

<b>Report to:</b>	Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b>	Thursday 19 January 2023
<b>Subject:</b>	Financial Management 2022/23 to 2024/25 and Framework for Change 2020 - Revenue and Capital Budget Update 2022/23 - Additional Estimates		
<b>Report of:</b>	Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services	<b>Wards Affected:</b>	All Wards
<b>Portfolio:</b>	Cabinet Member - Regulatory, Compliance and Corporate Services		
<b>Is this a Key Decision:</b>	Yes	<b>Included in Forward Plan:</b>	Yes
<b>Exempt / Confidential Report:</b>	No		

### Summary:

This report sets out supplementary estimates for approval in the Council's Revenue Budget and Capital Programme following recommendation by Cabinet on 5 January.

### Recommendation(s):

Council is recommended to:

- 1) Approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.200m to be fully funded by the Better Care Fund (BCF) – Discharge Grant.
- 2) Approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £2.171m for Improving Technology in Care Settings to be fully funded by the grants outlined in paragraph 2.3.
- 3) Note that, of the three grants received for Improving Technology in Care Settings totalling £2.171m, Sefton has been initially allocated £0.222m (Digitisation of Social Care Records £0.147m and Supporting Independence Through Technology £0.075m).
- 4) Approve that Sefton passports grants for Improving Technology in Care Settings to partner agencies in line with agreed allocations.
- 5) Approve a supplementary capital estimate of £0.540m for Ainsdale Coastal Gateway funded by £0.490m of capital receipts and £0.050m of external grant funding.
- 6) Approve a supplementary revenue estimate of £1.196m for the allocations outlined in paragraph 4.4 which will be fully funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

### Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To approve updates to the Revenue Budget and Capital Programme so that they can be applied to schemes in the delivery of the Council's overall financial strategy.

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

N/A

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

### (A) Revenue Costs

The total value of schemes funded through the Better Care Fund will be £1.2m.

Sefton will deliver £0.222m of schemes for Improving Technology in Care Settings funded by £0.147m Digitisation of Social Care Records grant and £0.075m Supporting Independence Through Technology grant. The remaining balance of grants will be passported to partner agencies for delivery.

Sefton will deliver £1.196m of schemes funded by the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.

### (B) Capital Costs

The total cost of the scheme at Ainsdale Coastal Gateway will be £0.892m funded by £0.352m prudential borrowing (approved January 2021), £0.490m capital receipts and £0.050m Changing Places grant. Contributions will also be made from the approved Highways Capital Programme.

### Implications of the Proposals:

<b>Resource Implications (Financial, IT, Staffing and Assets):</b>	
None	
<b>Legal Implications:</b>	
None	
<b>Equality Implications:</b>	
There are no equality implications.	
<b>Climate Emergency Implications:</b>	
The recommendations within this report will	
Have a positive impact	No
Have a neutral impact	Yes
Have a negative impact	No
The Author has undertaken the Climate Emergency training for report authors	No
The allocations of funding outlined in this report may be spent on projects that will have a high climate change impact as they could relate to new build, rebuild, refurbishment, retrofit and demolition proposals. Environmental consideration will be taken into account when specific projects are designed and tendered – which will help to mitigate negative impacts.	

## Contribution to the Council's Core Purpose:

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

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

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

### (A) Internal Consultations

The Executive Director of Corporate Resources and Customer Services (FD 7078/23) and the Chief Legal and Democratic Officer (LD 5278/23) have been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

### (B) External Consultations

N/A

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Immediately following the Council meeting.

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## Appendices:

There are no appendices to this report

## Background Papers:

There are no background papers available for inspection.

## 1. Better Care Fund – Discharge Grant

- 1.1. On 16th November 2022, the Minister for Social Care wrote to all Councils advising them of additional winter discharge funding. The letter states “the fund can be used flexibly on the interventions that best enable the discharge of patients from hospital to the most appropriate location for their ongoing care.” All scheme types are related to hospital discharge only. Discharges from acute mental health services are also included. While care home services are included in the list of scheme types, areas are encouraged to use a ‘Home first’ approach where possible.
- 1.2. Returns are required to be submitted to through the Better Care Fund and there will be ongoing monitoring on the performance and impact of any new schemes.
- 1.3. A number of schemes are currently being developed in Sefton working with system partners. These include:
  - Additional block-booked Domiciliary Care capacity to support with hospital discharges reducing waiting times.
  - Creation of ‘Discharge Hub’ with greater Social Work and Occupational Therapy capacity.
  - Expansion of Intermediate Care / Transitional care home bed capacity
  - Support through the Voluntary Sector to meet other Social Care and Housing needs.
  - Further support to Market Management and strengthened brokerage offers, assisting to find the most appropriate service quicker.
  - Assistance to providers to support people with higher needs and acuity.
- 1.4. This will equate to £1.2m for Sefton Council and is to be managed through the Better Care Fund.

