Public Document Pack

Sefton Council

MEETING: CABINET

DATE: Thursday 4th October, 2018

TIME: 10.00 am

VENUE: Committee Room, Town Hall, Bootle

DECISION MAKER: CABINET

Councillor Maher (Chair) Councillor Atkinson Councillor Cummins Councillor Fairclough Councillor Hardy

Councillor John Joseph Kelly

Councillor Lappin Councillor Moncur Councillor Veidman

COMMITTEE OFFICER: Paul Fraser

Senior Democratic Services Officer

Telephone: 0151 934 2068

E-mail: paul.fraser@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. This page is intentionally left blank

AGENDA

Items marked with an * involve key decisions

<u>Item</u> No.	Subject/Author(s)	Wards Affected	
1	Apologies for Absence		
2	Declarations of Interest		
	Members are requested at a meeting where a disclosable pecuniary interest or personal interest arises, which is not already included in their Register of Members' Interests, to declare any interests that relate to an item on the agenda.		
	Where a Member discloses a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest, he/she must withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest, except where he/she is permitted to remain as a result of a grant of a dispensation.		
	Where a Member discloses a personal interest he/she must seek advice from the Monitoring Officer or staff member representing the Monitoring Officer to determine whether the Member should withdraw from the meeting room, including from the public gallery, during the whole consideration of any item of business in which he/she has an interest or whether the Member can remain in the meeting or remain in the meeting and vote on the relevant decision.		
3	Minutes of the Previous Meeting		(Pages 5 - 14)
	Minutes of the meeting held on 6 September 2018		
4	Information, Advice and Guidance Service for Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Young People	All Wards	(Pages 15 - 20)
	Report of the Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence		
5	Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2018/19	All Wards	(Pages 21 - 32)
	Report of the Head of Corporate Resources		

THE "CALL IN" PERIOD FOR THIS SET OF MINUTES ENDS AT 12 NOON ON FRIDAY 21 SEPTEMBER, 2018.

CABINET

MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, SOUTHPORT ON THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

PRESENT: Councillor Maher (in the Chair)

Councillors Atkinson, Cummins, Fairclough, Hardy,

Lappin and Veidman

36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors John Joseph Kelly and Moncur.

37. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

38. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

Decision Made:

That the Minutes of the meeting held on 26 July 2018 be confirmed as a correct record.

39. TENDER ARBORICULTURAL WORKS CONTRACT

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned seeking approval to procure a new contract for arboricultural works and to award the contract based on the lowest priced tender that met all pre-determined minimum quality requirements.

Decision Made: That

- (1) the procurement of a new contract for arboricultural works be approved;
- (2) the basis for the evaluation of tenders received be approved; and

CABINET - THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

(3) authority be delegated to the Head of Locality Services – Commissioned, in consultation with the Cabinet Member – Locality Services, to award the contract upon completion of the procurement process.

Reasons for the Decision:

The existing contract is due to expire. Establishing a replacement contract will provide the Council with sustainable arrangements for commissioning arboricultural work on a planned and responsive basis. It will avoid indirect costs that are likely to be incurred from procuring such work on an ad-hoc basis and provide a service in response to emergencies or call-outs outside of normal office hours.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not to replace the existing contract would result in arboricultural work having to be undertaken in an ad-hoc way, outside of a framework contract, which would result in increased costs.

40. GREEN WASTE COMPOSTING SERVICE – RE-PROCUREMENT FOR A NEW CONTRACT TO RUN FROM 1ST NOVEMBER 2019

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Locality Services – Provision seeking approval to begin a procurement exercise for a new Green Waste Composting Service Contract to run from 1 November 2019.

Decision Made: That

- (1) the proposed Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) compliant procurement process for a new Joint Green Waste Composting Contract to run from 1st November 2019 be approved; and
- (2) delegated authority be granted to the Head of Locality Services
 Provision to award the Contract resulting from the procurement in
 consultation with the Cabinet Member Locality Services.

Reasons for the Decision:

The current contract for the delivery of green garden waste for composting comes to an end on 31 October 2019. This was a joint authority contract. There is no option to extend the contract for a further period. The Contract will have to be re-tendered in order to maintain composting facilities for green garden waste to be delivered.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

None.

41. ACCEPTANCE OF CONTRACT VARIATIONS FOR EXTENSION OF EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL INVESTMENT FUND INITIATIVES

The Cabinet considered the report of the Executive Director advising Members of arrangements to extend the current provision of support to local businesses and workless residents undertaken by the InvestSefton and Sefton@work teams through an extension of European Structural Investment Fund (ESIF) grants. The report also sought permission for delegated authority to be granted to the Cabinet Member - Regeneration and Skills to accept the necessary contract variations for both the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) which would be forthcoming from the Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority over the forthcoming period, in consultation with the Head of Corporate Resources and Head of Regulation and Compliance. The delegated authority would allow the Council to maintain these essential services for workless residents and businesses without a break in continuity of service for local businesses and workless residents.

Decision Made: That

- (1) the in-principle approval received by the LCR Combined Authority for extension to the "Ways to Work" ESF programme in Sefton under PA1.3 (for young people aged 16 29) and the submission of the extension request for funding under PA1.1 (Adults aged over 18) be noted;
- the in-principle approval received by the LCR Combined Authority for extension to the PA3 ERDF Business Growth Programme t/a LCRIBS (Liverpool City Region Integrated Business Support) programme be noted;
- (3) the in-principle approval received by the LCR Combined Authority for extension to the PA3 ERDF Place Marketing for Investment programme be noted; and
- (4) acceptance of the ESIF grant offers for delivery in Sefton be delegated to the Cabinet Member Regeneration and Skills in line with the advice received from the Head of Corporate Resources and Head of Regulation and Compliance prior to bid submission.

