

COUNCIL

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 2020**

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

Councillors Atkinson, Blackburne, Bradshaw, Brennan, Brodie - Browne, Brough, Byrom, Carr, Carragher, Cluskey, Cummins, Dawson, Dodd, Doyle, Dutton, Evans, Fairclough, Friel, Gannon, Grace, Halsall, Hardy, Howard, Irving, Keith, John Kelly, John Joseph Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Lewis, Maher, Marshall, McCann, McGinnity, McKinley, Moncur, Morris, Murphy, Myers, Brenda O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, O'Hanlon, Pugh, Pullin, Roche, Roscoe, Sathiy, John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Shaw, Lynne Thompson, Tweed, Veidman, Waterfield, Sir Ron Watson and Webster

88. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bennett, Dowd, Hands, Jones, Pitt, Spencer, Thomas and Anne Thompson.

89. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

90. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 23 January 2020 be approved as a correct record.

91. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor of Sefton's Charity Ball

The Mayor reported that tickets were still on sale for her Gala Charity Ball on 28 March 2020. The Gala Charity Ball promised to be a great night and the Mayor hoped that her fellow Councillors could support this event by

attending. Tickets were available via the Mayor's office on 0151 934 2062 or email mayorsoffice@sefton.gov.uk

Motown and Burns Nights

The Mayor reported that her two previous Charity Nights, the Motown Night in November last year and the Burns Night on 25 January 2020, raised £1,245.00 towards the Charity Fund. Both nights were well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

Royal Visit – Monday 17 February 2020

The Mayor indicated that she was delighted to welcome the Princess Royal to Southport on Monday 17 February 2020 whilst she was visiting HM Passport Office at Smedley Hydro in Birkdale.

Mayor Elect 2020/21

The Mayor advised that Councillor Michael O'Brien had been nominated for the office of the Mayor of Sefton for 2020/21 and that the appointment would take place at the Annual Council Meeting to be held on 19 May 2020 at Bootle Town Hall.

92. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The Mayor reported that no matters had been raised by the public.

93. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

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

- (1) Councillor Shaw to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (2) Councillor Shaw to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (3) Councillor Pugh to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (4) Councillor Dawson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (5) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)

- (6) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)
- (7) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (8) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)
- (9) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services (Councillor Lappin)
- (10) Councillor Dawson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)
- (11) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (12) Councillor Dawson to the Cabinet Member – Locality Services (Councillor Fairclough)
- (13) Councillor Dawson to the Leader of the Council (Councillor Maher)

together with the responses given. Supplementary questions to questions 1, 5, 7, 8 and 9 were responded to by the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Members for Locality Services and Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services.

94. THE PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES - PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2020/21

Further to Minute No. 111 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2020 the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources advising that the CIPFA Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities was introduced following the Local Government Act 2003; that it detailed a number of measures / limits / parameters (Prudential Indicators) that were required to be set each financial year; and that the approval of these limits would provide a benchmark to measure actual performance against, to help ensure that the Council complied with relevant legislation, was acting prudently and that its capital expenditure proposals were affordable.

The report indicated that the Council was required to approve Prudential Indicators for the following items:

- (i) Capital Expenditure (Section 2);
- (ii) Financing Costs/Net Revenue Stream (Section 3);
- (iii) Capital Financing Requirement (Section 4);
- (iv) External Debt (Section 5-7); and
- (v) Treasury Management Indicators (Section 8).

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Prudential Indicators, as detailed in the report, be approved as the basis for compliance with The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- (2) it be noted that the relevant Prudential Indicators will be revised as required and that any changes will be submitted to Cabinet and then to Council for approval;
- (3) it be noted that the estimates of capital expenditure may change as grant allocations are received; and
- (4) authority be delegated to the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services in conjunction with the Cabinet Member – Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services to manage the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as detailed in Section 5 of the report.

95. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2020/21

Further to Minute No. 112 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2020 the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources that set out the following proposed policy and strategy documents, namely, the Treasury Management Policy, the Treasury Management Strategy and the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement.

The report indicated that the Council had adopted CIPFA's revised 2017 Code of Practice on Treasury Management in the Public Services which recommended the production of annual Treasury Management Policy and Strategy Documents; and that in addition, the Council had adopted and incorporated into both documents:

- (a) the requirements of the 2017 Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities; and
- (b) an Investment Strategy produced in line with the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) Statutory Guidance on Local Government Investments 2018. This set out the manner in which the Council would manage its investments, giving priority to the security and liquidity of those investments.

