable further consultation with Ward Councillors to take place.

11. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES 2024/25

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer which sought approval of the appointment of Council representatives to serve on Outside Bodies set out in the report for 2024/25, or for periods longer than one year. Details of the proposed representation on Outside Bodies were set out in the report and appendices. The appendices show the proposed appointments for 2024/25 following the submission of nominations by the Political Groups on the Council. Appendix 1 to the report set out the proposed appointments for a 12-month period expiring in May 2025. Appendix 2 to the report set out proposed appointments for a period of over one year.

Decisions Made:

That:

- (1) the proposed representation on the various Outside Bodies for a twelve-month period expiring in May 2025 as set out in Appendix 1 to the report be approved, and the following Members be appointed to serve on the Outside Bodies indicated below for 2024/25:

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE(S)</u>
Armed Forces Member Champion	1	Councillor Carragher
British Destinations	1	Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Lappin) or nominee
Cheshire and Merseyside Health and Care Partnership	1	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health (Councillor Moncur)
Cheshire and Merseyside Integrated Care System Joint Health Scrutiny Committee	2	Councillors Desmond and Hart The political places available on the Committee for 2024/25 are Lab 2 / Lib Dem 0 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0
Elevate Education Business Partnership	3	Cabinet Member - Children, Schools and Families (Councillor Roscoe) and Councillors Moncur and Pugh
Formby Pool Trust - Board	2	Councillor Killen and Assistant Director of People - Communities (Mel Ormesher)

Agenda Item 3

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

Liverpool City Region Employment and Skills Board	1	Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Lappin)														
Liverpool City Region Housing and Spatial Planning Board	1	Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways (Councillor Veidman) (Substitute: Chair, Planning Committee – Councillor Hansen)														
Liverpool John Lennon Airport Consultative Committee	1	Councillor Hart (Substitute: Councillor Myers)														
Local Government Association General Assembly	1	Leader of the Council (Councillor Atkinson) - 5 votes														
Merseyside Flood & Coastal Erosion Risk Management (FCERM) Partnership Committee	1	Councillor Doyle														
Mersey Forest Partnership Steering Group	1	Councillor Richards														
Mersey Port Health Committee	6	<table border="0"> <thead> <tr> <th><u>Member</u></th> <th><u>Substitute</u></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Cllr Desmond</td> <td>Cllr Bradshaw</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr John Kelly</td> <td>Cllr Grace Kelly</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Chris Page</td> <td>Cllr Killen</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr McKee</td> <td>Cllr McGinnity</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Roche</td> <td>Cllr Catie Page</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cllr Shaw</td> <td>Cllr Thompson</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>The political places available on the Committee for 2024/25 are Lab 5 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 0/ Ind 0 / Green Party 0</p>	<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>	Cllr Desmond	Cllr Bradshaw	Cllr John Kelly	Cllr Grace Kelly	Cllr Chris Page	Cllr Killen	Cllr McKee	Cllr McGinnity	Cllr Roche	Cllr Catie Page	Cllr Shaw	Cllr Thompson
<u>Member</u>	<u>Substitute</u>															
Cllr Desmond	Cllr Bradshaw															
Cllr John Kelly	Cllr Grace Kelly															
Cllr Chris Page	Cllr Killen															
Cllr McKee	Cllr McGinnity															
Cllr Roche	Cllr Catie Page															
Cllr Shaw	Cllr Thompson															
Merseyside Pension Fund Pensions Committee	1	Cabinet Member – Corporate Services (Councillor Howard) or nominee														
North West Employers' Organisation	1	Cabinet Member – Corporate Services (Councillor Howard) (Substitute: Councillor Lappin)														

Agenda Item 3

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

PATROL (Parking and Traffic Regulations Outside London) Adjudication Joint Committee	1	Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways (Councillor Veidman) (Substitute: Councillor Lappin) (NB - Nominated Member and Substitute must be Cabinet Members)
Peterhouse School, Southport – Governance Committee	1	Councillor Harrison Kelly
Regional Flood and Coastal Committee	1	Councillor Doyle
Safer Sefton Together	3	Cabinet Member – Communities and Partnership Engagement (Councillor Dowd) and the two Council representatives on the Merseyside Police and Crime Panel (Councillors Hinde and McNabb)
Sandway Homes Limited Board and Sandway (ACS) Holding Company Ltd (Sefton Housing Development Company)	2	Councillor Myers Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways (Councillor Veidman) is the Shareholder Representative)
Sefton Coast Landscape Partnership Board	2	Cabinet Member – Public Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Doyle) and Councillor Lappin
Sefton Council for Voluntary Service (Advisory non-voting members on the Board of Trustees)	3	Councillors Carragher, Pugh and Robinson
Sefton Cycling Forum	2	Councillors Williams and Lloyd-Johnson
Sefton Domestic Abuse Partnership Board	2	Cabinet Member – Communities and Public Engagement (Councillor Dowd) and Assistant Director of People (Communities) – Mel Ormesher

Agenda Item 3

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

Sefton Hospitality Operations Limited Board	4	Councillor Spring (member); Executive Director (Place) – Stephen Watson; and Service Manager (Finance) – Paul Reilly Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Lappin) is the Shareholder Representative
Sefton New Directions Limited Board	4	Councillors Dowd and Hardman, plus 1 vacancy (Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health (Councillor Moncur) is the Shareholder Representative
Sefton Partnership for Older Citizens	1	Cabinet Member – Adult Social Care and Health (Councillor Moncur)
Southport Pier Trust	3	Councillors Brough, Corcoran and Pugh
Southport Town Deal Board	2	Cabinet Member – Regeneration and Skills (Councillor Lappin) and Executive Director – Place (Stephen Watson)
Standing Advisory Committee for Religious Education (SACRE)	4	<u>Member</u> <u>Substitute</u> Cabinet Member - Children, Schools and Families (Cllr Roscoe) Cllr Hansen Cllr Richards Cllr Pugh Cllr Lloyd-Johnson Cllr Thomas Cllr McNabb The political Places available for 2024/25 are Lab 3 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0
Trans Pennine Trail Members Steering Group	2	Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways (Councillor Veidman) and Chair of Planning Committee (Councillor Hansen) or their nominee.

Veterans in Sefton Board	1	Councillor Dowd
AD-HOC APPOINTMENTS		
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (where 3 or less local authorities request the scrutiny of a substantial variation to a service)	3	Chair (Councillor Lunn-Bates) and Vice Chair (Councillor Myers) of the O & S Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) and one Lib Dem Member (Councillor Pugh) The political places available on the Committee for 2024/25 are Lab 2 / Lib Dem 1 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0
Joint Health Scrutiny Committee (where 4 or more local authorities request the scrutiny of a substantial variation to a service)	2	Chair (Councillor Lunn-Bates) and Vice Chair (Councillor Myers) of the O & S Committee (Adult Social Care and Health) The political places available on the Committee for 2023/24 are Lab 2 / Lib Dem 0 / Con 0 / Ind 0 / Green Party 0
OFFICER ONLY APPOINTMENTS (NOT LISTED ABOVE)		
Southport Business Improvement District (BID) Board	1	Service Manager – Tourism (Mark Catherall)

- (2) the Cabinet give further consideration to the appointment of a representative to fill the vacancy on the Sefton New Directions Limited Board at a future meeting of the meeting of the Cabinet; and
- (3) the proposed representation on the various Outside Bodies for the term of office as indicated as set out in Appendix 2 to the report be approved, and the following Members be appointed to serve on the Outside Bodies indicated for the term of office indicated:

<u>ORGANISATION</u>	<u>NUMBER OF REPRESENTATIVES</u>	<u>REPRESENTATIVE(S)</u>	<u>TERM OF OFFICE EXPIRES</u>

Agenda Item 3

CABINET - THURSDAY 23RD MAY, 2024

Merseyside Strategic Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Partnership	1	Cabinet Member – Public Health and Wellbeing (Councillor Doyle) (Substitute representative – Councillor Lappin)	31.5.2025 (4-year appointment)
North West Reserve Forces and Cadets Association	1	Councillor Byrom	31.5.2026 (3-year appointment)
North Western Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority	2	Councillor McGinnity or nominee and Countryside Officer (Gordon White)	31.5.2027 (4-year appointment)
Regenerus - South Sefton Development Trust	1	Councillor Lappin	30.5.2027 (3-year appointment)
CHARITIES			
Ashton Memorial Fund, Formby	1	Councillor Killen	31.5.2027 (4-year appointment)
Consolidated Charities of Thomas Brown and Marsh Dole (Formby)	2	Councillors Page and Webster	26.6.2026 (4-year appointment)
Halsall Educational Foundation	1	Councillor Grace	31.5.2026 (2-year appointment)
<u>NHS FOUNDATION TRUST GOVERNING BODIES</u>			
Liverpool University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors	1	Councillor Hansen	31.07.2025 (3-year appointment)
Liverpool	1	Councillor Killen	30.09.2026

Women's NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors			(3-year appointment)
Mersey Care NHS Foundation Trust – Council of Governors	1	Councillor Webster	30.04.2025 (3-year appointment)
The Walton Centre NHS Foundation Trust - Council of Governors	1	Councillor Lunn-Bates	01.09.26 (3-year appointment)

Reasons for the Decision(s):

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

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

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Agenda Item 4

Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 20 June 2024 Thursday 11 July 2024
Subject:	Bootle Area Action Plan - Publication		
Report of:	Executive Director (Place)	Wards Affected:	Derby; Linacre; Litherland; Netherton and Orrell;
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

Report seeking approval for publication of Bootle Area Action Plan (Local Plan Document) for public comment and subsequent submission to Secretary of State for Examination in Public.

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet:

- 1) recommend to Council that the Publication Draft of the Bootle AAP and supporting assessments be approved for publication for public comment and submission to the Secretary of State for examination.

That Council:

- 1) approve the Publication Draft of the Bootle AAP and supporting assessments for publication for public comment and submission to the Secretary of State for examination; and
- 2) delegate authority to the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, to make non-strategic changes to the Publication draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan or supporting assessments prior to publication and/or submission; and
- 3) delegate authority to the Chief Planning Officer, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Highways and the Cabinet Member for Regeneration, Economy and Skills, to make minor editorial and presentational changes to the Publication draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan or supporting assessments prior to publication and/or submission.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

Agenda Item 4

To allow the draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan and supporting assessments to be published for public comment and subsequently submitted to the Secretary of State for examination.