Reasons for the Decision:

The contract variations from the LCR Combined Authority will allow the Sefton@work and InvestSefton services to continue to offer high quality, value for money interventions which provide key services in our local economy. Both services, under the Investment and Employment division have been largely self-funded since 2011 and have managed, through a

CABINET - THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

variety of grants and contracts, to undertake a range of important support services which have driven up employment, advocated for vulnerable people, captured social value for Sefton citizens, supported the growth of SMEs and attract new inward investment over a number of years. The Sefton delivery for both business support and employment support each operate as constituent parts of wider economic development initiatives led by the LCR Combined Authority. This offers a degree of financial stability and shared risk. The contract variations will allow these services to be retained and developed further and the grant intervention rates on offer are extremely attractive with ESF for young people (incorporating YEI) offering a rate of 25% match funding to 75% grant and ERDF 50% match to 50% grant.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not to apply for EU funding would be to forego the benefits (financial, social and economic) associated with external funding and would mean that Sefton would fall behind other Local Authorities on this important agenda. EU funding has supported an essential pillar of key elements of the Council's Investment and Employment Service from 2016 onwards, and these extensions will support the delivery of key objectives for prosperity and jobs expressed in the Council's Vision for 2030. The opportunity to maximise Youth Employment Initiative funding (YEI), in addition to European Social Fund, offers a particularly desirable level of grant intervention rate unavailable through other means. The current extension would allow the Sefton@work offer for workless residents to be fully optimised as the Council moves forward with its commitment to developing resilience and independence among workless residents. The extension of ERDF would allow InvestSefton to support the growth of more enterprises in Sefton, help in attracting new investment and expand their capacity to employ more residents. Given the UK's decision to exit the European Union in 2019, there are no expectations that further European Structural funds will be made available for the North West in future. However, the UK government is keen to utilise all available EU monies prior to Brexit and this extension is likely to represent the last funding opportunity of its kind.

42. PROCUREMENT PROCESS FOR THE PROVISION OF ENFORCEMENT AGENT SERVICES

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources seeking approval for officers to begin the process of a mini competition under the Rotherham Enforcement and Debt Collection Service Framework. The existing contract under the Rotherham Enforcement and Debt Collection Services Framework was due to expire on 31 March 2019. To ensure enforcement action could continue, a procurement process for Enforcement Agent services was required.

The report indicated that for many years the Council had used the services of external Enforcement Agent Companies as a last resort to recover the various debts it was owed.

Most people payed the Council on time but some tried to delay payment for as long as possible. However, the Council recognised that many people and businesses in our community faced challenges in the current economic climate, particularly in the light of welfare reform changes. To assist in mitigating these challenges, the Council had included a number of support procedures within the debt collection process and the report outlined these support procedures.

The Council complied with all relevant Government legislation that governed the collection of debt and applied best practice to Council Tax debt collection, as recommended by the Local Government Association.

Decision Made: That

- (1) the procurement process of a mini competition under the EU procurement regime compliant Rotherham Enforcement and Debt Collection Services Framework, be approved;
- (2) the decision on which Enforcement Agent companies will be awarded the contract for enforcement and debt collection services and the contract for warrants of arrest without bail, be delegated to the Head of Corporate Resources; and
- (3) the Monitoring Officer be authorised to draw up the appropriate contracts to run for a period of 3 years, with an option to extend for one year.

Reasons for the Decision:

Existing contracts are due to expire on 31 March 2019. Enforcement Agents are a vital additional resource for the collection of unpaid debt due to the Council.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

- 1. The option of not appointing a contractor was considered but dismissed. This was because the Authority cannot risk not collecting a sizeable percentage of its annual income without the support of Enforcement Agents.
- 2. The Council could conduct an EU procurement regime compliant exercise, approaching the whole market directly. This option however would require a much longer timescale as the tender opportunity would need to be advertised in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU). Further, the volume of bids submitted is unpredictable and so in addition to managing a longer advertising period, officers could easily find that evaluation of bids also takes a

CABINET - THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

- much longer period. This could prove problematic as the existing contracts expire on 31/03/2019 and would be an inefficient use of the Council's resources. Therefore, this option has been rejected.
- 3. Contracts can also be awarded under a concession agreement with direct awards to successful bidders. However, there is a limit to the value of the contracts that can awarded as a concession based on the value over the lifetime of the contracts. It has been assessed that the potential value of the contracts would exceed the OJEU threshold. A tender process would still be required by way of advertisement via OJEU that would open the process to unlimited competition and would be an inefficient use of the Council's resources. This is also likely to extend the timescale to procure services which could negatively impact on the collections process.

43. UTILITY PROCUREMENT PLAN

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources seeking approval for the appointment of an electricity and gas supplier for contracts commencing 1 April 2019, for four year contracts.

Decision Made: That

- (1) approval be granted for the procurement of electricity supplies for all Council buildings, including schools and street lighting, to be delivered through a Central Purchasing Body (CPB), namely Yorkshire Purchasing Organisation (YPO);
- (2) approval be granted for the Council to join the YPO Electricity Supply Framework, with instruction to purchase electricity supplies on behalf of the Council for contracts commencing 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2023;
- (3) approval be granted for the continuation of the Council utilising Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Gas Supply Framework as the provider of gas contracts for the period 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2023;
- (4) approval be granted for the continuation of the authority previously delegated to the Head of Corporate Resources and the Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence to sign the Customer Access Agreements for both CCS and YPO supply frameworks:
- (5) approval be granted for the Head of Corporate Resources to report the results of the electricity and gas procurement exercise and his actions to a future meeting with the Cabinet Member Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services; and

(6) it be noted that planning for contract options for Council water supplies is underway.

Reasons for the Decision:

Approval is sought for the proposals of the procurement of electricity and gas for 2019/20 for 4 year contracts.

The use of existing public sector framework contracts and alternative procurement models have been thoroughly investigated within the context of achieving maximum future business value to the Council and the partners on its contracts.