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the Treasury Management Policy Document for 2020/21 be approved;
- (2) the Treasury Management Strategy Document for 2020/21 be approved; and
- (3) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement 2020/21 be approved.

96. CAPITAL STRATEGY 2020/21 TO 2024/25

Further to Minute No. 113 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2020 the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources indicating that the Capital Strategy set out the long-term context in which capital expenditure and investment decisions were made and considered the impact of these decisions on the priorities within the Council's Core Purpose and Framework for Change Programme and the promises made in the 2030 Vision for Sefton; that at the heart of the Capital Strategy was the Council's core objective to continue to deliver financial sustainability; and that as such, a flexible capital investment programme was more important than ever as a method to stimulate and enable economic growth and strategic investment, ensuring best use of existing assets and of generating future income streams to pay for and deliver day to day services.

The Capital Strategy, attached to the report as Annex A, was a statutory document that the Council was required to have in place and be reviewed on an annual basis.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough

That the Capital Strategy as set out in Annex A of the report be approved.

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Brodie-Browne, seconded by Councillor Pugh

That the Motion be amended by the addition of the following paragraph:

- (2) as part of its capital strategy, requests the authority's Housing Company (Sandway Homes) to consider the scope for creating housing units and accommodation above shops in Lord St or through the use of redundant shopping units, and any market engagement necessary to achieve such an objective.

Following debate, on a show of hands the Mayor declared that the amendment was lost by 19 votes to 39.

Thereafter, on a show of hands the Mayor declared that the Motion was carried by 43 votes to 4 with 11 abstentions and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Capital Strategy as set out in Annex A of the report be approved.

97. ROBUSTNESS OF THE 2020/21 BUDGET ESTIMATES AND THE ADEQUACY OF RESERVES – LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 - SECTION 25

Further to Minute No. 114 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2020 the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Resources indicating that to comply with statute, the Chief Financial Officer was required to report to Council prior to the approval of the budget and the setting of the Council Tax, to give assurance that the budget was robust and that there were adequate reserves and balances.

The report also provided information on the following factors that had been considered:

- Financial Environment for Local Government and Sefton MBC
- Impact of previous years' budget - 2019/20
- Central Government funding
- Maintaining service delivery
- Resources to deliver change
- Inflation and annual cost increases
- Financial management
- CIPFA Financial Resilience Index and the CIPFA Financial Management Code
- Management of risk
- Capital Strategy and Strategic Investment
- External advice
- Reserves Strategy for 2020/21 and beyond

The report concluded that as a result of considering the issues contained within the report, it was the view that the budget proposed was a robust budget package and the opinion provided was in accordance with Section 25 of the Local Government Act 2003.

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) it be noted that the Local Government Act 2003, (section 25 as amended) requires the Chief Financial Officer to report formally on the following issues:
 - (a) an opinion as to the robustness of the estimate made and the tax setting calculations;
 - (b) the adequacy of the proposed financial reserves; and
 - (c) the production of longer-term revenue and capital plans;

and

- (2) the matters raised in this report be taken into consideration during the final stages of determining the budget for 2020/21.

**98. REVENUE AND CAPITAL BUDGET PLAN 2020/21 – 2022/23
AND COUNCIL TAX 2020/21**

Further to Minute No. 115 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 13 February 2020 the Council considered the report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Corporate Resources that provided:

- an assessment of the Council's current financial position and approach to the 2020/21 Budget Plan and preparation for the two-year budget period 2021/22 to 2022/23;
- an update on the Government's announcement of resources that were available to the Council for 2020/21;
- the Council's current financial position and the assumptions built into the Medium-Term Financial Plan;
- the proposed Budget for 2020/21; and
- the proposed Capital Programme for 2020/21.

The report set out the financial strategy of the Council and the national and local financial context within which it was operating and indicated that the Council had a statutory requirement to remain financially sustainable and to balance its budget every year.

The report also indicated that the Council's Framework for Change Programme was a comprehensive and ambitious programme that sought to support the delivery of the Council's core purpose; and that as would be expected with a programme of this size and complexity that spanned a number of financial years, the detailed proposals had been and would continue to be the subject of change as they were developed and ultimately implemented.

The Council also considered a copy of an update note prepared by the Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services which provided details of the Police, Fire, Mayoral and Parish Precepts and the draft Council Tax resolution which had been circulated to Members of the Council and published in a supplementary agenda prior to the start of the meeting.