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

Not to do an Area Action Plan for Bootle. This is not appropriate as it is considered necessary to clearly set out a vision for the town and to provide the planning policy framework to allow the various planned and future regeneration projects and investment opportunities secure planning approval.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The cost for the production the Bootle AAP, including the various engagement stages, public examination and potential supporting studies had been estimated at £230,000. 40% of the costs (£92,000) will be covered by Sefton's core budget, with the remainder (£138,000) secured from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).

(B) Capital Costs

There are no direct capital costs associated with the recommendations in this report.

Implications of the Proposals:

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

The cost for the production the Bootle AAP, including the various engagement stages, public examination and potential supporting studies had been estimated at £230,000. 40% of the costs (£92,000) will be covered by Sefton's core budget, with the remainder (£138,000) secured from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority's Strategic Investment Fund (SIF).

Legal Implications:

The preparation and engagement of the Bootle AAP will be undertaken in accordance with the Town & Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, as amended.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications.

The Publication draft Bootle AAP has been subject to an Equalities Impact Assessment. This concluded that the Bootle AAP would generally have a neutral impact on the range of protected characteristics, with a small number of positive outcomes from a number of policies. However, it is not expected that there will be any significant equality

implications from the Bootle AAP.

Impact on Children and Young People: Yes

The vision has been amended to have specific reference to children and young people (see paragraph 3.1 below). A specific objective of the AAP - *To recognise the needs and potential of children and young people in regeneration and place-making in Bootle* - has been added.

To help deliver on the vision and objectives in this regard, a number of policies in the Bootle AAP have specific references to children and young people so that any benefits of implementing the policy is focused on them. This includes:

BAAP1 'Design' – reference is made to design in new development should have particular emphasis placed on creating places that are safe and feel safe for women, children and young people and others who may be feel vulnerable in public spaces.

BAAP3 'Bootle Central Area' and BAAP6 'Civic and Education Quarter' supports new educational facilities that will help maximise educational opportunities for our children and young people.

BAAP4 'Bootle Town Centre' sets out that the redevelopment plans for Bootle Strand should provide for facilities/uses should encourage leisure opportunities for all residents, including families, children and young people.

BAAP8 'Getting Around' sets at that to improve accessibility new development must ensure the needs of all residents and users of services, spaces and buildings, including children and young people and those with limited mobility, are met.

BAAP10 'Healthy Bootle' sets out the AAP will seek to protect and secure investment in existing public areas, open spaces, parks, playing fields and the links between them, encouraging people, particularly children and young people, to take physical exercise by providing opportunities for walking, cycling, outdoor recreation and sport.

BAAP11 'Public Greenspace' requires new development proposals should place particular emphasis on how children and young people can safely access areas of public greenspace from new development.

BAAP15 'Securing Opportunities for Employment and Skills from New Development' specifies that training and employment opportunities for children and young people is one of the priorities that should be prioritised within an Employment and Skills Plan.

BAAP18 'Housing for Older People and Supported Living' sets out an approach to ensure that only good quality and suitable homes are used for children's care homes and supported living.

BAAP22 'Open land between Irlam Road and the Asda Store' supports development on site with improvements to the adjacent open space, which could include new children's play equipment.

BAAP24 'Environmental Improvements' will secure financial contributions from new

Agenda Item 4

development for arrange of environmental improvement. This will include improving public greenspaces with emphasis on facilities, equipment and activities for children and young people.

Climate Emergency Implications:

The recommendations within this report will

Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes

Whilst the AAP will have a limited impact, as the effects will be restricted to the wider Bootle area only and to new development, there are policies in the plan that will have a positive impact on climate change implications. The key policy on this issue is BAAP 'Best Use of Resources' which requires major development proposals to incorporate measures to reduce greenhouse gas emissions where practicable. The policy also seeks to ensure that new build housing developments should seek to be water efficient by seeking to encourage water consumption to fewer than 110 litres per person per day. The policy sets out that existing buildings should be re-used and retrofitted in preference to demolition and re-build unless it can be clearly demonstrated that loss of the buildings, through embedded carbon, is clearly outweighed by other factors. The policy also that development involving demolition and/or construction must implement measures to achieve the efficient use of resources, including minimising waste production and encouraging re-use and recycling materials.

Otherwise, the Bootle AAP generally supports to reuse of brownfield land in the Bootle area. This will help protect our greenspaces and greenfield land from future development if we can meet our development needs in our urban areas. It also supports development in central areas of Bootle which have good existing public transport connections. This will help reduce reliance on car use.

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:

The AAP sets out policies that look to prevent new development having an unacceptable impact on all residents. It looks to secure sufficient sustainable homes, to help lower costs. It also includes policies that look to secure employment and training opportunities for some of our most deprived communities.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

The AAP is seeking to improve Bootle as a place and, if secured, this will help support Bootle's communities.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

N/a

Place – leadership and influencer:

N/a

Drivers of change and reform:

N/a

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

The AAP sets out policies that provide land for economic development, secures investment and looks to secure training and employment opportunities for local people.

Greater income for social investment: The AAP includes a policy that seeks to secure contributions towards local environmental improvements which may include supporting local groups to manage environmental projects.
Cleaner Greener The AAP includes a range of policies that look to secure improved places and best use of resources.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7652/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD.5752/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

A member steering group was set up to inform and guide the Bootle AAP as it progressed to this stage. The steering group consisted of a ward member from each of the four wards that the Bootle AAP includes.

(B) External Consultations

The Bootle AAP has been subject to two previous stages of public engagement (see section two below). This include sending leaflets to every home and business in the area, public drop in events, and online workshops.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	Ian Loughlin
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 3558
Email Address:	ian.loughlin@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Publication Draft of Bootle Area Action Plan and Policy Map

Background Papers:

Draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

Equalities Impact Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

The above documents can be accessed from the [online library](#). If members would like a paper copy, they should contact the officer (details above).

Agenda Item 4

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 An Area Action Plan (AAP) is a type of Development Plan document that provides specific planning policy and guidance for a particular location or an area of significant change, for example a major regeneration area. AAPs can create new policy over and above the Sefton Local Plan within the designated AAP area. Unlike the Local Plan, having an Area Action Plan is optional.
- 1.2 The Council has been developing an Area Action Plan for the Bootle area (and parts of Seaforth and Litherland), titled the 'Bootle Area Action Plan – Our Future, Our Bootle' for the past few years. The emerging AAP has already been subject to two previous stages of public engagement.
- 1.3 The key purposes of doing an AAP for the wider Bootle area is:
- to promote and support regeneration, growth, and investment in the wider Bootle area and to make Bootle a sustainable place to live and work;
 - to provide the mechanism to secure planning approval for the various regeneration projects already underway in the area (notably plans for Bootle Strand);
 - to identify other areas of regeneration opportunity in the area and articulate the types of development the Council would wish to promote in the future in these areas;
 - to demonstrate to the public, landowners, businesses, the private sector, funding providers and others that the Council is supportive of and aspirational for growth and investment in the Bootle area;
 - to provide specific development management policies for the Bootle area to tackle issues particularly pressing in this area;
 - To show how the range of policies and development sites opportunities can contribute to a vision for the town.
- 1.4 This is the final draft of the AAP which will be published for public comment (hence it known as the 'Publication Draft'). Following a period for comment, the draft AAP, any comments made during the consultation period and any supporting evidence and documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. It is possible that examination hearing sessions will be required, but this will depend on the Inspector that we will be allocated and the comments made.
- 1.5 The Government has indicated that a new plan-making system is to be introduced later this year and plans that are currently being progressed under the current system, such as the Bootle AAP, must be submitted for examination no later than June 2025.

2. Previous Stages

- 2.1 This is the third stage of progressing the Bootle AAP. The Council approved an initial consultation document that set out some of the Issues and Options that the AAP could address. The 'Issues and Options' engagement took place between

November 2021 and January 2022 and details are available at www.sefton.gov.uk/bootleAAP.

- 2.2 All the comments made during this engagement period were used to inform the first full draft of the Area Action Plan (known as ‘Preferred Options’).
- 2.3 The ‘Preferred Options’ draft of the AAP was the first document that set out a vision, objectives, a range of policies and site allocations. The ‘preferred options’ of the AAP was approved by Cabinet for public engagement at their meeting on 22 June 2023. Following its approval, the document was made available for public comment during August to November 2023. Whilst changes have been made since the ‘preferred option’ stage, the publication draft of the AAP remains substantively similar.

3. Bootle Area Action Plan – Publication Draft

- 3.1 The Publication draft of the Bootle Area Action Plan starts by setting out an Introduction (section 1) and an overview of the context of Bootle as a place (section 2) before moving to set out the vision and objectives that the AAP is looking to achieve. The draft vision in the document is:

‘Our ambition is for Bootle to be one of the best places in which to grow up in the country. By 2040, a regenerated Bootle will be a place that provides a full range of opportunities to all its residents to live secure, fulfilling, healthy and supported lives whilst addressing key environmental challenges, including pollution and climate change. It will be a place that is open to sustainable business and provide skills, expertise, land, facilities and infrastructure that is attractive to a range of high-quality employers particularly those that would benefit from Bootle’s superb locational advantages. Key to Bootle’s success will be our children and young people who will have the spaces, opportunities, support and a voice to shape their town for the future.’

- 3.2 To help deliver on the vision, the Bootle AAP then identifies 15 objectives for the plan:

Obj1	To meet the housing needs of Bootle’s residents in a way that is safe and secure including affordable and aspirational housing, homes for families, older people, and people with special needs
Obj2	To ensure new buildings are resource efficient to help reduce running costs and especially fuel poverty and to support the retrofitting of existing homes and buildings with energy efficiency measures
Obj3	To prevent the building and conversion of poor-quality houses, flats and homes in multiple occupation that fail to provide a suitable and secure homes or integrate with the community
Obj4	To ensure that existing and future residents have access to a wide range of easily accessible and high-quality services and facilities with all key facilities and services within a short, safe and attractive walk or cycle ride
Obj5	To make land, premises and infrastructure available for sustainable economic growth that enables Bootle to build upon its excellent location in the city region, on the coast and close to the motorway and rail network

Agenda Item 4

Obj6	To provide good quality, secure jobs, training and business opportunities for Bootle's residents
Obj7	To put measures in place to prevent, reduce and mitigate the harm that business and commercial activity can have on residential amenity and quality of life
Obj8	To improve Bootle Town Centre and the Strand shopping centre to consolidate its position as the main focus of shopping, leisure, cultural, community and other uses for Bootle's residents and those in the wider area
Obj9	To bring back into beneficial use vacant land, homes, and buildings
Obj10	To protect and enhance green infrastructure and nature as part of a high quality environment for Bootle, including identifying locations for tree planting, landscaping and ecological improvements
Obj11	To make Bootle a healthier place to live and to provide an environment that enables residents to live a healthier lifestyle
Obj12	To set high standards of design for new buildings, infrastructure and spaces that complement and improve the places that make Bootle special and which help design out crime and anti-social behaviour
Obj13	To set standards in new development that help the Council respond to the challenge of climate change
Obj14	To identify, protect and, where appropriate, find suitable viable uses for Bootle's valued built heritage.
Obj15	To recognise the needs and potential of children and young people in regeneration and place-making in Bootle

3.3 The vision and objectives above will be delivered through a range of policies set out in the AAP. These are summarised below.