To establish a new electricity contract with a new supplier in a timely manner to minimise risk in exposing the Council to default penalty rates beyond 31 March 2019, which are significantly higher in cost.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Allowing the contracts to expire and enter default rates would expose the Council to significant financial risk.

To continue with operating an in-house Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) procurement exercise for electricity and/or gas supply is considered onerous when the public sector frameworks offer demonstrable value for money in the current energy market. The officer time involved in such a lengthy procurement process is better directed towards actions to reduce consumption across the Council.

44. MID-YEAR REVIEW 2018/19 AND MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN UPDATE 2019/20 ONWARDS (INCORPORATING THE REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET UPDATE 2018/19)

The Cabinet considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources informing Members of: -

- (i) the current forecast revenue outturn position for the Council for 2018/19 following the Mid-Year Review;
- (ii) the current forecast budget gap for 2019/20 following the Mid-Year Review and the actions required to ensure a balanced budget could be set early in 2019;
- (iii) an initial view on the potential budget gap for 2020/21 and factors that might have a significant impact on this budget gap;
- (iv) the current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for 2018/19; and,

CABINET - THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

(v) the current position of the Capital Programme.

Members of the Cabinet referred to budget pressures within certain service areas and further information on the budget situation would be presented in due course.

Decision Made: That

- (1) the forecast deficit revenue outturn position for 2018/19 following the Mid-Year Review (including the achievement of approved Public Sector Reform savings) and the proposed actions to mitigate this deficit, be noted;
- the forecast budget gap for 2019/20 following the Mid-Year Review and the proposed approach to identifying proposals to meet this budget gap, be noted;
- the potential budget gap for 2020/21 and the factors that could have a significant impact on this budget gap, be noted;
- (4) the forecast position on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates for 2018/19, be noted; and
- (5) the current progress in the delivery of the 2018/19 Capital Programme, be noted.

Reasons for the Decision:

In March 2017, the Council approved a three-year budget plan to March 2020. The final two years of this plan were revised in March 2018 as part of the process of setting the 2018/19 budget. As the Council is nearly half way through the second year of this budget plan it remains confident that its continued strategic approach to budget planning, alongside good financial management and extensive community engagement, means that the plan continues to develop on solid foundations, remains flexible and will secure the future sustainability to 2020 and beyond. However, in-year demand for social care services is currently resulting in the costs for these services exceeding the budget. Corrective action will be required to bring the overall budget into balance.

The recommendations in this report start to provide the basis on which the budget plan would be balanced for the financial year 2019/20 and will ensure that the Council's statutory obligations are met.

To ensure the Cabinet is informed of the forecast outturn position for the 2018/19 revenue and capital budgets as at the end of July 2018 and to provide an updated forecast of the outturn position with regard to the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

Not applicable.

45. SENIOR MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE REVIEW

The Cabinet considered the report of the Chief Executive putting into effect changes in the Senior Management of the Council as a result of the ongoing review of function and capacity, and enabling the Authority to be best placed in terms of meeting its 2030 Vision and core purpose. The changes resulted in an overall reduction of two posts. Appendix 1 to the report illustrated the current structure of Senior Management within the Council. The proposed structure was set out at Appendix 2 to the report.

Decision Made: That

- (1) the deletion of the post of Head of Regulation and Compliance be authorised:
- (2) the future deletion, at a time at the discretion of the Chief Executive, of the post of Head of Locality Services Commissioned and subsequent potential redundancy of the current post-holder, be authorised. It is envisaged that any redundancy would only take place subject to normal processes and would be on or around 31 December 2018, subject to a successful transition of matters, as detailed in the report;
- (3) a new post of Head of Highways and Public Protection be created, to assume the responsibilities listed within the report;
- (4) the future deletion of the post of Head of Commissioning and Business Intelligence, be authorised, the duties to be subsumed within the Head of Strategic Support Post; the current post-holder of the Head of Commissioning and Business Intelligence to be moved into the Head of Highways and Public Protection post;
- (5) the formation of a new role of Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be authorised, with the assimilation of an individual into that role;
- (6) the Head of Communities role to assume responsibility for the areas as listed within the report, taking over some responsibility which currently resides with the Head of Health and Wellbeing and Head of Schools and Families, with consequent changes to the roles of Head of Health and Wellbeing and Head of Schools and Families;
- (7) the Head of Schools and Families Post be re-designated as Head of Education Excellence, to take up responsibilities as detailed within the report;
- (8) the other Heads of Service to take up responsibilities as detailed in the report;

CABINET - THURSDAY 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2018

- (9) the Chief Executive be authorised to implement the changes, subject to any necessary procedures, in role, job function and functional areas, at a time and pace to be considered in consultation with the relevant Cabinet Members; and
- (10) the Chief Executive and Chief Personnel Officer be authorised under normal procedures to consider the impact of changes to job grades under the HAY Scheme and consult the Cabinet Member Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

Reasons for the Decision:

To ensure that the future Management Structure is fit for purpose and reflects the priorities set out in the 2030 Vision and the Council's Core Purpose.

Alternative Options Considered and Rejected:

The changes could be rejected. However, this would lead to a loss of efficiency and a failure to make anticipated savings.

Organisationally the changes provide for a structure which is fit for purpose, whereas without changes, the structure is operating below the desired standards.

Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	Thursday 4 October 2018	
Subject:	Information, Advice and Guidance Service for Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) Young People			
Report of:	Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence	Wards Affected:	(All Wards);	
Portfolio:	Cabinet Member - Re	egeneration and Skills		
Is this a Key Decision:	Yes	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes	
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No			

Summary:

This report seeks authorisation to procure a new Information, Advice and Guidance (IAG) service for a period of up to four years to deliver the Council's statutory duties in relation to NEET young people, with an additional range of preventative actions for those at risk of becoming NEET.