It was moved by Councillor Maher, seconded by Councillor Fairclough

That:

- (1) the update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 be noted;

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 2020

- (2) the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 be approved and officers be authorised to undertake all of the necessary actions to implement the budget changes and proposals as detailed within the report;
- (3) the Framework for Change 2020 Programme (as described in Section 3) be approved and the commencement of all appropriate activity as detailed, including for example, consultation with employees and engagement with partners and contractual changes as the programme develops be agreed;
- (4) the current levels of trade union facility time and associated arrangements for the whole period of the budget plan for 2020/21 – 2022/23 be approved;
- (5) it be noted that officers will comply with agreed HR policies and procedures including relevant consultation with Trade Unions and reports to the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services as required;
- (6) the creation and funding of the Cost of Change budget, with a value of £3.0m (paragraph 3.49), and the increase in the Redundancy Reserve of £2.0m and the associated funding (paragraph 3.51) be approved;
- (7) access to funding from the Cost of Change budget be delegated to the Chief Executive and s151 officer as per current arrangements;
- (8) the Council making an upfront payment to the Merseyside Pension Fund to cover a proportion of the total contributions due for the three-year valuation period 2020/21 – 2022/23 be approved, and that this payment be funded from borrowing, to be fully repaid within the three-year period, which will generate a net saving to the Council;
- (9) the Schools' Forum decisions on the Dedicated Schools Grant and Individual School Budgets (Section 10) be noted;
- (10) the allocation of specific grants as detailed in the report (Section 11) be approved;
- (11) the Fees and Charges as proposed in the draft Council budget (Appendix C) be approved;
- (12) Subject to the recommendations above, the overall Council Tax resolution for 2020/21 including Police, Fire, Mayoral and Parish Precepts be approved;
- (13) the Capital schemes as detailed in Appendix D Approve for inclusion within the Capital Programme be approved.

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 2020

Councillors Maher, Pugh, Brough and McCann each gave a statement expressing the views of their political groups on the content of the report and the budget proposals.

Following debate on the report, an **amendment** was moved by Councillor Shaw, seconded by Councillor Pugh

That the budget proposals set out in the report be amended by the addition of the following recommendation (3):

- (3) recognising (1) that in excess of 95% of the Borough's 50,000+ gullies are now cleaned only once a year, and (2) the importance of fully functioning street drainage gullies to reducing the risk of flooding, the Council's revenue budget be varied by:

Investing an additional £0.018m in Gully Cleansing.

This extra provision to be contained within the existing Highways revenue budget.

The net impact of the proposed amendment will still ensure that the Council's Revenue Budget for 2020/21 remains balanced.

This would allow an extra 5000 gullies (in flooding "hot spots" etc) to be cleaned more than once a year, a quadrupling from the current c.1600;

and that recommendations (3) to (13) contained in the report be renumbered (4) to (14) accordingly

Following debate and in accordance with Rule 96 of Chapter 4 in the Constitution, the voting on the Amendment was recorded and the Members of the Council present at the time, voted as follows:

FOR THE AMENDMENT:

Councillors Brodie-Browne, Brough, Dawson, Dodd, Dutton, Evans, Keith, John Lewis, McCann, Morris, O'Hanlon, Pugh, Pullin, Sathiy, Shaw, Lynne Thompson and Sir Ron Watson.

AGAINST THE AMENDMENT:

Councillors Atkinson, Blackburne, Bradshaw, Brennan, Byrom, Carr, Carragher, Cluskey, Cummins, Doyle, Fairclough, Friel, Gannon, Grace, Halsall, Hardy, Howard, Irving, John Kelly, John Joseph Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Maher, Marshall, McGinnity, McKinley, Moncur, Murphy, Myers, Brenda O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, Robinson, Roche, Roscoe, John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Tweed, Viedman, Waterfield and The Mayor

The Mayor declared that the Amendment was **lost** by 17 votes to 40.