Design and Best Uses of Resources

3.4 Policy BAAP1 'Design' looks to add a local dimension to the existing Local Plan policy on design and the National Design Guide. Specifically, this addresses issues such as design of new development needing to reflect Bootle's Victorian and Edwardian heritage. It also looks to avoid areas 'left over from planning' that have no public ownership and therefore can attract littering and fly-tipping. The policy also stresses the importance of public spaces that are well overlooked and provide safe spaces for all.

3.5 The policy refers to findings of the Design Code Pilot that Sefton participated in during 2021 and the Design Code that was produced for canal side sites in Bootle during that pilot. The policy also covers the design considerations for small infill development sites that are occasionally available in Bootle.

3.6 Policy BAAP2 sets out the approach to the best use of resources. It covers energy efficiency measures for major developments and looks to set water efficiency standards in new homes. The policy also looks to encourage re-using and retrofitting of buildings in preference to demolition if this is appropriate.

Bootle Central Area

- 3.7 Policy BAAP3 defines the central area of Bootle and the types of development that would be encouraged and acceptable in this area. This policy sets the context for the 3 key sub areas in the Central Area, namely:
- BAAP4 'Bootle Town Centre' – confirms that this is the focus for retail, leisure and other town centre uses and sets out the key principles for the redevelopment plans for Bootle Strand.
 - BAAP5 'Office Quarter' – looks to protect the key office accommodation in the area and provides a flexible approach to other buildings and sites.
 - BAAP6 'Civic and Education Quarter' – this policy set out the principles for the re-use of the Town Hall complex of buildings and supports expanded education uses in and around the existing Hugh Baird campus areas.
- 3.8 To help support the key opportunity sites that the AAP has identified in and around the Bootle Central Area (notably in the office quarter to the south of Merton Road), the Council propose to commission a Masterplan for the area. This will be a way to engage with local landowners to demonstrate to them the development opportunities that exist in the area in which they own land. The Bootle AAP would provide the mechanism to secure approval for these development opportunities whilst the Masterplan would be used to attract landowner and developer interest.
- 3.9 The Masterplan would in effect have a marketing role to 'sell' the vision for the area, show the type and mix of development that could occur and how this could link to other major regeneration proposals that are or could happen (such as Bootle Strand or the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor, see below).

Regeneration Opportunity Areas

- 3.9 There are several sites that have been identified as regeneration opportunity areas which the AAP promotes for a flexible range of uses to try to boost their chance of being developed. These include sites within the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor (Policy BAAP20) which could, in the longer term, form part of a wider new mixed-use neighbourhood.
- 3.10 As with the Bootle Central Area and office quarter (see above) it is proposed that a Masterplan is to be commissioned to support the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor allocation to demonstrate in a visual and engaging manner the potential development that could occur in this neighbourhood. At the moment the area is a mix of different uses including some lower quality employment land. The Council could use this masterplan approach to 'sell' the potential of the area for a new mixed use area anchored around a canal side residential area and gauge the potential interest in this from landowners, the public, the potential investors and funding providers.

Agenda Item 4

- 3.11 The complex of buildings in Bootle Village (corner of Litherland Road and Waterworks Street) has been identified as a potential area for new uses (Policy BAAP21), as has a small overgrown piece of land to the west of Asda (BAAP22) and the land around Coffeehouse Bridge, Irlam Road (BAAP23). Bootle Office Quarter (BAAP5) also includes some areas that a flexible approach to new uses is given.

Employment

- 3.12 Policy BAAP12 identifies the employment sites in the AAP area and sets out what types of employment uses we would accept on each. This policy takes account of the different types of employment areas we have and that they have different characters and are suitable different types of businesses. Policy BAAP13 looks to protect these sites for employment uses and identifies the limited circumstances in which we would allow other uses on them. Policy BAAP14 set how we would assess proposals on employment sites so that it does not cause significant harm to residents. Policy BAAP15 looks to secure employment and training opportunities for local residents from large developments in the Bootle area.

Housing

- 3.13 Policy BAAP16 identifies the sites allocated for housing in the AAP area. These will contribute to Sefton's overall housing supply. It is estimated that the AAP could contribute approximately 1,500 new homes during the period up to 2040. Policy BAAP17 sets out a range of measures to try to diversify the housing stock in the Bootle area. The policy reiterates the Local Plan requirement for 15% of new homes on schemes of 15 homes or more to be secured as affordable homes. It sets out the tenure mix of those affordable homes. On large schemes (50+ homes) of 100% affordable housing, which are common in the Bootle area, the policy seeks to prevent all those homes being social/affordable rent and looks to secure at least half as affordable ownership homes. This is to help provide choice for residents and to assist people to get onto the housing ladder without moving away.
- 3.14 Policy BAAP17 also looks to secure a mix of house types (in relation to number of bedrooms) in both market and affordable housing on large housing developments (25+ homes). The policy also looks to secure all new homes to a minimum standard of accessibility and adaptability (i.e. Building Regs M4(2)) and 5% of new build homes on large schemes of 50+ at the higher standard for wheelchair users (i.e. M4(3)). In this regard it is more stringent than the current Local Plan requirement and reflects Bootle's higher proportion of residents who live with a limiting long-term illness. The policy also encourages the provision of plots for self/custom build homes on very large housing schemes (100+ homes) to help the Council to meet its responsibilities in relation to self and custom build homes.
- 3.15 Policy BAAP18 supports housing for older people but looks to restrict new assisted living care schemes to the social rented sector, which is the identified need in the Bootle area. The policy seeks to prevent an over-concentration of Residential Care Homes for Children in the Bootle area, with a restriction proposed that would prevent conversions to new care homes for children within 400m of an existing home. The policy also steers care homes for children with

educational, behavioural, or social difficulties (EBSD) to larger properties if there are more than one child to be looked after. The policy also requires a management plan to be submitted with all applications for children's care home use and to be supported by evidence of local need.

- 3.16 Policy BAAP19 looks to manage proposals for conversions to flats and Homes in Multiple Occupation (HMOs). This includes having regards to impact on future tenants, existing neighbours, and the wider neighbourhood. This policy links to the existing detailed Supplementary Planning Document on this issue. This policy also looks to prevent the loss of homes that are suitable and in demand locally for continued use as family dwellings and commercial properties that are in demand for businesses.

Other policies

- 3.17 Bootle has a number of long shopping parades (e.g. Linacre Road, Stanley Road) that have high numbers of vacant units and provide too much retail space for modern requirements. Therefore, it is proposed to identify core blocks in these parades to be protected for local shopping and service provision (Policy BAAP7). For the other blocks on these longer parades, the Council will encourage redevelopment. On all parades, the Council will restrict conversion of ground floor units to residential except in very limited circumstances.
- 3.18 The AAP also contains a policy on nature (BAAP9) and looks to secure ecological improvements on all development sites. The AAP also seeks to secure contributions towards environmental improvements, including to open spaces.
- 3.19 Policy BAAP8 promotes ease of movement through and between new developments for all and identifies the key routes in Bootle which will be the priority for protection and improvement.
- 3.20 Policy BAAP10 looks to address health inequalities in the Bootle area. The policy links to the range of existing and proposed policies that can have a positive benefit on the health of residents. This includes making it a requirement that on large schemes an application must be supported by a Health Impact Assessment to show how the proposal will help address relevant health issues.

4. Supporting documents, evidence, and assessments for the Bootle AAP

- 4.1 The Bootle AAP, like all planning policy documents, is supported by a range of documents (many statutory), evidence and assessments. It is intended to publish these alongside the Publication draft of the Bootle AAP so that people can comment on these or to see how we are justifying our AAP policies.
- 4.2 The following supporting assessments will be published for comment alongside the Bootle AAP:
- Draft Sustainability Appraisal (incorporating the Strategic Environmental Assessment) of the Publication draft Bootle AAP
 - Draft Habitats Regulations Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP
 - Equalities Impact Assessment of the Publication draft Bootle AAP

Agenda Item 4

- 4.3 Approval is sought to publish these supporting assessments alongside the Publication Draft of Bootle AAP.

5. Engagement and Next Steps

- 5.1 The Council recently had an informal meeting with a planning Inspector who acted as a critical friend on the draft Bootle AAP. The meeting provided an early opportunity for a government planning inspector to review the Bootle AAP before publication and submission. Whilst not binding, the outcome of the meeting was a list of questions and observations the Inspector had on the AAP. Many of these will be clarified and answered within topic papers which will support the Bootle AAP, whilst others may require some changes to the Bootle AAP prior to publication. These changes will be done under delegated authority as set out in the suggested recommendations of this report.
- 5.2 If approved, the Publication draft of Bootle AAP will be made available for comment. It will be published online, and hard copies will be made available in libraries and Council offices in Bootle. The AAP will be available for a minimum period of 8 weeks over the summer. Following a period for comment, the draft AAP, any comments made during the consultation period and any supporting evidence, and documents will be submitted to the Secretary of State for examination. It is possible that examination hearing sessions will be required, but this will depend on the Inspector that will be allocated to us. It is expected that the examination stage (including any hearings) will progress into the early part of 2025.
- 5.3 As set out above, the Council will commission two Masterplans (Bootle Central Area and the Hawthorne Road/Canal Corridor) and will engage on these throughout this summer. These will be useful to engage more deeply and specifically with relevant landowners and local residents on development options that are allowed by the Bootle AAP within these two areas. It is intended that the Masterplans would be commissioned by Planning, with the support of colleagues across the Council, and undertaken during this summer so that a draft will be available to submit alongside the Bootle AAP in November.
- 5.4 If adopted, the Bootle AAP will form part of the Development Plan for Sefton, alongside the Sefton Local Plan. These are both supported by a range of Supplementary Planning Documents which are introduced and updated from time-to-time.