Recommendation(s):

That Cabinet:

- 1) Authorises a procurement exercise, subject to a satisfactory and compliant tender process, to vary an earlier decision to enter into a contract for two years and to enter a longer contract of up to four years' duration from April 2019,
- (2) Delegates authority to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Skills, in conjunction with the Head of Corporate Resources and the Head of Commissioning Support and Business Intelligence to finalise the structure of the contract to be procured before publication on the Chest and to award the Contract following completion of a satisfactory and compliant tender process.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

The Council made an application to the Government's Life Chances Fund earlier this year which has unfortunately not been supported. The intention had been to incorporate top-up funding from this source together with other funding from social investors to create a new IAG service offer with a Social Impact Bond at its core. The decision on Life Chances Fund was taken at HM Govt. Cabinet level via DCMS and was made public in September 2018. Advice has been sought from social investment specialists and this

has indicated that a longer contract duration, given the absence of Life Chances Fund finance, would make Sefton's scheme more viable for other social investors.

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

1. Procure a contract until March 2020 in line with the decision taken by Cabinet in November 2017

There has been significant delay in the time taken to assess the Life Chances Fund which has impacted upon the Cabinet's previous decision, reducing the amount of time available for the introduction of a new service. Advice has indicated that, in the absence of government funding through Life Chances Fund, a longer contract period would increase the commercial attractiveness of our procurement opportunity and provide greater scope for suppliers to deliver innovative approaches.

2. Procure a jointly commissioned service alongside the LCR Local Authority partners.

This option has been considered as at least four of the Merseyside LAs have been working together on IAG commissioning for some years and their approach has led to changes in the pattern of service delivery across the sub-region. In particular, NEET data tracking/reporting and engagement /support activities have been undertaken elsewhere by in- house LA staff while careers guidance has been sourced externally. In Sefton, however we have not operated these services in-house. This option has been rejected as it would require a TUPE transfer of staff from the existing supplier into the Council, which is not deemed appropriate from a financial perspective.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

This contract will be procured within the current budget provision of £0.743m per year with the proviso that annual budget planning will reflect available resources beyond the scope of the Council's current mid-term financial plan.

(B) Capital Costs

Implications of the Proposals:

Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):		
I and implications.		
Legal Implications:		

As determined by the Council's Contract Procedure Rules, the contract will need to be sealed as its total value will be in excess of £100,000, It will be a requirement to follow the Public Contract Regulations 2015 and the Council's Contract Procedure Rules.

Equality Implications:

There are no equality implications

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Protect the most vulnerable:

The focus of this procured activity will be to ensure that young people facing significant challenges in their lives will be well supported, enabling them to access impartial and high-quality advice about developing their plans to progress in learning and employment, thereby improving their future prosperity.

Facilitate confident and resilient communities:

IAG for NEET young people is a key element in developing their personal resilience and their capacity to deal positively with challenges in their lives that may influence their choice of career and their aspirations. The focus on NEET young people and their reengagement in meaningful learning contributes significantly to their individual skillsets but also impacts upon their parents, families and communities.

Commission, broker and provide core services:

There are statutory elements of this procurement that the Council needs to secure, including (but not limited to) the destination tracking and reporting of young people aged 16 and 17 years old.

Place – leadership and influencer:

The re-engagement of young people who are NEET has a key role to play in placemaking within neighbourhoods where anti-social, disruptive or criminal behaviour is associated with high rates of youth disengagement.

Drivers of change and reform:

This service seeks to incorporate innovation in both service delivery, the methods of contract management and through introduction of outcomes based contracting. We will be in a position to share the practice arising from this approach with our neighbouring Local Authorities across the city region to help improve services for NEET young people.

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

High quality careers guidance for young people assists them to make choices at pivotal stages in their lives. Positive engagement with employers and training providers to advocate for the needs of young people with complex issues is central to ensuring that young people in Sefton can achieve their career aspirations and lead independent, prosperous lives.

Greater income for social investment:

This proposal will seek to incorporate social investment as part of the procurement exercise to deliver additional investment from other sources to augment the level of impact for young people from the Council's own spending.

Travel planning for young people is a key part of the decision-making process for them to make their choices regarding learning and employment options and this activity will be included within the procured service

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

The Head of Corporate Resources (FD 5307/18) and Head of Regulation and Compliance (LD.4532/18) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

(B) External Consultations

Implementation Date for the Decision

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

(Please delete as appropriate and remove this text)

Contact Officer:	Claire Maguire, Ian Weller
Telephone Number:	Tel: 0151 934 2684,
Email Address:	claire.maguire@sefton.gov.uk, ian.weller@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

Background Papers:

None

1. Introduction/Background

- 1.1 The Council has been pursuing its development of the new IAG service with an intention to achieve a step-change in value and impact in the advisory and engagement services through the Council's direct investment in the future of our young people.
- 1.2 In November 2017 Cabinet approved the procurement of a IAG services with a contract period of 2 years from 1st September 2018 to 31st March 2020, with an option to extend annually for a further two years based on successful performance. Cabinet also agreed that the specification would include an invitation for providers to source suitable partners and investors willing to work