Following further debate and in accordance with Rule 96 of Chapter 4 in the Constitution, the voting on the Motion was recorded and the Members of the Council present at the time, voted as follows:

FOR THE MOTION

Councillors Atkinson, Blackburne, Bradshaw, Brennan, Byrom, Carr, Carragher, Cluskey, Cummins, Doyle, Fairclough, Friel, Gannon, Grace, Halsall, Hardy, Howard, Irving, John Kelly, John Joseph Kelly, Killen, Lappin, Maher, Marshall, McCann, McGinnity, McKinley, Moncur, Murphy, Myers, Brenda O'Brien, Michael O'Brien, O'Hanlon, Robinson, Roche, Roscoe, John Sayers, Yvonne Sayers, Tweed, Viedman, Waterfield, Webster and The Mayor

AGAINST THE MOTION

Councillors Brodie-Browne, Brough, Dawson, Dodd, Dutton, Evans, Keith, Lewis, Morris, Pugh, Pullin, Sathiy, Shaw, Lynne Thompson and Sir Ron Watson.

The Mayor declared that the Motion was carried by 43 votes to 15 and it was

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the update of the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the period 2020/21 to 2022/23 be noted;
- (2) the Revenue Budget for 2020/21 be approved and officers be authorised to undertake all of the necessary actions to implement the budget changes and proposals as detailed within the report;
- (3) the Framework for Change 2020 Programme (as described in Section 3) be approved and the commencement of all appropriate activity as detailed, including for example, consultation with employees and engagement with partners and contractual changes as the programme develops be agreed;
- (4) the current levels of trade union facility time and associated arrangements for the whole period of the budget plan for 2020/21 – 2022/23 be approved;
- (5) it be noted that officers will comply with agreed HR policies and procedures including relevant consultation with Trade Unions and reports to the Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services as required;
- (6) the creation and funding of the Cost of Change budget, with a value of £3.0m (paragraph 3.49), and the increase in the Redundancy Reserve of £2.0m and the associated funding (paragraph 3.51) be approved;
- (7) access to funding from the Cost of Change budget be delegated to the Chief Executive and s151 officer as per current arrangements;
- (8) the Council making an upfront payment to the Merseyside Pension Fund to cover

a proportion of the total contributions due for the three-year valuation period 2020/21 – 2022/23 be approved, and that this payment be funded from borrowing, to be fully repaid within the three-year period, which will generate a net saving to the Council;

- (9) the Schools' Forum decisions on the Dedicated Schools Grant and Individual School Budgets (Section 10) be noted;
- (10) the allocation of specific grants as detailed in the report (Section 11) be approved;
- (11) the Fees and Charges as proposed in the draft Council budget (Appendix C) be approved;
- (12) It be noted that at its meeting on 23 January 2020, the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2020/2021 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 1992 (as amended):
 - (a) 84,904.40 Band D equivalent properties, for the whole area [item T in the formula in Section 31B of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, as amended]; and
 - (b) for dwellings in those parts of its area to which a Parish precept relates as shown in the table below:

Parish	<u>Council Tax Base</u> (Band D Equivalent Properties)
Aintree Village	2,077.30
Formby	9,205.70
Hightown	873.10
Ince Blundell	170.50
Little Altcar	333.30
Lydiate	2,072.00
Maghull	6,766.50
Melling	1,014.70
Sefton	237.20
Thornton	788.80

- (13) the Council calculate that the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes 2020/2021 (excluding Parish Precepts) is £138,651,433;
- (14) the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2020/2021 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£614,048,577	Being Coun
-----	--------------	---------------

		31A(2) issue
(b)	-£474,218,208	Being estim the A
(c)	£139,830,369	Being above calcu Secti requi Secti
(d)	£1,646.92	Being by the the C Act, a year
(e)	£1,178,936	Being (Paris Act.
(f)	£1,633.03	Being given amou Coun Act, a year no sp
(g)	The amounts below, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amount at 3(b) above divided by the amount at 3(c) above to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided by the amount at 3(d) above calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act as based on the number of dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate.	
	<u>Parish</u>	£
	Aintree Village	1,70
	Formby	1,64
	Hightown	1,64
	Ince Blundell	1,64
	Little Altcar	1,64
	Lydiate	1,71
	Maghull	1,73

	Melling	1,66
	Sefton	1,67
	Thornton	1,64
(h)	The amounts below being the amounts given by multiplying the amounts at 3(f) and 3(g) above by the amount at 3(e) and Section 5(1) of the Act, is applicable to dwellings listed in a particular valuation band divided by the amount at 3(e) and dwellings listed in valuation Band D, calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 36(1) of the Act, for the year in respect of categories of dwellings listed in different valuation bands.	
		Property Valuation Band
	Proportion of Band D	
	<u>Parish</u>	
	Aintree Village	
	Formby	
	Hightown	
	Ince Blundell	
	Little Altcar	
	Lydiate	
	Maghull	
	Melling	
	Sefton	
	Thornton	
	<u>All Other Parts of the Council's Area</u>	