Agenda Item 5

Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 20 June 2024 Thursday 11 July 2024
Subject:	Annual Progress Report Climate Emergency		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member – Public Health and Wellbeing		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt Confidential Report:	/ No		

Summary:

Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following that declaration, work has progressed within the council and a climate emergency strategy and associated action plan created.

Annual reporting on progress made is required as part of the governance approach to the programme. Members are asked to note the progress made on achieving net zero carbon by 2030 and the programme of works supporting the Council's transition to low carbon working.

Recommendation:

Cabinet / Council are recommended to :-

- (1) Note the progress made on the targets in the Sefton climate emergency strategy and action plan.

Reasons for the Recommendation:

To support the delivery of the council motion that declared a climate emergency and ensure the council is aligning with future regional area and national net zero targets.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not acting would increase the risks to Sefton in future years, on the themes of energy cost & security, and climate change resilience (increased incidence of extreme weather events, sea level rise etc.). Sefton will also be subject to regional (2040) and national targets (2050) around achieving net zero, beyond the current scope of work, which will require additional action. Therefore, ensuring net zero emissions for Sefton Council operations is the first stage of this wider body of work.

Agenda Item 5

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

There are no revenue implications arising directly from this report in terms of providing an update on progress. It should be noted however that to achieve a net zero position will require substantial capital and revenue investment in buildings, fleet etc. at present due to the financial position of all councils external funding is identified as the primary source of funding that could deliver this- this position is reflected in the LCR co-ordinating funding bids for oversubscribed central government grants. Whilst this isn't ideal, the fact that government have recognised the need to provide support is welcome and this will continue to be prioritised. In the event that it is clear that this funding will not be forthcoming to achieve the objectives of the programme, the council will need to make a decision on how it wishes to approach this.

(B) Capital Costs

Please refer to previous comment under 'revenue costs'

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
There are no resource implications arising from this report	
Legal Implications:	
There are no legal implications arising from this report	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Impact on Children and Young People: Yes Positive impact on future resilience to the causes and impacts of climate change. Reduction in emissions will have a positive long term effect. Children and Young people are a key part of the Council's communication and engagement strategy.	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	Yes
Have a neutral impact	No
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	Yes
The report directly addresses the climate emergency with a strategy in place to achieve the targets required.	

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events.
Facilitate confident and resilient communities: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events and encouraging energy security measures
Commission, broker and provide core services: By training staff to consider climate impacts as part of service delivery
Place – leadership and influencer: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Drivers of change and reform: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity: By enabling greater resilience to future climate events.
Greater income for social investment: By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions
Cleaner Greener By Sefton taking decisive action on its energy/carbon emissions

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD.7651/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD5751/24) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

Contact Officer:	Stephanie Jukes
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 4552
Email Address:	stephanie.jukes@sefton.gov.uk

Agenda Item 5

Appendices:

The following appendices are attached to this report: Climate Emergency Annual Report 2023/24

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

1. Introduction/Background

1.1 Sefton Council declared a climate emergency in July 2019. Following that declaration, work has progressed within the council and a climate emergency strategy and associated action plan was created.

1.2 The period 2020 -2030 was split into three phases of action in order to align with financial reporting cycles. This report covers the beginning of phase 2. Phase 1 laid robust foundations for future work and Phase 2 includes the delivery of key capital works. The progress made on the delivery of the strategy has been impacted by the energy and cost of living crisis, over the last two years. However, efforts have been made this year to address this. With less available budget within the council for investment purposes overall, more innovative programmes of work and bids for external funding have been prioritised.

1.3 Both the strategy and action plan have seven key principles to guide work in this area – guided by the acronym C.L.I.M.A.T.E

- Carbon Reduction
- Leadership
- Innovation
- Mobilisation
- Adaptation
- Transformation
- Engagement

As such, the Annual Report is structured around reporting against each of the above principles.

2. Progress during 2023/24

2.1 The work carried out over the past year is reflected in the attached document 'Climate Change Annual Report 2023/24' Appendix 1. A summary of the carbon footprint and some highlights of the progress made, is presented below.

2.2 **Carbon Footprint** – Council emissions continue to fall for the 4th successive year. During 2023-24 the Council have reduced overall emissions by 29%. The fall is in line with the planned reductions in the Council's net zero trajectory. This has been achieved by the move to use electricity from renewable energy sources and has counteracted the rise in gas use (driven by a resumption of operations at Dunes Splashworld, the Council's largest gas user).

Some of the other projects and work to support the move to low carbon working, undertaken over the last 12 months, are listed below.

- 2.3 **Street Lighting** – In 2020 the Council approved a 4 year £12.750m invest to save project, the Street Lighting Asset Project, for the roll out of more energy efficient LED street lighting across the borough. The project is now well into delivery and is due to end in 2025. To date 19,772 lanterns have been changed, along with 4,162 full lighting columns, saving a total of 9-million kWh and two-thousand tonnes of carbon since April 2021 (representing ~6% of the Council's original footprint).
- 2.4 **Public Engagement** – Last year there was a commitment to increase engagement with the community on climate change through implementing the new Climate Communications and Engagement Plan. This has been progressed and the Council now has a dedicated climate microsite (sefton.gov.uk/climate), launched a quarterly e-newsletter (to over 4,000 email addresses), developed climate 'stamp' logo and brand identity (climate stripes) and regularly promotes climate-related campaigns.
- 2.5 **Adapting to the effects of Climate Change** – Action has been taken across all departments to assess the risks associated with a changing climate (e.g. flooding or heatwaves). This process involved workshops and meetings and is now established within the Council's risk assessment process. This will allow service areas to be more resilient to immediate risks such as extreme weather events and plan to reduce the costs and impact of risks in the future.
- 2.6 **Decarbonising our buildings** – A combined LCR bid for Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3c was submitted in October 2023. If successful, ~£8M would be invested in 10 key sites in Sefton including Bootle Town Hall, Meadows Leisure Centre and Crosby Lakeside, the current heating system would be replaced with a low carbon alternative such as heat pumps with improvements made to the building fabric (insulation and glazing) and overall energy efficiency via LED lighting and solar panels. Initial indications are that the full award will not be made but Sefton will receive a smaller proportion of the funding requested. The Council's climate strategy includes the decarbonisation of 18 buildings which would represent ~11% of the total footprint, it is likely that only 2 of these buildings will be decarbonised via Phase 3c, with a likely 1-2% reduction to our overall target.
- 2.7 **Purchase of 'clean' electricity** – from 1 April 2023 all of Sefton's electricity was generated by renewable energy sources such as solar PV or wind. This has a significant impact on the Council's carbon footprint as it meant that our existing emissions from using electricity fell to zero emissions. This was achieved by specifying electricity sources that are certified as from 100% renewable sources through the Council's existing electricity contract. There is an additional cost to secure this type of electricity which will be monitored for affordability in future years.
- 2.8 **Green Sefton** - The natural environment also plays an important role in Sefton's decarbonisation journey, not only because it absorbs and stores carbon dioxide but also because of the co-benefits it has, including better air quality and reducing flood risk. During 2023-24 Green Sefton reviewed new national coastal erosion

Agenda Item 5

risk maps taking into account climate change predictions for sea level rise, installed water level monitoring equipment on smaller watercourses to understand changes in localised flows due to changes in the weather patterns and planted 635 standard trees (6,878 since 2019-20).

- 2.9 **In Summary** – Due to activities undertaken, at the end of 2022/23 Sefton reduced carbon emissions by 29%. However, since the Council declared a climate emergency carbon emissions have fallen by an impressive 41% (against initial 2019/20 baseline). In the coming year officers will take up the PSDS 3c funding to further reduce emissions by 1-2% and will resubmit our remaining buildings for PSDS funding due Autumn 2024. Work will also begin on intervention to decarbonise our fleet that could achieve an additional 13% reduction once completed.

3 **The Liverpool City Region Carbon Footprint and action plan**

- 3.1 All six authorities in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) have declared a Climate Emergency and are taking targeted action, as well as sharing creative ideas and lessons learned to help the whole city region achieve net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner. Carbon emissions for the LCR area are estimated by Central Government and made publicly available online. There is a two-year lag in data released, meaning references made in the report refers to 2021 results.
- 3.2 In 2021 LCR's emissions increased by 5.6% from 2020. However, since 2019 emissions were overall lower by 4.4% in 2021 compared to the high of 2019.
- 3.3 In early 2023, the LCR Combined Authority (CA) published the 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy which outlines an ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions across the entire LCR. Later the same year, a 5-year Climate Action Plan 2023-28 was published, which set actions for the Combined Authority to complete, that help contribute towards decarbonising the LCR.
- 3.4 In 2023-24 Sefton Council worked with the LCR CA on a number of key projects including, joint applications for external funding to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme, the Low Carbon Skills Fund and domestic retrofit initiatives. Collaboration and information sharing on the Local Nature Recovery Strategy and Solar Together Project. This work is on-going and will continue in 2024-25.

4 **Priorities for 2024/25**

- 4.1 Work will continue to deliver the climate emergency action plan and in 2023-24 there are a number of key projects officers will focus on. These include;
- Delivering some decarbonisation works (works awarded under PSDS 3c)
 - Updating and relaunching climate emergency training for all staff and elected members
 - Build upon the engagement and educational activities already underway.
 - Work with colleagues in property service to embed climate friendly policies within the emerging corporate landlord property management framework.

Agenda Item 5

- As we near the half-way point to our 2030 target, to review the strategy and make any adjustments necessary to remain on track.
- 4.2 The Council remain broadly on track to reach net zero by 2030 but recognise a significant amount of work remains including decarbonising some Council buildings (Phase 2: 2023-25) and moving to an electric/low carbon fleet (Phase 3: 2026-29). Along with identifying offsetting options for remaining emissions from 2030.

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Climate Emergency Annual Report 2023-24

Foreword from Councillor Doyle

This is now the third annual report we have published setting out our progress over the past year, as well as laying out our future ambitions. Climate change impacts seem to be constantly in the news alongside the ongoing cost of living crisis impacting everyone's daily lives and the Council's available budgets. Despite these challenges, we will continue to act. Work to reduce carbon emissions is vital. During 2023, for the first time, global warming has exceeded 1.5C across an entire year. Although this alone doesn't breach the commitment made by world leaders in 2015 (The Paris Agreement) it is a worrying development. That is why I am delighted that Sefton made the transition to use 'clean electricity' from 1 April 2023. This means all of our electrical equipment in buildings and our streetlights had no carbon emissions. This has helped to significantly reduce our carbon impact.