- with Sefton Council to maximise the social impact of this activity through additional social investment.
- 1.3 The Council subsequently developed a bid to the Government's Life Chances Fund (LCF) to secure additional "top-up" funding for a new service. In order to ensure the procurement exercise had sufficient clarity to secure an appropriate supplier, the procurement exercise was delayed until after the outcome of the Life Chances Fund was known. In the meantime, the existing contract with the supplier was extended to enable continuity of service for young people. This extension was undertaken within the legal parameters of the original contract.
- 1.4 As part of the LCF application process, funding was provided to the Council to commission a feasibility study, which was produced by a specialist agency called Numbers4Good, in order to explore the possibility of introducing social investment into the budget for IAG. The feasibility study was produced and accepted in early April 2018, with input from relevant cabinet members. Amongst other things, the feasibility study identified that a longer contract period would increase the commercial and investment attractiveness of this procurement opportunity, hence the current request to vary Cabinet's earlier decision and allow for a longer contract period of up to 4 years.
- 1.5 Following from the recommendations of the feasibility report, the Council applied for top-up funding to the Government's Life Chances Fund, administered through the Big Lottery. Unfortunately, this application has now not been supported and the outcome of the decision was significantly delayed by government as applicants had been informed the decision would be made public in mid-summer 2018.
- 1.6 There is a need to re-evaluate the way forward at pace and in a way that delivers our aspirations, whilst also securing a reliable service for young people by April 2019.
- 1.7 At this stage, it is likely that a combined approach will provide the most effective solution. This needs further development but will likely incorporate elements of Fee for Service contracting to deliver our statutory duty for NEET and vulnerable young people aged 16 and 17 years (and up to aged 25 for SEND) with an Outcomes based model which can deliver preventative work with younger people who are at risk of becoming NEET.
- 1.8 It is still proposed to procure the contract via The Chest portal, using an EU compliant process in accordance with the Council's Contract Procedure Rules. The basis of evaluation will utilise the principles of MEAT (i.e. Most Economically Advantageous Tender) taking into consideration a balance between Quality and Cost. The procurement approach will include options for termination or renegotiation at the end of each year depending upon available resources, the achievement of contracted outcomes or mitigation of any under-performance of the appointed contractor.



Report to:	Cabinet	Date of Meeting:	4 October 2018
Subject:	Revenue and Capita	ll Budget Update 2018	3/19 – 2019/20
Report of:	Head of Corporate Resources	Wards Affected:	All Wards
Portfolio:	Regulatory, Complia	ince and Corporate Se	ervices
Is this a Key Decision:	No	Included in Forward Plan:	Yes
Exempt / Confidential Report:	No		

Summary:

To inform Cabinet of: -

- i) The current forecast revenue outturn position for the Council for 2018/19 and potential impact on the 2019/20 budget;
- ii) The current forecast on Council Tax and Business Rates collection for 2018/19; and.
- iii) The current position of the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Recommendations:

Cabinet is recommended to: -

- i) Review and consider the forecast deficit revenue outturn position for 2018/19 and the potential impact on the budget for 2019/20, (including the achievement of approved Public Sector Reform savings);
- ii) Note the significant budget pressure and the urgency for service areas to bring forward new budget saving proposals for Member consideration in time to deliver a balanced budget position in 2018/19 and 2019/20:
- iii) Note the forecast position on the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates for 2018/19:
- iv) Note the current progress in the delivery of the 2018/19 Capital Programme.

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To ensure Cabinet are informed of the forecast outturn position for the 2018/19 revenue and capital budgets as at the end of August 2018 and to provide an updated forecast of the outturn position with regard to the collection of Council Tax and Business Rates.

In March 2017 Council approved a three-year budget plan to March 2020. The final two years of this plan were revised in March 2018 as part of the process of setting the 2018/19 budget. As the Council is nearly half wav through the second year of this budget plan it

remains confident, that its continued strategic approach to budget planning alongside good financial management and extensive community engagement, means that the plan continues to develop on solid foundations, remains flexible and will secure the future sustainability to 2020 and beyond. However, in year demand for social care services is currently resulting in the costs for these services exceeding the budget. Corrective action will be required to bring the overall budget into balance before the end of the financial year.

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

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs

The report indicates that for 2018/19 there is currently a forecast deficit of £9.230m which can partially be off-set with approximately £6.500m of mitigating, one-off, actions. The Council will need to identify around a further £2.7m worth of savings to achieve a balanced position at the year end, and officer are currently reviewing potential areas for savings.

(B) Capital Costs

The Council's capital budget in 2018/19 is £35.924m. As at the end of August 2018, expenditure of £6.086m has been incurred and a full year outturn of £32.068m is currently forecast.

Implications of the Proposals:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out as follows:

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

There is currently a budget shortfall of £9.230m, one-off mitigating measures of £6.5m have been identified, therefore approximately a further £3m of savings will need to be identified by officers.

Legal Implications:

None

Equality Implications:

None

Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

Effective Financial Management and the development and delivery of sustainable annual budgets support each theme of the Councils Core Purpose.

Protect the most vulnerable:
N/A
Facilitate confident and resilient communities:
N/A

Commission, broker and provide core services:

N/A

Place – leadership and influencer:

N/A

Drivers of change and reform:

N/A

Facilitate sustainable economic prosperity:

N/A

Greater income for social investment:

N/A

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

(A) Internal Consultations

Cleaner Greener:

N/A

The Head of Corporate Resources is the author of the report (FD 5309/18)

The Chief Legal and Democratic Officer has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report (LD 4534/18).

(B) External Consultations

N/A

Implementation Date for the Decision

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

Contact Officers: Stephan Van Arendsen

Tel: 0151 934 4082

Email: Stephan.VanArendsen@sefton.gov.uk

Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

Background Papers:

There are no background papers for inspection

1. Introduction

- 1.1 In March 2017, Council approved a three-year budget plan to March 2020. The final two years of this plan were revised in March 2018 as part of the process of the Council setting the 2018/19 budget. The March 2018 report outlined that due to the financial pressures being faced by the Council a mid-year review would be undertaken. This initial position on the mid-year review was reported to Cabinet in September 2018. This report builds upon that work, updates the forecast revenue outturn position for 2018/19 and highlights the further work that is being undertaken to balance the budget for 2018/19.
- 1.2 The report also outlines the current position regarding key income streams for the Authority, namely Council Tax and Business Rates. Variations against expected receipts in these two areas will also affect the Council's financial position in future years.
- 1.3 An updated position regarding the 2018/19 Capital Programme is also provided as at the end of August.