- (15) it be noted that for the year 2020/2021 the major precepting authorities have stated the following amounts in precepts issued to the Council in accordance with Section 40 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, for each of the categories of dwellings shown below

Proportion of Band D	Property Valuation Band					
	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Precepting Authority</u>						
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority	53.60	62.53	71.47	80.40	98.27	116.13
Merseyside Police and Crime Commissioner	141.31	164.87	188.42	211.97	259.07	306.18
Liverpool City	12.67	14.78	16.89	19.00	23.22	27.44

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 27TH FEBRUARY, 2020

Region Combined Authority						
---------------------------	--	--	--	--	--	--

(16) The Council, in accordance with Sections 30 and 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992, hereby sets the aggregate amounts shown in the table below as the amounts of Council Tax for 2020/2021 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings.

Proportion of Band D	Property Valuation Band					
	A	B	C	D	E	F
	6/9	7/9	8/9	9/9	11/9	13/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Parish</u>						
Aintree Village	1,345.43	1,569.68	1,793.92	2,018.15	2,466.62	2,915.10
Formby	1,302.91	1,520.06	1,737.22	1,954.36	2,388.66	2,822.96
Hightown	1,303.14	1,520.33	1,737.53	1,954.71	2,389.09	2,823.46
Ince Blundell	1,305.65	1,523.27	1,740.88	1,958.48	2,393.69	2,828.91
Little Altcar	1,302.91	1,520.06	1,737.22	1,954.36	2,388.66	2,822.96
Lydiate	1,349.68	1,574.63	1,799.58	2,024.52	2,474.41	2,924.30
Maghull	1,365.36	1,592.92	1,820.49	2,048.04	2,503.16	2,958.27
Melling	1,319.95	1,539.95	1,759.94	1,979.93	2,419.91	2,859.89
Sefton	1,324.37	1,545.11	1,765.84	1,986.56	2,428.01	2,869.47
Thornton	1,301.34	1,518.23	1,735.13	1,952.01	2,385.79	2,819.56
<u>All Other Parts of the Council's Area</u>	1,296.27	1,512.31	1,728.36	1,944.40	2,376.49	2,808.57

(17)

The
be e
52Z

(18)

the C
with

99. ETHICAL BUSINESS PRACTICES WORKING GROUP FINAL REPORT

Further to Minute No. 103 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 February 2020 the Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and

Democratic Officer that presented formally the final report of the Council's Ethical Business Practices Working Group.

It was moved by Councillor McKinley, seconded by Councillor John Sayers

That

- (1) the Head of Corporate Resources be requested to make arrangements, via the Council's decision-making processes, to include the revised statement of draft ethical business/investment principles as referred to below in the Treasury Management Strategy and to adopt it as part of the Council's Policy for investment:

ETHICAL INVESTMENT POLICY

"The Local Authority at times invests surplus funds with third party organisations and institutions and the Council's [core values](#) will play a major role in making investment decisions which will be aligned where possible to the following four overarching core principles;

- Sustainable and Responsible – manage the effect on the environment, community and for the good of society
- Value Based – invest in businesses that are aligned with the organisations core values;
- Maximising Impact – achieve a measurable positive, social or environmental impact, in addition to a financial return;
- Green – improving the environment."

In deciding and then approving the counterparty list in which the Council will invest, the principles of security, liquidity and yield will always be the primary consideration to ensure compliance with statutory guidance. As part of this evaluation, the Council will consider ethical investment opportunities and identify and apply an appropriate weighting based on the Council's Core Values/overarching core principles.

Where the Council deposits surplus balances overnight or for a short-term, investments will be made with financial institutions in a responsible manner (aligned to the overarching core principles/councils core values) where possible and in accordance with advice from its Treasury Management Advisor. In the event that the Council has surplus balances that it can invest for the longer term (e.g. terms over 1 year) it will exclude direct investment in financial products that do not contribute positively to society and the environment. This will include the principle that investment in specific financial products whose performance is driven by off-shore trading, financial malpractice, debt swops, short selling, the

arms trade and tobacco industry will be avoided. The same rigorous criteria will be used to assess whether investment in certain countries will be contrary to Sefton's [core values](#).