I'm also very pleased that work has progressed in the past year on engagement and communications with our communities. We now have a dedicated climate hub on the Council website and a quarterly climate e-newsletter that highlights local news, events and actions residents can take.

We know that a changing climate is of concern to our residents, and we hope to support them this year through the delivery of more Electric Vehicle charging infrastructure, particularly for residents without access at home. And we will support people to access green job opportunities with the Cambridge Road Adult Education centre.

As well as reducing our carbon emissions, we must also ensure that we can continue to deliver our services knowing we face the challenge of more extreme weather events, such as flooding and heat waves. And so, in the past year the Council has been starting those assessments to be better prepared.

There are signs of positive action across the globe. The rate of deforestation in the Amazon rainforest dropped sharply last year, after the Brazil government pledged to stop deforestation. And it was also the year energy from renewables, like wind and solar, grew faster than the world's power demand did. This means emissions from burning fossil fuels is on a downwards trend for the first time.

I hope this report helps to show that we can all make a difference.

Agenda Item 5

Executive Summary

This report provides an update on the progress that has been made in 2023-24, in-line with the climate emergency strategy and action plan.

The report includes the following:

- Sefton Council's carbon footprint for 2023-24
- Liverpool City Region (LCR) 2040 net zero carbon update
- Progress on key priorities in 2023-24
- Other Council projects and LCR wide initiatives
- Challenges
- Key areas of focus for the next 12 months
- Conclusions

Introduction

In July 2019 Sefton Council declared a Climate Emergency and set an ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon emissions by 2030.

This annual report outlines the sources of carbon emissions linked to the Council's estate and operations. And also highlights the key projects and achievements from the last year in-line with the climate emergency strategy and action plan.

All activity described in the report relates to the period April 2023 to March 2024 (Phase 2, Year 1 of the action plan).

It also focuses on the challenges encountered and what the key priorities for the next year will be.

Agenda Item 5

Sefton Council Carbon Footprint

The Government has identified 3 types of emissions:

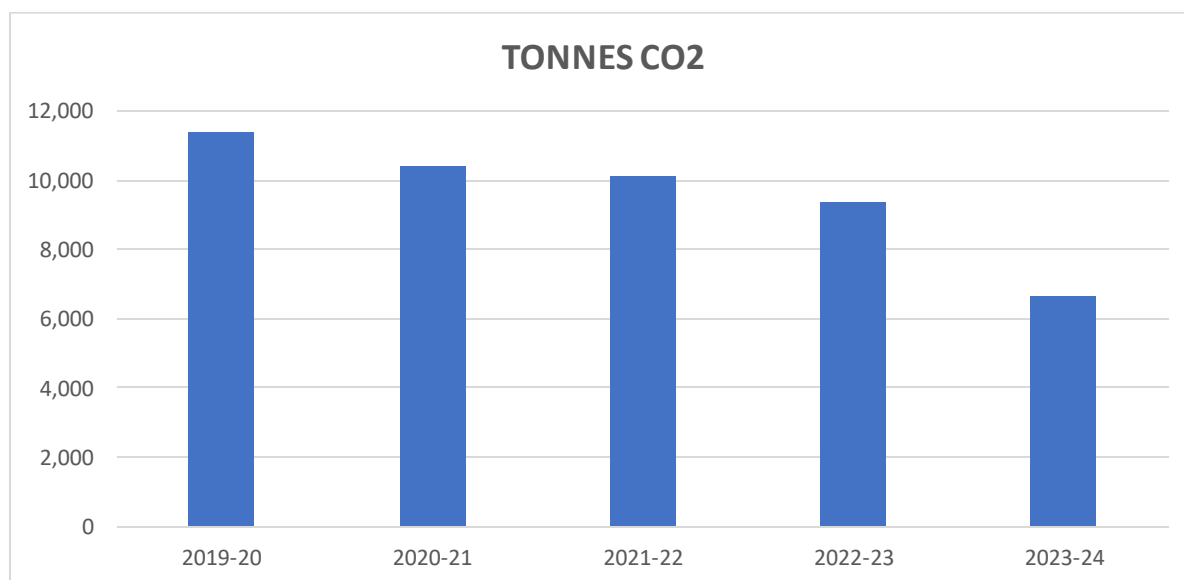
Scope 1 - Emissions from activities that are owned or controlled by the Council and are released straight into the atmosphere, for example, from Council owned gas/oil boilers and diesel/petrol vehicles.

Scope 2 - Emissions released due to electricity use.

Scope 3 - Emissions from equipment or vehicles that do not belong to the Council but are used to deliver Council functions, for example, officers using their own diesel/petrol cars for Council business.

Sefton Council started to track its emissions in 2019-20. Over the last 4 years there has been an overall reduction of 4,701 tCO₂, which represents a 41% decrease.

The graph below shows the annual breakdown. It demonstrates that emissions have continued to reduce every year with last year (2023-24) achieving a reduction of 29% (2,665 tCO₂).

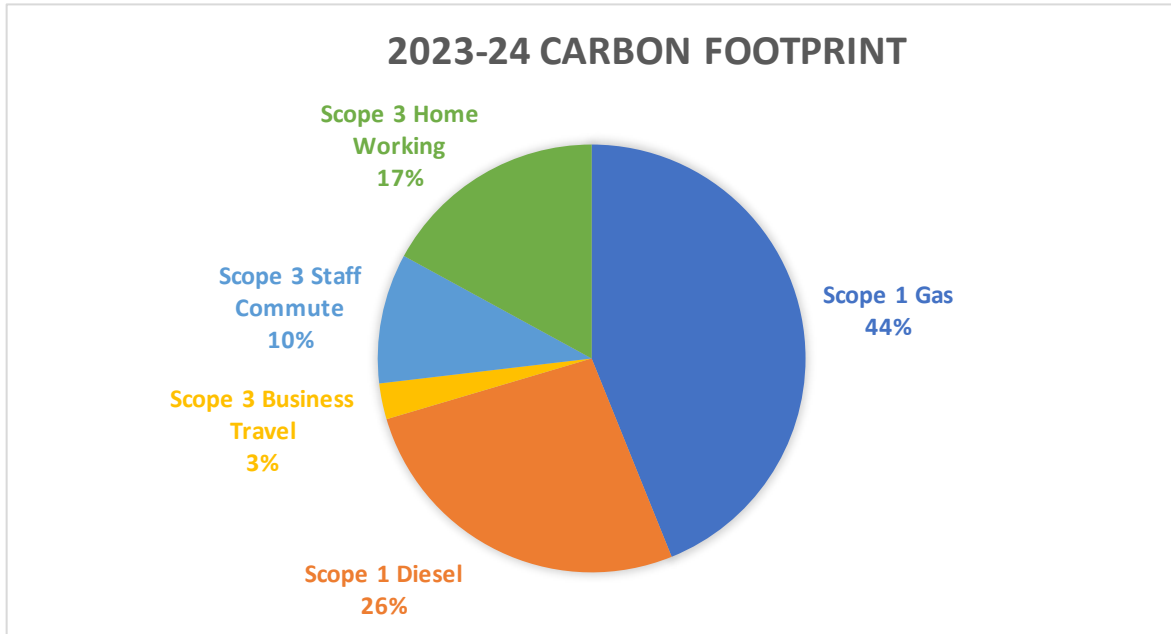


Data from the following activities was used when measuring the Council's carbon footprint:

- Scope 1 - Council Buildings (Gas)
- Scope 1 -Operational Fleet (Diesel)
- Scope 2 - Council Buildings (*Electricity)
- Scope 2 - Street Lighting (*Electricity)
- Scope 3 - Business Travel
- Scope 3 - Staff Commute
- Scope 3 - Home Working

*From 1 April 2023 Sefton Council moved to a 100% clean electricity tariff backed by REGO (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) certification.

The pie chart below shows a breakdown of the Council's operational carbon footprint for 2023-24.



A significant proportion of emissions in 2023-24 came from gas use in Council buildings (44%), followed by emissions associated with the operational fleet (26%), home working (17%), staff commute (10%) and business travel (3%).

Electricity and Gas (Scope 1 and 2)

Emissions are calculated using consumption figures taken from utility supplier billing as well as meter readings.

Electricity usage (kilowatt hours) has continued to decrease since 2019-20 for corporate buildings and street lighting.

The reduction has been driven by the large scale 4-year LED street lighting project, proactive installation of energy efficiency measures, changes to building use and the decarbonisation of the national grid.

Since April 2023, all electricity purchased for the Council's energy supply (corporate buildings and street lighting) has been moved to a REGO-backed (Renewable Energy Guarantees of Origin) clean electricity source. This is a key action in order to reach net zero by 2030.

It allows the Council to report electricity emissions as 'zero' under Scope 2 of the Greenhouse Gas Protocol. However, we can show that if we had not used clean electricity in our operations we would have emitted 2,944 tCO₂. Without this intervention, the Council would have seen a 3% increase in overall emissions (instead achieving a 29% decrease).

Overall gas emissions have reduced by 8% since 2019-20. Although in 2023-24 they increased by 12% (312 tCO₂), making gas the Council's largest emissions source. The main reason for the increase in consumption is the reopening of Splash World in May 2023, following this consumption more than doubled.

Operational Fleet (Scope 1)

Emissions are calculated using the fuel consumption data provided by the Fleet and

Agenda Item 5

Transport Team. Based on this information, transport is the Council's second largest emissions source (26%) and has increased by 18% since 2019-20.

The Council aims to move to a low carbon fleet by 2030 and actions are included in the third phase of the Council action plan (2026-29).

A small percentage of the fleet has already been switched to electric vehicles, but a lot of work is still required to transition the wider fleet.

The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team are continuing the process of developing strategies, while working with colleagues across the Council to process the findings from the Fleet Review completed by the Energy Saving Trust.

Staff Travel (Commute and Business) and Home Working (Scope 3)

During 2023-24, emissions from staff commute increased by 6% compared to the previous year as officers return to the office (post Covid19 pandemic). This equates to an increase of 39 tCO₂. However, emissions from business travel and home working decreased by 43 tCO₂ in total.

Staff commute and business travel continue to remain significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels and it is encouraging to see a working pattern which overall supports a reduction in emissions.

The Council continues to promote agile working and is committed to reducing emissions through the travel plan and associated policies.

Liverpool City Region – 2040 Net Zero Carbon Target

All six authorities in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) have declared a Climate Emergency and are taking targeted action. Working collaboratively, authorities in the LCR share creative ideas and lessons learned to help the whole city region achieve net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner.

Territorial emissions for the UK are estimated by Central Government and made publicly available online. There is a two-year delay in data released, meaning this report refers to 2021 results.