2. Summary of the Forecast Outturn Position as at the end of August 2018

2.1 Members were provided with an update of the Council's forecast financial position (first stage of the Mid-Year Review), at the last Cabinet meeting. Significant pressures were identified in several service areas, particularly Adult / Children's Social Care, Locality Services – Provision and Home to School Transport. The latest forecast of service expenditure indicates a slight improvement in the overall financial position, with an overspend of £5.848m (£6.068m in July). The table below highlights the variations:

	Budget	Forecast Outturn	Variance	Previously Reported Position
	£m	£m	£m	£m
<u>Services</u>				
Strategic Management	3.049	3.049	0.000	0.000
Strategic Support Unit	4.006	3.993	(0.013)	(0.013)
Adult Social Care	94.369	95.134	0.765	1.084
Children's Social Care	28.137	31.957	3.820	3.516
Communities	8.255	8.185	(0.070)	(0.061)
Corporate Resources	5.116	4.631	(0.485)	(0.503)
Health & Wellbeing	22.541	22.157	(0.384)	(0.384)
Inward Investment and	2.447	2.505	0.058	0.038
Employment				
Locality Services -	20.071	19.950	(0.121)	0.000
Commissioned				
Locality Services - Provision	10.536	11.474	0.938	1.078
Regeneration and Housing	4.757	4.473	(0.284)	(0.168)
Regulation and Compliance	3.783	3.757	(0.026)	(0.143)
Schools and Families	23.097	24.426	1.329	1.339

Total Service Net	230.164	235.691	5.527	5.783
Expenditure				
Public Sector Reform	(4.511)	(4.511)	0.000	0.000
Savings not allocated to			(see para	(see para
services			2.2)	2.2)
Reversal of Capital Charges	(13.353)	(13.353)	0.000	0.000
Council Wide Budgets	10.918	11.239	0.321	0.285
Levies	33.255	33.255	0.000	0.000
General Government Grants	(34.194)	(34.194)	0.000	0.000
Total Net Expenditure	222.279	228.127		
-				
Forecast Year-End Deficit			<u>5.848</u>	<u>6.068</u>

The key changes in the outturn position are as follows: -

- The Adult Social Care budget is forecast to be in deficit by £0.765m based on the August forecast; an improvement of £0.319 on the previous month. Reduced pressures on the Community Care budget has resulted a decrease in the overspend from £2.3m to £1.9m. The forecast assumes no further increase in demand or cost pressures within the Community Care budget between August and the end of the financial year, however, demand is unpredictable therefore as in previous years detailed monitoring will need to be undertaken within this budget.
- Children's Social Care costs are forecasted to increase the year-end deficit by £0.304m. Children's Placements and Package costs also continue to rise with growing numbers of Looked After Children (493 up from 484 in July) and on going costs associated with care leavers, despite being partially offset by some received CCG funding (£0.500m). These budgets are forecast to overspend by £3.815m; an increase of £0.252m from July. Other pressures relate to the legal costs of handling Children's Social Care cases at Court, which is forecast to overspend by £0.202m (£0.111m in July). This is due to rising costs of representation and increasing caseloads through the Courts. Other areas of the budget however, are forecast to underspend, mostly a result of vacancy turnover across the social work teams (£0.177m less compared to July).
- Locality Services Commissioned. A saving of £0.121m is forecast when compared to last month. This is mainly a result of staff savings (£0.047m) and additional income from permits and street naming and numbering (£0.074m).
- Localities Services Provision is currently forecasting an overspend by £0.938m; a reduction of £0.140m when compared to the July position. This is mainly due to better forecast performance in Vehicle Maintenance (£0.100m) and Burials (£0.040m).
- Regulation and Compliance forecast outturn position is now expected to be in a slight deficit position (£0.010m) compared to the surplus expected in July (£0.143m). This is due to further costs (given an increase in the electoral register

numbers) and a financial year which holds a Sefton only Borough Election (£0.023m); along with a shortfall in the Post budget due to a delay in the restructure of staffing the service (£0.053m). The functions of this service will be transferred to the Head of Corporate Resources and Head of Highways and Public Protection.

2.2 The 2018/19 Budget included £10.227m of savings from Public Sector Reform (PSR) projects. Current forecasts are that £6.845m of savings will be deliverable in the year (67%). There is a 2018/19 phasing issue amounting to £2.723m, however these savings are expected to be achieved in 2019/20 meaning that £9.568m (94%) in total is forecast to be delivered in 2019/20 and future years. It is forecast that £0.659m of the savings will ultimately not be delivered (6%). An analysis of the overall savings for 2018/19 are shown in the summary below:

	Total Saving 2018/19	Forecast - Achieved In 2018/19	Phasing Delivery 2019/20	Won't be delivered
	£m	£m	£m	£m
PSR1 - Acute Wrap Around	0.275	0.033	0.242	0.000
PSR2 – Locality Teams	5.100	2.894	2.206	0.000
PSR2 - Personalisation	1.000	0.835	0.165	0.000
PSR4 - All Age Pathway	0.415	0.121	0.000	0.294
PSR4 - Home to School	0.365	0.000	0.000	0.365
Transport				
PSR5 – An Excellent	0.319	0.319	0.000	0.000
Education for All				
PSR6 - Tourism	0.110	0.000	0.110	0.000
PSR6 - Other	0.748	0.748	0.000	0.000
PSR7 – Environment & Pride	0.695	0.695	0.000	0.000
of Place				
PSR8 – Asset Maximisation	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000
PSR9 – ICT & Digital Inclusion	0.300	0.300	0.000	0.000
PSR10 - Commissioning	0.450	0.450	0.000	0.000
Total Budget Pressure	10.227	6.845	2.723	0.659