It is recommended that the Head of Corporate Resources, to assess whether investment in certain countries will be contrary to Sefton's [core values](#), give consideration to the exclusion of those countries on the [EU list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions](#) (the black list and the grey list), which aims to tackle external risks of tax abuse and unfair tax competition, within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

In order for these organisations to be included on the Council's counterparty list they will be evaluated against the same criteria as other counterparties and assessed against the Council's core values and ethical business and investment principles/policy, including the ethical weighting to ensure balance and investments are aligned with the new policy.

The Council's Treasury Management Team will be continually engage on progress in this sector, understanding where possible that Council investments and deposits are aligned with its core values – for example, generating income for social reinvestment and not investing in such companies as highlighted above.

This approach will be supported by considering the opportunity for ethical investments as part of the development of the annual Treasury Management Strategy and engaging with the Council's Treasury Management Advisors as to whether any investment is contrary to the Council's values (including the ethical investment weighting). A specific section in the annual Treasury Management report will cover how the adopted ethical investment strategy is being applied to investment decisions.

The Local Authority publishes a list of its investments to ensure openness and transparency.”;

- (2) the Head of Strategic Support be requested to make arrangements, via the Council's decision-making processes, to adopt the following revised statements of ethical procurement principles/policy.

ETHICAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

“The Local Authority routinely procures goods and services with a range of providers and the Council's [core values](#) will play a major role in making procurement decisions which will be aligned where possible to the following four overarching core principles;

- Sustainable and Responsible – manage the effect on the environment, community and for the good of society

- Value Based – work with businesses that are aligned with an organisations core values;
- Maximising Impact – achieve a measurable positive, social or environmental impact, as a result of a contract;
- Green – improving the environment.”

Procurement will enhance Social impact/value, including opportunities associated with national themes of Jobs: Promoting Local Skills and Employment; Growth: Supporting Sustainable Growth of Responsible Regional Business; Social: Healthier, Safer and more Resilient Communities; Environment: Protecting and Improving Our Environment; and Innovation: Promoting Social Innovation; and their outcomes and measures.

Implement and enhance a Procurement Strategy, based on the Local Government Association (LGA) National Procurement Strategy providing an effective mechanism for improving the social impact/social value from our contracted providers, particularly its focus on “Achieving Community Benefit”, which includes “obtaining social value”.

The local strategy for social value opportunities to include the increased emphasis in the refreshed Corporate Commissioning Framework and on developing an updated Social Value Action Plan.

Implement a stand-alone phased two-year Social Value Action Plan to include the guiding principles of catching up with those leading the field, going beyond compliance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, maximising the full breadth of Social Value outcomes and effectively measuring, monitoring and reporting delivery.

The Social Value Action plan will address the areas for development identified through the self-assessment against the LGA strategy and include tangible, clear, measurable, timebound targets to improve social value.

Maximise Social value opportunities connected with the joined-up approach across the Liverpool City Region – LCR Procurement Hub and work undertaken with Proactis and the Social Value Portal to join-up the Chest, the National Themes, Outcomes and measures and the online Measurement Tool”;

- (3) the Head of Strategic Support be requested to make arrangements, via the Council’s decision-making processes, to develop, adopt and implement a Social Value Action Plan in line with the following:

SOCIAL VALUE ACTION PLAN

“The guiding principles for development of our approach to Social Value are to catch up with those leading the field; Go beyond compliance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012; maximise full breadth of Social Value outcomes; and effectively measure, monitor and report delivery.

Self-assessment against “Obtaining Social Value” in the LGA National Strategy will provide a framework whereby we can evaluate what we already do and identify areas for improvement including assessment against the following statements, “the extent to which...”:

- the requirements of the Social Value Act are embedded into corporate policy;
- social value awareness is embedded across all management levels;
- social value themes, outcomes and measures are reported and used (including evaluating the usefulness of social accounting quantitative measures to evaluate impact);
- social value requirements are embedded in the commissioning process;
- social value requirements are embedded in the procurement process;
- obtaining social value is part of engagement and third-party relationships;
- social value requirements in contracts are managed;
- social value is embedded in a wider collaborative environment;
- obtaining social value is communicated and reported;
- social value is embedded and managed in the commissioning and procurement process.
- These can all be addressed within the scope of the guiding principles, through specific, tangible and time-bound actions in a Procurement/Social Value Action Plan.”