In 2021, the LCR's emissions increased by 5.6% from 2020 but are still lower than they were in 2019 (down 4.4% overall).

Whilst this Sefton Council strategy relates only to Council operations, the LCR Combined Authority (LCRCA) strategy relates to all aspects of society and includes all homes, businesses, transport and public sector organisations.

In early 2023, the LCR Combined Authority published the 'Pathway to Net Zero' strategy which outlines an ambitious plan to reduce carbon emissions across the entire LCR.

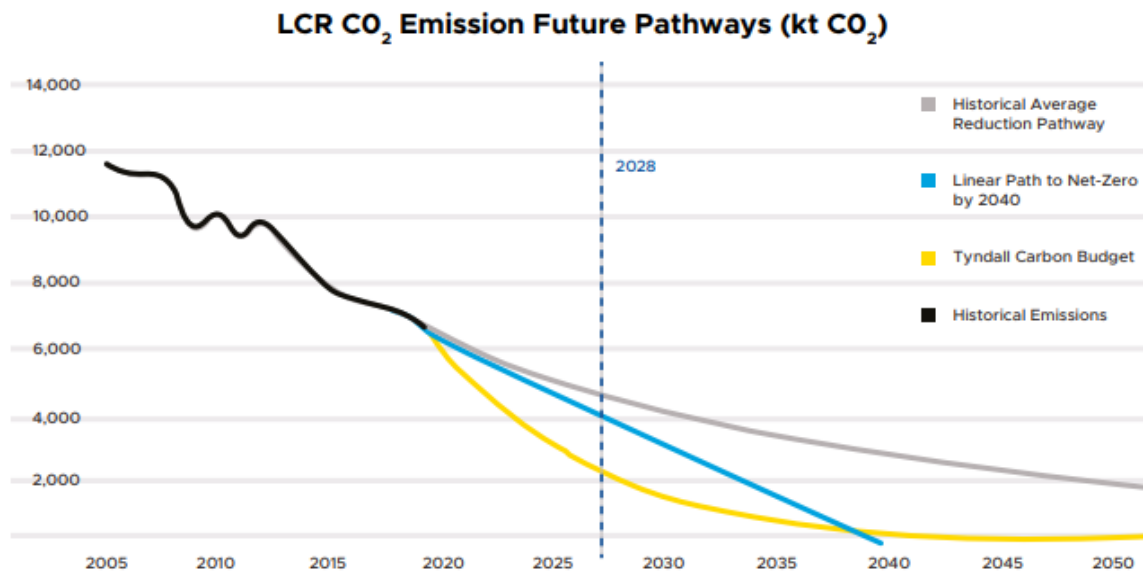
Later the same year, a 5-year Climate Action Plan 2023-28 was published, which set actions for the Combined Authority to complete that will help contribute towards decarbonising the LCR.

The plan is divided into 5 pillars shown below:



Agenda Item 5

All actions have timescales for completion – short-term (1-2 years), medium-term (3-4 years) and long-term (up to 5 years or potentially running after 2028).



Progress towards achieving the actions in the 5-year plan will be tracked by the LCRCA and reported publicly.

In 2023-24 Sefton Council worked with the LCRCA on a number of key projects including:

- External funding opportunities - Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Low Carbon Skills Fund, Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure funding
- Retrofit and social housing initiatives
- Biodiversity e.g. Local Nature Recovery Strategy
- Solar Together Project

This work is on-going and will continue in 2024-25.

Climate Change Action Plan

We said, We did

In last year's annual report, the Council set out four key priorities for the year 2023-24. Progress has been made in all areas, as set out below.

1. Public Engagement

Sefton Council undertook a Climate Consultation in Summer 2022 for a period of 10 weeks. There were a number of key takeaways from the consultation which were used to form a 9-point engagement plan to raise the visibility of climate actions and facilitate involvement.

Progress has been made in 2023-24 on the following key actions:

- Launched a quarterly e-newsletter that highlights local and global news, events and actions people can take.
- Created a specific climate homepage (sefton.gov.uk/climate) which is updated with information and news in a clear and user-friendly way.
- Launched a climate 'stamp' logo and brand identity (climate stripes) to make climate related activity more recognisable. The materials will be used by Council departments and on projects where there is a climate focus, i.e. Transport, Green Sefton and Regeneration.
- Created a climate email address (climate@sefton.gov.uk) that is actively used and promoted.
- Supported national and global climate-related campaigns across social media channels and on the Council website to help share important messages such as COP28, Net Zero Week, World Environment Day, World Oceans Day and Plastic Free July.
- Supported LCR schemes through regular promotion across Council networks.

2. Transport Strategies and Plans

The Strategic Transport Planning and Investment Team (STPI) have been continuing the process of developing strategies around low carbon transport and are planning to issue a Position Statement in Summer 2024, which will lead to a wider public facing communications campaign and further development.

A baselining report for borough wide carbon emissions from transport has been undertaken, with key priority areas being identified.

Leading on from this, major highways/active travel schemes are being trialled through a carbon assessment tool, which will help to understand and enhance the approach to carbon within a scheme's lifecycle.

The Council has also been looking at Electric Vehicle (EV) charging across the borough with the opportunity to obtain some Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure (LEVI) funding to provide publicly available charging spaces.

Work is also continuing with colleagues across the Council to explore the use of EV's and lower carbon technologies within the operational fleet.

Agenda Item 5

The STPI Team are also continuing to embed a Healthy Streets and Active Travel focus into all schemes and develop a strategic borough wide Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP).

3. Climate Adaptation

Climate adaptation is about managing or avoiding the risks that climate change will bring. Some of the most significant climate hazards Sefton faces are more severe storms, with intense downpours, leading to urban and coastal flooding and erosion, and heatwaves impacting health, infrastructure and transport.

Since Autumn 2023, the Council have undertaken work to embed long term climate risks into day-to-day risk management processes. Working alongside the Council's risk management team, all departments were invited to a Climate Change Adaptation workshop event and follow-up meetings. From which an agreed framework and scoring system was established.

This process is ongoing under the direction of the Strategic Leadership Board. All service areas are now required to consider climate change related risks in their risk registers. This will allow service areas to be more resilient to immediate risks such as extreme weather events (e.g. flooding or heatwaves) and plan to reduce the costs and impact of risks in the future.

Furthermore, oversight will be given to these risk registers to 'Build adaptive capacity' into decision making processes for policies, projects and investment to ensure the Council adopts the most cost-effective and well-adapted options. An example to demonstrate this is to include shade as part of building design and to plant more trees for shading, to provide natural cooling during future prolonged hotter summers and avoid the costs of air-conditioning.

This work is on-going and will continue in 2024-25.

4. Funding Opportunities

Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme - Phase 3c

The LCRCA co-ordinated a combined bid for funding to the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) Phase 3c in October 2023.

If successful, the current heating system would be replaced with a low carbon alternative such as Air Source Heat Pumps and improvements would also be made to the overall energy efficiency of the buildings by installing measures such as LED lighting, solar panels and insulation.

Authorities in the LCR put forward circa 50 sites (10 buildings in Sefton including Bootle Town Hall, Meadows Leisure Centre and Crosby Lakeside). The total project costs for Sefton would be circa £8m with approximately £5.6m being grant funded.

A final decision on the funding application is pending, however it has been indicated that Sefton and the LCR will receive a proportion of the funds requested and 2-3 buildings from the 10 will be decarbonised. This will help to reduce the Council's emissions by 1-2%.

Low Carbon Skills Fund – Phase 4

Agenda Item 5

The LCRCA submitted a combined bid to create Heat Decarbonisation Plans (HDPs). This application was unsuccessful, although another collaborative bid with the LCR has recently been submitted for round 5.

The buildings put forward are a mix of Corporate buildings (6), Family Well Being Centres (3), Schools (17) and New Direction (4) sites. If successful, all visits will be carried out and reports compiled during 2024-25.

A decision is expected by the end of July 2024.

Agenda Item 5

Other Projects

In addition to the four achievements above, there are also a number of other projects in 2023-24 which helped contribute towards achieving the aims of our strategy and action plan and the wider LCR target.

The strategy and action plan have seven key principles which make up a C.L.I.M.A.T.E. acronym.

Carbon Reduction
Leadership
Innovation
Mobilisation
Adaptation
Transformation
Engagement

The principles guide our work in this area.

Carbon Reduction

LED Street Lighting Project

In 2020, the Council approved a £12.75m invest to save project for the roll out of more energy efficient LED street lighting across the borough. The work is on-going and is expected to be completed in June 2025.

To date, 19,772 lanterns have been changed, along with 4,162 full lighting columns. Saving a total of 9-million kWh and two-thousand tonnes of carbon since April 2021. When complete, the project will have reduced the carbon footprint by ~6%.

Solar Together LCR Project

Solar Together is a unique group-buying scheme that enables residents to register for solar PV and battery storage systems to receive competitive prices from pre-vetted installers.

The programme was administered by the LCRCA to support reaching the ambitious target to achieve net zero carbon by 2040 or sooner.

To date there has been two Solar Together schemes, with round two being delivered during 2023-24. In total 2,431 (Round 1 - 1,857, Round - 2 574) residents in Sefton (10,400 residents across the LCR) registered interest, with 279 (Round 1 - 232, Round 2 - 47) properties in the borough being fitted with energy-saving solar panels and/or battery storage, enabling residents to cut their energy costs while also reducing carbon emissions.

Leadership

Liverpool City Region (LCR) Community Environment Fund

The LCR Community Environment Fund, aims to encourage long-term behavioural change, while improving the city region's environment and safeguarding its greenspaces.

To date, there has been two rounds of funding, supporting 92 projects across the LCR. Altogether 14 (Round 1 - 9, Round 2 - 5) projects have taken place in Sefton and 5 (Round 1 - 4, Round 2 – 1) projects have covered multiple authorities including Sefton.

The projects have covered various environmental themes ranging from creating a community garden to enhancing the climate and environmental literacy of young people across the LCR.

Funding for round 3 has recently been approved and will be implemented in 2024-25.

Climate Emergency Training for Report Authors

All Cabinet and Council decision papers include an assessment of the potential climate change impacts.

A training package has been designed to provide officers with the information they need to complete the 'Climate Emergency Implications' section of the report template. To date, 63 officers have completed the training.

Public Events

The Council has a leadership role within the community to promote climate change action. As such, officers attended the Sefton CVS Annual Conference for community groups in November 2023.

Officers also attended a Scaling to Reach Net Zero event held in Liverpool. The conference provided valuable insights and networking prospects as authorities work towards creating a sustainable future.