2.3 The Council's overall forecast outturn position, before remedial action, is shown below:

	£m
2018/2019 Forecast Outturn	5.848
PSR - Unachievable 2018/2019	0.659
Ongoing Budget Pressures	6.507
PSR - Phasing 2018/2019	2.723
Total Forecast Budget Gap 2018/19	9.230

Options to close the residual gap in 2018/19

- 2.4 As Members will recall from the previous Cabinet report, there are substantial additional pressures being faced, particularly within social care, Locality Services Provision and Schools and Families. Officers have identified a number of one-off measures that will realise £6.5m of resources to partially bridge the budget gap in 2018/19. These include utilising the budget underspend from 2017/2018 (as reported to Cabinet on 26 July 2018), additional Adult Social Care Support Grant allocation announced by the Government late in the budget process and the impact of the change in VAT liability of certain leisure fees and charges being introduced earlier than previously anticipated.
- 2.5 The Council is committed to ensuring financial sustainability in the short and medium term. The three-year budget plan remains secure but more savings are required in light of increasing demand. In order to further improve the in-year position mitigating options are required for implementation as soon as possible in the second half of the financial year to maximise their impact. Service areas are reviewing budgets with a view to identifying uncommitted funding and other actions that could reduce the deficit including a moratorium on non-essential expenditure and a review of reserves and balances. There will be close monitoring of services under significant budget pressure, in particular Children's and Adults, to provide transparency regarding the current position and a focus on the short term forecast to ensure early identification should further cost pressures materialise as a result of continuing increases in statutory activity.
- 2.6 The seriousness of the budget position, despite the successful delivery of the three year PSR programme, requires the development of immediate remedial action and permanent proposals for implementation from April 2019. Due to the current outturn forecast, it is clear as previously reported to Cabinet that approximately £9-10m of additional pressure will be placed upon the 2019/20 budget (in addition to the current best estimate of £15m in respect of 2020/21). Senior officers are dedicating significant time over the coming weeks and engaging with members accordingly in order that the remaining in-year overspend is fully mitigated and sustainable budget options for forthcoming financial years can be presented for Members to consider.
- 2.7 Budget development sessions are due to take place with Heads of Service at the end of September. The aim of these sessions is to review all areas of the Council's activity both from a service delivery and budget point of view and identify areas for development of alternative delivery models at lower cost whilst maintaining or improving outcomes for service users. It is expected that a robust budget recovery plan will be presented in the December Budget Monitoring report to Cabinet.

3 Council Tax Income – Update

3.1 Council Tax income is shared between the billing authority (Sefton Council) and the two major precepting authorities (the Fire and Rescue Authority, and the Police and Crime Commissioner) pro-rata to their demand on the Collection Fund. The Council's Budget included a Council Tax Requirement of £127.485m for 2018/19 (including Parish Precepts), which represents 85.8% of the net Council Tax income of £148.595m.

- 3.2 The forecast outturn for the Council at the end of August 2018 is a surplus of £0.582m. This variation is primarily due to: -
 - The surplus on the fund at the end of 2017/18 being higher than estimated at -£0.005m;
 - Gross Council Tax Charges in 2018/19 being higher than estimated at -£0.089m;
 - Council Tax Reduction Scheme discounts being lower than estimated at £0.601m:
 - Exemptions and Discounts (including a forecasting adjustment) being higher than estimated at +£0.113m.
- 3.3 Due to Collection Fund regulations, the Council Tax surplus will not be transferred to the General Fund in 2018/19 but will be carried forward to be distributed in future years.

4 Business Rates Income - Update

- 4.1 Since 1 April 2017, Business Rates income has been shared between the Council (99%) and the Fire and Rescue Authority (1%). The Council's Budget included retained Business Rates income of £66.449m for 2018/19, which represents 99% of the net Business Rates income of £67.120m. Business Rates income has historically been very volatile making it difficult to forecast accurately.
- 4.2 The forecast outturn for the Council at the end of August 2018 is a surplus of £1.646m on Business Rates income. This is due to:
 - The surplus on the fund at the end of 2017/18 being higher than estimated -£2.169m;
 - Increase in the gross charge on rateable properties (-£0.088m)
 - Other reliefs (including a forecasting adjustment) being higher than estimated in 2018/19 at +£0.611m.
- 4.3 Due to Collection Fund regulations, the Business Rates deficit will not be transferred to the General Fund in 2018/19 but will be carried forward to be recovered in future years.

5 Capital Programme 2018/19

- 5.1 The approved capital budget for 2018/19 is £35.924m.
- 5.2 As at the end of August, expenditure of £6.086m (16.9%) has been incurred within the approved Capital Programme.

5.3 As part of the monthly review project managers are now stating that £32.068m will be spent by year end. This would result in an under spend on the year of £3.856m on the whole programme with an overall delivery rate of 89%. This is summarised below as follows:-

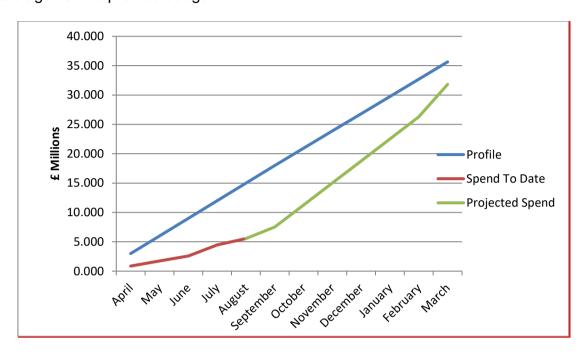
2018/19 Full Year Budget	Actual Expenditure as at August 2018	Forecast Actual Expenditure	Full Year Budget Variance
£m	£m	£m	£m
35.924	6.086	32.068	3.856

- 5.4 In order to achieve the revised forecast of £32.068m, expenditure of £25.982m will need to be incurred between now and the end of the year.
- 5.5 Key Variations on Overall Programme