The policy will be reviewed on completion of the SV action Plan;

- (4) the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to submit a monitoring report to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Resources to be held in the June 2020 Committee cycle setting out progress made against each of the recommendations set out in the report and that thereafter, monitoring reports be submitted to the Committee on a six monthly basis; and
- (5) the Working Group be commended for their comprehensive report.

Following debate, on a show of hands the Mayor declared that the Motion was carried by 53 votes to 4 and it was

RESOLVED:

That

- (1) the Head of Corporate Resources be requested to make arrangements, via the Council's decision-making processes, to include the revised statement of draft ethical business/investment principles as referred to below in the Treasury Management Strategy and to adopt it as part of the Council's Policy for investment:

ETHICAL INVESTMENT POLICY

"The Local Authority at times invests surplus funds with third party organisations and institutions and the Council's [core values](#) will play a major role in making investment decisions which will be aligned where possible to the following four overarching core principles;

- Sustainable and Responsible – manage the effect on the environment, community and for the good of society
- Value Based – invest in businesses that are aligned with the organisations core values;
- Maximising Impact – achieve a measurable positive, social or environmental impact, in addition to a financial return;
- Green – improving the environment."

In deciding and then approving the counterparty list in which the Council will invest, the principles of security, liquidity and yield will always be the primary consideration to ensure compliance with statutory guidance. As part of this evaluation, the Council will consider ethical investment opportunities and identify and apply an appropriate weighting based on the Council's Core Values/overarching core principles.

Where the Council deposits surplus balances overnight or for a short-term, investments will be made with financial institutions in a responsible manner (aligned to the overarching core principles/councils core values) where possible and in accordance with advice from its Treasury Management Advisor. In the event that the Council has surplus balances that it can invest for the longer term (e.g. terms over 1 year) it will exclude direct investment in financial products that do not contribute positively to society and the environment. This will include the principle that investment in specific financial products whose performance is driven by off-

shore trading, financial malpractice, debt swops, short selling, the arms trade and tobacco industry will be avoided. The same rigorous criteria will be used to assess whether investment in certain countries will be contrary to Sefton's [core values](#).

It is recommended that the Head of Corporate Resources, to assess whether investment in certain countries will be contrary to Sefton's [core values](#), give consideration to the exclusion of those countries on the [EU list of non-cooperative tax jurisdictions](#) (the black list and the grey list), which aims to tackle external risks of tax abuse and unfair tax competition, within the Council's Treasury Management Strategy.

In order for these organisations to be included on the Council's counterparty list they will be evaluated against the same criteria as other counterparties and assessed against the Council's core values and ethical business and investment principles/policy, including the ethical weighting to ensure balance and investments are aligned with the new policy.

The Council's Treasury Management Team will be continually engaged on progress in this sector, understanding where possible that Council investments and deposits are aligned with its core values – for example, generating income for social reinvestment and not investing in such companies as highlighted above.

This approach will be supported by considering the opportunity for ethical investments as part of the development of the annual Treasury Management Strategy and engaging with the Council's Treasury Management Advisors as to whether any investment is contrary to the Council's values (including the ethical investment weighting). A specific section in the annual Treasury Management report will cover how the adopted ethical investment strategy is being applied to investment decisions.

The Local Authority publishes a list of its investments to ensure openness and transparency.”;

- (2) the Head of Strategic Support be requested to make arrangements, via the Council's decision-making processes, to adopt the following revised statements of ethical procurement principles/policy.

ETHICAL PROCUREMENT POLICY

“The Local Authority routinely procures goods and services with a range of providers and the Council's [core values](#) will play a major role in making procurement decisions which will be aligned where possible to the following four overarching core principles;

- Sustainable and Responsible – manage the effect on the environment, community and for the good of

- society
- Value Based – work with businesses that are aligned with an organisations core values;
- Maximising Impact – achieve a measurable positive, social or environmental impact, as a result of a contract;
- Green – improving the environment.”

Procurement will enhance Social impact/value, including opportunities associated with national themes of Jobs: Promoting Local Skills and Employment; Growth: Supporting Sustainable Growth of Responsible Regional Business; Social: Healthier, Safer and more Resilient Communities; Environment: Protecting and Improving Our Environment; and Innovation: Promoting Social Innovation; and their outcomes and measures.

Implement and enhance a Procurement Strategy, based on the Local Government Association (LGA) National Procurement Strategy providing an effective mechanism for improving the social impact/social value from our contracted providers, particularly its focus on “Achieving Community Benefit”, which includes “obtaining social value”.