Innovation

Climate Emergency Training

In 2021, the Energy and Environmental Management Team developed a Climate Emergency eLearning training module which to date has been rolled out to 2,540 officers.

The eLearning module is currently being reviewed and updated and will be re-launched in September 2024.

Other Funding Opportunities

In 2023-24, the Council applied for other external funding (alongside the Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme and Low Carbon Skills Fund) and an award was made from Sports England Swimming Pool Improvement Fund for just under £200,000. The funding will be used to provide additional photovoltaic (PV) panels to both Meadows Leisure Centre and Formby Pool and the installation of heat recovery pumps to the Air Handling units at Meadows Leisure Centre.

More recently the Council has developed a bid for "Pathways2Resilience" funding as part of the EU Horizon funding stream.

This funding, if successful, would support Sefton to map out wider risks across key

Agenda Item 5

infrastructure and develop robust plans such as a baseline report, and climate resilience strategy and action plan.

Mobilisation

Affordable Warmth Service

The Council's Affordable Warmth Service helps vulnerable residents to stay warm and reduce fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty can be caused by living in a poorly insulated home, having a poorly performing heating system, and the subsequent costs of running these to keep the home warm.

The service supports residents to install insulation which helps improve efficiency, and there is now a move to the installation of low carbon heating systems which also helps to reduce emissions.

Key achievements in the last year are set out below.

- Brought in £390,500 funding to the Council to finance the service.
- Directly helped over 200 vulnerable residents with heating system repairs and replacements.
- Processed 210 applications for ECO4 - Energy Efficiency Grant for insulation, heating and renewable technology.
- This work has on average saved residents £240 per year on their energy bill as well as reducing measure/installation costs.
- The improvements are estimated to have saved 117 tonnes of carbon emissions per year across the borough. This is the equivalent of taking 69 cars off the road.

The service and all activity is provided based upon successful funding bids submitted by the Council.

Environmental Support for Businesses in Sefton

Earlier this year, over 30 accommodation providers from Sefton attended an event to take up support from Sustainable Sefton.

Thanks to funding from the UK Government and in partnership with Invest Sefton, environmental consultants Groundwork kickstarted a new programme of activity aimed at supporting businesses with their sustainability credentials.

Sustainable Sefton will provide funded sustainability support to 60 businesses from the hospitality and retail sectors over the next 12 months, all of which will be supported by Groundwork consultants to develop a bespoke sustainability action plan.

Adaptation

Green Sefton

Sefton's natural environment is a significant and valued asset and makes the borough an attractive and prosperous place to live, work and visit.

The natural environment also plays an important role in Sefton's decarbonisation journey. Natural landscape can absorb and store carbon dioxide which in turn can support better air quality and reduce flood risk.

During 2023-24, Green Sefton progressed in a number of key areas, these include:

- Reviewing new national coastal erosion risk maps, taking into account climate change predictions for sea level rise.
- Installing water level monitoring equipment on smaller watercourses to understand changes in localised flows due to changes in the weather patterns.
- Planting 635 standard trees (6,878 since 2019-20).

Transformation

Retrofit

Domestic retrofit schemes offer an opportunity to improve the energy efficiency in some of the most poorly insulated homes in the borough. Activities can range from fitting energy-efficient light bulbs to installing sustainable heating technology, such as air source heat pumps.

The most recent domestic retrofit scheme delivered was the Sustainable Warmth Fund (SWF). This consisted of 2 funding streams, Local Authority Delivery (LAD3) and Home Upgrade Grant (HUG1).

During this scheme, the Council improved a total of 386 properties (installing 418 energy-saving measures) with all work fully funded. Measures consisted of external wall insulation, cavity wall insulation, loft insulation, underfloor insulation, air source heat pumps, solar PV and window replacement.

The SWF scheme was completed in Autumn 2023. However, Phase 2 of the HUG scheme is being delivered by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority and will continue until 2025.

Engagement and Education

School Engagement

In 2023-24 through the Council's ECO Saver programme, schools received the following support:

- Bespoke support was provided to schools requesting an energy and water reduction audit. With additional signposting to wider climate information.
- Awareness raising through Assemblies and Governor training.

Agenda Item 5

- Regular updates were provided on consumption of electricity and gas use on site and how to reduce.
- Switch off Fortnight in November 2023 was promoted and supported.
- Automatic Meter Reading (AMR)/Remote Meter Reading (RMR) devices were installed on 10 school water meters to support the reduction of water use and identify issues on site.
- Energy and water saving posters and thermometers were distributed to schools taking part in Eco Savers.
- Support for small energy saving measures such as radiator reflector foil was provided.

Eco Centre

The Council run a dedicated environmental learning centre, known as the Eco Centre, which offers learning opportunities for Sefton residents and school children from across the city region.

In 2023-24, the teaching staff delivered climate related education to over 3,400 school children.

The Clean Air Crew resource has been recognised beyond the city region as a pioneering AQ resource. It is recognised as an important educational tool and has been adopted by other local authorities, which has helped continue to fund its present and future development.

The teaching staff have delivered a number of successful campaigns throughout the year, one of the projects, 'Coasts for Kids', recently won the prestigious "Climate Creatives Challenge", securing top spot in the Coastal Change theme which saw entries from 56 countries. The project showcases a diverse array of creative expressions focused on the theme of Coastal Change and strategies for adaptation. More information can be found at www.southportecocentre.com.

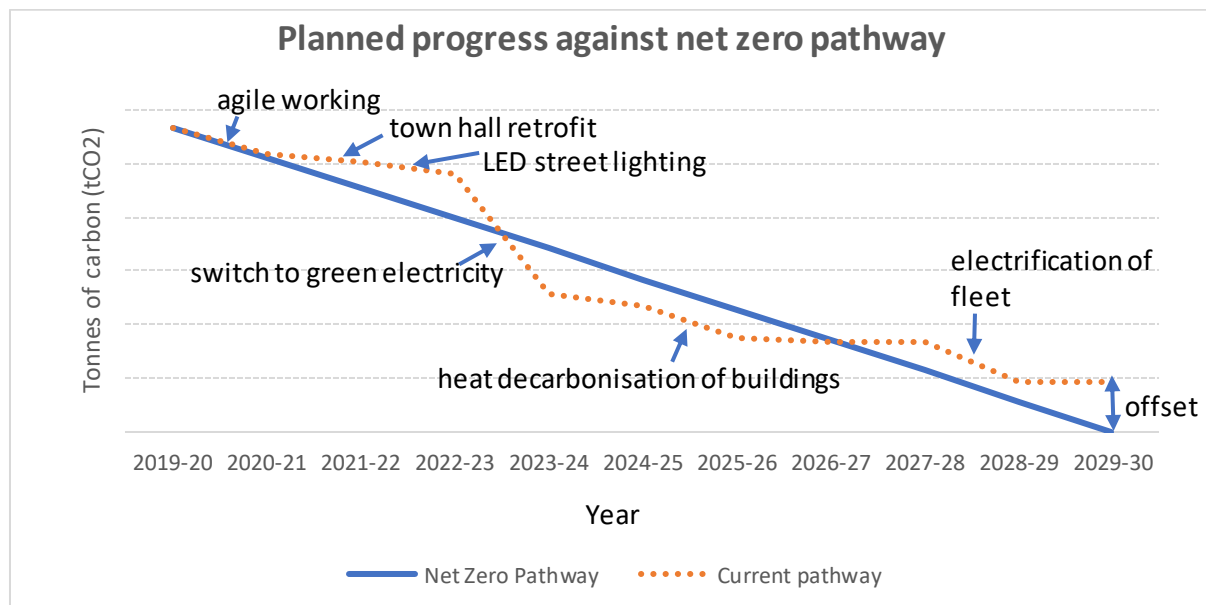
In 2024-25, the team will launch an interactive immersive experience, created and designed in-house, in support of retrofit and green jobs in partnership with the Cambridge adult education centre.

Challenges

A considerable amount of work has been undertaken to date. However, to maintain this momentum, the climate emergency strategy and action plan will need to be continued and further progressed in order to reach net zero carbon within six years.

All activity described in this report relates to Phase 2, Year 1 of the action plan. The graph below shows the linear pathway to net zero by 2030 (blue line) and maps the current pathway (red dotted line).

It also focuses on the work carried out to date along with future projects such as decarbonising corporate buildings (Phase 2) and electrifying Council vehicles (Phase 3).



Given the Council's financial pressures and limitations to internal funding streams, ongoing collaborative work with the LCR, plus the identification of external and innovative funding mechanisms to increase capacity to act, will be crucial to the delivery of this agenda.

As mentioned above, the Liverpool City Region has set a 2040 net zero target for the entire area. The Council do not have direct control over these emissions but instead seek to influence and encourage others to adopt net zero approaches.

Priorities for 2024-25

Overall good progress is being made on the delivery of the climate emergency strategy and action plan through various activities and programmes outlined in this annual report.

The focus for 2024-25 will be to:

- Continue to build on the engagement work completed in 2023-24, connecting with local communities and encouraging behavioural change.
- Work with the Strategic Transport Planning and Investment (STPI) Team to develop a low carbon transport approach.

Agenda Item 5

- Continue to submit funding applications, in order to maximise available capital to the Council.
- Identify the Council's approach towards offsetting and explore potential in-setting opportunities while quantifying the potential cost.
- Promote the updated Climate Emergency eLearning module and provide support to officers.

Conclusions

The Council has long been committed to protecting the environment, and this annual report reaffirms the pledge made in July 2019 with an overall decrease in emissions of 41% since that date.

The report highlights some key projects and achievements over the last year with one of the main ones being the purchase of clean electricity from April 2023.

The Council remain broadly on track to reach net zero by 2030 but recognise that significant capital work and large-scale investment will be needed during phase 2 and 3 (Phase 2: 2023-25) (Phase 3: 2026-29). The Council are relying on external funding opportunities to help support these programmes and accept that there are inherent risks with this approach.

Work on the regional 2040 targets are developing and Sefton are working with LCR partners to align with those ambitions.