It can be seen from the current forecast position that approximately £3.856m of expenditure will not be delivered in the current year. The key variations to this forecast are as follows:-

Scheme	Key Variation £'m	Funding Source	Explanation				
Funding No Long	er Required	(key items)					
Total							
Resources to be carried forward into next year (key items)							
Better Care Fund Allocation Balance	3.426	Better Care Fund Grant	Options are being reviewed for this funding. Slippage may change as and when these options are approved and implemented.				
Maghull Leisure Centre – Car Park	0.176	Prudential Borrowing	Scheme currently on hold pending negotiations with the Parish Council.				
Southport Pier	0.128	Revenue Contribution – Pier Sinking Fund	Scheme progress has been reviewed and as such request will be made to slip this resource into 2019/20.				
Total	3.730						

5.6 The graph below therefore shows the 2018/19 Capital Programme expenditure to date against the profiled budget.



5.7 A service by service breakdown of expenditure, forecast actual expenditure and full year budget variation as at August 2018 is shown in the following table:

	Full Year Budget £'m	Expenditure to date £'m	Exp to Date as % of Budget %	Forecast Actual Expenditure to Date £'m	Forecast Full Year Budget Variation £'m
Corporate Resources	5.117	1.604	31.3	5.083	0.034
New Schemes					
Bootle Town Hall - Cold Water System	0.020	0.000	0.0	0.020	0.000
Previous Year Schemes	5.097	1.604	31.5	5.063	0.034
Locality Services - Commissioned	13.204	1.747	13.2	13.204	0.000
New Schemes					
LTP - New Schemes	3.596	0.430	12.0	3.596	0.000
Additional Pothole Funding	0.468	0.217	46.4	0.468	0.000
Buckley Hill Car Park	0.081	0.000	0.0	0.081	0.000
<u>Previous Year Schemes</u>	9.059	1.100	12.1	9.059	0.000
Locality Services - Provision	2.530	1.245	49.2	2.530	0.000
Previous Year Schemes	2.530	1.245	49.2	2.530	0.000
Regeneration and Housing	0.452	0.004	0.9	0.452	0.000
Previous Year Schemes	0.452	0.004	0.9	0.452	0.000
Regulation and Compliance	0.009	0.000	0.0	0.009	0.000

Previous Year Schemes	0.009	0.000	0.0	0.009	0.000
Health & Wellbeing	0.241	0.031	12.9	0.072	0.169
Previous Year Schemes	0.241	0.031	12.9	0.072	0.169
Adult Social Care	3.994	0.006	0.2	0.568	3.426
New Schemes					
Approved Better Care Funding	2.078	0.000	0.0	0.000	2.078
Previous Year Schemes	1.916	0.006	0.3	0.568	1.348
Children's Services	5.737	0.365	6.4	5.661	0.076
New Schemes					
St Luke's Primary – Hall Extension	0.600	0.040	6.7	0.600	0.000
Crosby High - Special Needs WC	0.020	0.000	0.0	0.020	0.000
Impact PRU - Perimeter Fencing	0.015	0.000	0.0	0.015	0.000
Lydiate Primary - General Refurb Forefield Infants - New Toilet	0.100	0.016	16.0	0.100	0.000
Block Linaker Primary - Additional 1	0.175	0.000	0.0	0.175	0.000
Form Entry	0.700	0.080	11.4	0.700	0.000
Healthy Pupils Fund	0.164	0.000	0.0	0.164	0.000
Hudson Primary - Heating Ducts Provision	0.150	0.000	0.0	0.150	0.000
Linacre Primary - Classroom Refurb	0.066	0.012	18.2	0.066	0.000
Lydiate Primary – New lighting system	0.021	0.000	0.0	0.021	0.000
Redgate Primary – Rewiring	0.150	0.012	8.0	0.150	0.000
Farnborough Rd Infant – Replace felt roof	0.044	0.003	6.8	0.044	0.000
Farnborough Rd Junior – Replace brickwork	0.024	0.000	0.0	0.024	0.000
Forefield Infants – Replace security fence Merefield Special – Emergency	0.041	0.000	0.0	0.041	0.000
lighting Waterloo Primary - Kitchen	0.036	0.041	113.9	0.036	0.000
Alterations Impact PRU - CCTV & Security	0.025	0.000	0.0	0.025	0.000
Gates Netherton Moss Primary –	0.045	0.000	0.0	0.045	0.000
Kitchen Refurb	0.050	0.000	0.0	0.050	0.000
<u>Previous Year Schemes</u>	3.311	0.161	4.9	3.235	0.076
Communities	1.073	0.062	5.8	1.050	0.023
New Schemes					
Atkinson Studio Stage	0.030	0.000	0.0	0.030	0.000
<u>Previous Year Schemes</u>	1.043	0.062	5.9	1.020	0.023
Inward Investment & Employment	1.367	0.468	34.2	1.239	0.128
<u>Previous Year Schemes</u>	1.367	0.468	34.2	1.239	0.128
Total New Schemes 2017/18	8.729	0.851	9.7	6.651	2.078
Total Previous Year Schemes	24.995	4.651	18.6	23.217	1.778

Disabled Facilities Grant	2.200	0.554	25.2	2.200	0.000
Total Capital Programme	35.924	6.086	16.9	32.068	3.856

5.8 Financing of the 2018/19 Capital Programme

	Budget	
	£m	
Government Grants*		
Borrowing	7.608	
S106	1.550	
Contribution	1.238	
Capital Receipt	0.212	
TOTAL	35.924	

^{*}Includes capital receipts used to supplement government grants as detailed below.

Within the funding profile for schemes approved in 2016/17 it was assumed that £1.5m of capital receipts will be generated. As at the end of March 2018, £1.070m has been received leaving a balance due of £0.430m. As at the end of August 2018 £0.309m has been received leaving a balance required of £0.121m. It is anticipated this will be received early in 2019.