The local strategy for social value opportunities to include the increased emphasis in the refreshed Corporate Commissioning Framework and on developing an updated Social Value Action Plan.

Implement a stand-alone phased two-year Social Value Action Plan to include the guiding principles of catching up with those leading the field, going beyond compliance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012, maximising the full breadth of Social Value outcomes and effectively measuring, monitoring and reporting delivery.

The Social Value Action plan will address the areas for development identified through the self-assessment against the LGA strategy and include tangible, clear, measurable, timebound targets to improve social value.

Maximise Social value opportunities connected with the joined-up approach across the Liverpool City Region – LCR Procurement Hub and work undertaken with Proactis and the Social Value Portal to join-up the Chest, the National Themes, Outcomes and measures and the online Measurement Tool”;

- (3) the Head of Strategic Support be requested to make arrangements, via the Council’s decision-making processes, to develop, adopt and implement a Social Value Action Plan in line with the following:

SOCIAL VALUE ACTION PLAN

“The guiding principles for development of our approach to Social Value are to catch up with those leading the field; Go beyond compliance with the Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012; maximise full breadth of Social Value outcomes; and effectively measure, monitor and report delivery.

Self-assessment against “Obtaining Social Value” in the LGA National Strategy will provide a framework whereby we can evaluate what we already do and identify areas for improvement including assessment against the following statements, “the extent to which...”:

- the requirements of the Social Value Act are embedded into corporate policy;
- social value awareness is embedded across all management levels;
- social value themes, outcomes and measures are reported and used (including evaluating the usefulness of social accounting quantitative measures to evaluate impact);
- social value requirements are embedded in the commissioning process;
- social value requirements are embedded in the procurement process;
- obtaining social value is part of engagement and third-party relationships;
- social value requirements in contracts are managed;
- social value is embedded in a wider collaborative environment;
- obtaining social value is communicated and reported;
- social value is embedded and managed in the commissioning and procurement process.
- These can all be addressed within the scope of the guiding principles, through specific, tangible and time-bound actions in a Procurement/Social Value Action Plan.”

The policy will be reviewed on completion of the SV action Plan;

- (4) the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer be requested to submit a monitoring report to the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Resources to be held in the June 2020 Committee cycle setting out progress made against each of the recommendations set out in the report and that thereafter, monitoring reports be submitted to the Committee on a six monthly basis; and

- (5) the Working Group be commended for their comprehensive report.

100. GREEN SEFTON: GOLF DRIVING RANGES DEVELOPMENT

Further to Minute No. 104 of the meeting of the Cabinet held on 6 February 2020 the Council considered the report of the Head of Locality Services seeking approval of the construction of driving ranges within the Council's two Municipal Golf Courses in Bootle and Southport during 2020/21.

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

RESOLVED: That

- (1) the construction and the purchase of associated equipment for the two new driving range facilities at Bootle Golf Course and Southport Golf Links be included in the Capital Programme; and
- (2) a Supplementary Capital Estimate for the scheme of £0.536m which is to be funded by prudential borrowing on an invest to save basis be approved.

101. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 – SECTION 85 - ATTENDANCE AT MEETINGS

Further to Minute No. 47 of the meeting held on 19 September 2019, the Council considered the report of the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer which requested the Council to approve and authorise the absence of Councillor Paula Spencer from attendance at Council and Committee Meetings pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972.

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

RESOLVED: That:

- (1) the current absence from all Council and Committee Meetings of Councillor Paula Spencer due to ill-health be authorised and approved for the period until the 16 July 2020, pursuant to Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972: and
- (2) the Council sends its best wishes to Councillor Spencer.

102. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2019/20

No changes to memberships of Committees were made.

103. MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR DAWSON - RETAIL CENTRES FIT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

It was moved by Councillor Dawson, seconded by Councillor Pugh

Retail Centres Fit for the 21st Century

This Council, recognising the fundamental changes presently affecting the retail environment of Britain in general, and in Southport in particular, commits itself to:

- (1) working actively with local residents, traders, the 'Southport BID' and local councillors across party to identify and implement methods of addressing the issues affecting the centre of Southport particularly, seeking to be involved actively rather than passively observing piecemeal decline; and
- (2) applying itself similarly to the issues confronting other smaller retail centres located within the communities which are served by the Borough of Sefton.

Following debate and on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the Motion was lost by 18 votes to 39 with 1 abstention and it was

RESOLVED:

That the Motion be not approved.