Agenda Item 6

Report to:	Cabinet Council	Date of Meeting:	20 June 2024 11 July 2024
Subject:	Financial Management 2024/25 to 2027/28 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2024/25 - Additional Estimates		
Report of:	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Corporate Services		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	No
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

This report sets out supplementary capital and revenue estimates for approval in the Council's Capital Programme and Revenue Budget and an update on revised allocations of grant from central government and the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Recommendation(s):

Cabinet is recommended to:

- 1) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.859m for the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant additional allocation funded by DLUHC.
- 2) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £3.500m for Disabled Facilities Grants core programme in 2024/25 funded by the Better Care Fund.
- 3) Approve supplementary capital estimates of £0.003m for Devolved Formula Capital and £0.034m Schools Condition Allocation funded by grant from the Department for Education.
- 4) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £4.040m for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities funded by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation from the Department for Education.
- 5) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.500m for the Green Light Fund funded by grant from the Department for Transport
- 6) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.449m for the Network North Roads Resurfacing Fund funded by grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 7) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.065m for the Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant funded by the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 8) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £0.450m for the ICT Equipment Refresh project funded by prudential borrowing.

Agenda Item 6

- 9) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.237m for the UKSPF Ways to Work grant funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 10) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £5.273m for the Southport Public Realm project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 11) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £5.799m for the A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 12) Recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate of £3.300m for the Carriageway Resurfacing Programme funded by grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 13) Note that the proposal was a Key Decision but had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions. Consequently, the Leader of the Council and the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services) had been consulted under Rule 27 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet and Council as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because of the requirement to set supplementary budget estimates as part of the ongoing delivery of Council's financial strategy for 2024/25.

Council is recommended to:

- 1) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3.500m for Disabled Facilities Grants core programme in 2024/25 funded by the Better Care Fund.
- 2) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £4.040m for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities funded by the High Needs Provision Capital Allocation from DfE.
- 3) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.450m for the ICT Equipment Refresh project funded by prudential borrowing.
- 4) Approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.237m for the UKSPF Ways to Work grant funding from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.
- 5) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £5.273m for the Southport Public Realm project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 6) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £5.799m for the A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements project funded by external grants and contributions and Council resources.
- 7) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £3.300m for the Carriageway Resurfacing Programme funded by grant from the Liverpool City Region Combined Authority.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To approve updates to the capital programme and revenue budget 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 estimate annual cost of prudential borrowing for the ICT Equipment Refresh will be £0.100m per annum which will be met from within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.

(B) Capital Costs

The estimated cost of Disabled Facilities Grants in 2024/25 is £3.500m funded by grant allocated to the Council from the Better Care Fund.

The Southport Public Realm project is estimated to cost £5.273m funded through 2024/25 CRSTS settlement (£2.507m), Southport Town Deal LUF grant (£2.500m) and £0.265m of Council funding (capital receipts).

The A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements project is estimated to cost £5.799m funded through £2.858m Key route Network funding, £0.244m DfT signals fund, £1.000m CRSTS settlement, £1.127m Active Travel Funds, £0.470m of Developer Contributions and £0.100m of Council funding (capital receipts).

The Carriageway Resurfacing Programme is estimated to cost £3.300m funded by grant from the City Region Combined Authority.

The ICT Equipment Refresh is estimated to cost £0.450m funded by prudential borrowing to be repaid over five years.

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):	
The Council will acquire new ICT assets to the value of £0.450m funded by additional borrowing costs of £0.100m per annum which will be met from within the Medium-Term Financial Plan.	
Legal Implications:	
None	
Equality Implications:	
There are no equality implications.	
Impact on Children and Young People: No	
Climate Emergency Implications:	
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

Agenda Item 6

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.

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 7677/24) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5778/24) 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.

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Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

Agenda Item 6

1. Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grants

- 1.1. Council on 29 February 2024 approved indicative grant allocations for capital grants to be applied to the capital programme 2024/25 including £4.823m for Adult Social Care. Following publication of the final Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocation for 2024/25 by DLUHC in May, an uplifted amount of funding has been allocated to Sefton of £5,261,093. Additionally, the 2023/24 allocation of grant was uplifted by £420,887 and is available to spend in 2024/25. The total amount of additional funding available is therefore £858,610 compared to the initial estimate approved in February.
- 1.2. Cabinet is requested to approve a supplementary estimate of £858,610 for the additional DFG block grant allocation in 2024/25.
- 1.3. Expenditure on Disabled Facilities Grants for home adaptations has been increasing steadily since 2021/22 and will continue to do so with the delivery of the Council’s vision to support more people to remain independent in their own homes for longer, this includes things like the development of the Adult Social Care online Portal, development of extended warranties and revised means testing for applicants. The Council’s core programme for Disabled Facilities Grants in 2023/24 was £3m, an increase on the target of £2m set in 2022/23’s capital programme and £1.4m set in the 2021/22 programme. The proposed target for 2024/25 will be £3.5m fully funded from the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant.
- 1.4. Cabinet is therefore requested to recommend to Council the approval of a supplementary capital estimate for the core DFG programme of £3.500m in 2024/25.
- 1.5. Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health has delegated authority to approve budgets up to a value of £1m for the Wider Social Care Programme and Community Equipment Stores funded from the Better Care Fund – Disabled Facilities Grant. The list of schemes for the wider programme for 2024/25 will be fully developed and presented to Cabinet Member for approval.

2. Schools Funding

- 2.1. Council on 29 February 2024 approved indicative grant allocations for capital grants to be applied to the Education Excellence capital programme 2024/25. Following publication of the final capital allocations for 2024/25 by the Department of Education in May, an increased amount of funding will be received as set out in the table below.

Capital Grant	Block Allocation	
	Provisional Estimate 2024/25	Revised Estimate 2024/25
Education Excellence	£	£
Devolved Formula Capital (direct school allocation)	338,520	341,144
Schools Condition Allocation	2,207,934	2,241,878
Special Educational Needs & Disabilities	700,000	4,740,380

- 2.2. Cabinet is recommended to approve the increases to Devolved Formula Capital and Schools Condition Allocation shown above and recommend to Council the approval of a revised estimate for Special Educational Needs & Disabilities.
- 2.3. Authority has been delegated to Cabinet Member – Children, Schools and Families to assign funding to individual capital schemes for the schools block allocations reported above up to £1m in value. The list of schemes for 2024/25 will be fully developed and presented to Cabinet Member for approval.

3. Highways Programme

- 3.1. Council on 29 February 2024 approved an indicative grant allocation for the City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS) to be included in the Highways capital programme 2024/25. Following this approval, the Department for Transport and the City Region Combined Authority have since confirmed further allocations of capital grant as outlined in the table below.

Grant Allocation	2024/25 £
Green Light Fund	500,000
Network North Roads Resurfacing Fund	449,302
Traffic Signal Obsolescence	65,018

- 3.2. Cabinet is requested to approve supplementary estimates for the Green Light Fund, Network North Fund and Traffic Signal Obsolescence Grant.
- 3.3. Cabinet Member – Housing and Highways has delegated authority to approve schemes up to a value of £1m funded from the block allocations of grant approved by Cabinet and Council. A full list of Highways schemes for 2024/25 will be developed and presented to Cabinet Member for approval. The following schemes are above Cabinet Member’s delegated limit and are presented for approval by Council following recommendation from Cabinet:

Southport Public Realm

- 3.4. Southport Public Realm is a £5.273m project funded through the 2024/25 CRSTS settlement (£2.507m), Southport Town Deal LUF (£2.5m) and £0.265m of Council Growth funding to undertake Phase 1 of the Southport public realm works around Market Street, King Street, and Eastbank Street for Public Realm/ Accessibility improvements in support of the Les Transformations De Southport project in support of the Town Deal.

A59 Northway Pedestrian/ Cycle Improvements

- 3.5. £5.799m has been allocated to a project funded through £2.858m Key route Network funding, £0.244m DfT Signals Fund, £1.000m CRSTS settlement, £1.127m Active Travel Funds, £0.470m of Developer Contributions and £0.100m of Council Growth funding, to deliver a new signal controlled junction at the A59/ Kenyons Lane with full pedestrian/ cycle facilities, along with 2.6km of unidirectional cycle lanes alongside the A59 between Dodds Lane and the

Agenda Item 6

borough boundary, new crossing points at Robbins Island as part of programme of accessibility improvements along the A59 Northway corridor.

Carriageway Resurfacing Programme

- 3.6. £3.300m has been allocated in 2024/25 to the programme of carriageway resurfacing across the borough funded by the CRSTS settlement.

4. ICT Equipment Refresh

- 4.1. The Council has a number of ICT assets (predominately laptops) that are now over five years old and approaching the end of their useful life. In order to meet the minimum specification as set by Microsoft for Windows 11, Windows 10 is end of life in October 2025 and therefore the Council has to replace these older devices in advance of this deadline.
- 4.2. The equipment refresh programme is estimated to cost £450,000 and will be funded from prudential borrowing, the cost of which has been included in the Council's Medium Term Financial Plan.

5. UKSPF Ways to Work Grant Funding

- 5.1. Sefton@work, the Council's job brokerage service has been in receipt of European Social Funding for the Ways to Work employment support project since 2016. This scheme was a joint programme delivered via all 6 of the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Councils, with the LCR Combined Authority being the Lead Body and in Sefton helped more than 5,500 residents.
- 5.2. ESF funds have now ceased but the Ways to Work delivery model for employment support continues to be the LCR's key investment in addressing employment inequality and forms an integral part of the wider Plan for Prosperity, with commitment being given to find alternative means of continuation funding after the end of ESF.
- 5.3. The Government's Fund to replace European Social Fund is the United Kingdom Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF), and the Ways to Work scheme has been earmarked in the LCR UKSPF investment plan to receive an allocation of UKSPF for the year 2024/25. This will allow the service to continue the Ways to Work offer for Sefton residents who are economically inactive until March 2025.
- 5.4. The UKSPF offer encompasses two funding streams of the LCR investment plan which are E33 which will support the residents who are deemed economically inactive to seek and retain work and L2 which supports those people facing redundancy or seeking to access work through a large-scale recruitment. The allocation of UKSPF Funding for E33 is £824,389.00 and the allocation for L2 is £412,194.50, giving a total grant figure of **£1,236,583.50**.
- 5.5. Sefton@work has a proven track record of efficient management of a wide range of external funding and measures have been put in place to ensure that all claims and performance management information required to satisfy the requirement of this SIF grant offer can be met. The staff resources are in place to deliver this service, and policies and protocols have been designed in

Agenda Item 6

conjunction with the LCR-CA to ensure risks are managed appropriately and service delivery is conducted to the highest standards. Client facing staff are all trained and qualified to appropriate levels and compliance staff have significant expertise in successfully managing audit requirements from the internal, sub-regional and European levels. The service continues to hold the national MATRIX standard which assures the quality of information, advice and guidance to nationally recognised standards and has also maintained the national Customer Service Excellence award.

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