## 2. Improving Technology in Care Settings

- 2.1. NHS England and the Department for Health and Social Care (DHSC) have made grants available for the financial year 2022/23 to Cheshire and Mersey ICB for improving technology in care settings. The Agreement is signed on behalf of the Locality by Executive Director of Health and Social Care for Knowsley and by the Funding Recipient Director of Finance, NHS Cheshire and Merseyside.
- 2.2. Sefton have been asked to host the grant and passport allocations to the other partners, primarily local authorities and health bodies within Cheshire and Mersey area.
- 2.3. There are 3 grants with a total value to £2.171m outlined below:
  - **Digitisation of Social Care Records.** Total grant £1.402m of which Sefton has been allocated £0.147m.
  - **SITT (Supporting Independence through technology).** Total grant £0.739m of which Sefton has been allocated £0.075m.
  - **Better Security Better Care.** Total grant £0.030m – no award to Sefton.

- 2.4. The management of the grant programmes, including returns, will be undertaken by staff based at Knowsley MBC. There is the potential that further allocations may be made as the programme develops.

### **3. Ainsdale Coastal Gateway**

- 3.1. The Sefton Coast Plan recognises the need to create high quality visitor infrastructure at a number of access points, known as coastal gateways, along Sefton's Coast. The purpose is to drive growth within the visitor economy to the benefit of local businesses, provide a high-quality visitor experience at these access points, and reduce visitor pressure on areas of high conservation value and on local residents. Ainsdale-on-Sea has been recognised as one of these coastal gateways.
- 3.2. The area is formally protected as internationally important dune habitat and supporting many rare and important species of flora and fauna. It is designated as an SSSI, SAC, SPA, Ramsar site and Local Nature Reserve. The area includes natural sand dune, a "good" bathing water quality beach, and is one of the key bases for Green Sefton. It also contains a number of buildings that are owned by Sefton, including Toad Hall, and the former Sands public house.
- 3.3. Consultation relating to this project has taken place as part of the Southport Town Deal bid (Summer 2020). As a response to theme three: Stronger Economy, the investment in Ainsdale-on-Sea Visitor Hub featured as the third most popular option. It was suggested that Ainsdale-on-Sea is in need of investment.
- 3.4. A number of operational changes to the way visitors were welcomed to the coast were introduced in the summers of 2020 and 2021. These included the increasing of staffing, including into the evening when the car park was then closed, the engagement of volunteers as 'ambassadors', the introduction of free bin bags, and the introduction of skips/ euro bins. The existing toilets were closed during the Covid pandemic, with temporary portaloos provided during this period. Basic improvements to the toilets were carried out while they were closed, and they were reopened for the summer of 2022.
- 3.5. A further consultation exercise completed in the summer of 2021, built on the comments received from the Town Deal consultation, the operational changes that have taken place over the last two years, and the developments planned for the area. These helped inform proposals for a number of longer-term development projects. These include:
- External artwork on Toad Hall (now completed).
  - Toilet and wash facility improvements, including introducing a Changing Places toilet unit.
  - A new seasonal pop-up food and drink facility off beach, in the picnic area.
  - Improved off-beach car parking, with pedestrian and cycle access improvements, and EV charging points.

- A suite of other infrastructure improvements, such as fencing to guide visitors appropriately, new signage and picnic area improvements.

3.6. The improved off-beach car parking facility will generate new income to Green Sefton that would cover all operational and revenue costs for the project. Mitigations measures will be expected by Natural England as part of their consent for such works to go ahead.

3.7. A project budget of £0.352m was previously approved by Council in January 2021 funded by Prudential Borrowing. Approval is now sought for a further supplementary capital estimate of £0.540m to implement the improvements outlined above funded by £0.490m of Capital Receipts and £0.050m from Changing places grant for the changing places toilet unit. Contributions to the scheme will also be made as part of the Council's approved Highways Capital Programme.

#### 4. UK Shared Prosperity Fund

4.1. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is the government's domestic replacement for the European Structural and Investment Programme (ESIF) which the UK continues to participate in until 2023. The ESIF programme was essential for local regeneration, employment and skills and has been routinely accessed in Sefton for many years to support a host of regeneration, community development and employment-based activities.

4.2. The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) is a central pillar of the UK government's Levelling Up agenda and a significant component of its support for places across the UK. It provides £2.6 billion of new funding for local investment by March 2025, with all areas of the UK receiving an allocation from the Fund via a funding formula rather than a competition. It is also suggested that this means many more local authority areas will be given an allocation of UKSPF than were able to access EU funds on the basis of economic and social need.

4.3. The UKSPF is allocated to Mayoral Combined Authorities where these are in place, as in our area. Across the Liverpool City Region (LCR), a total amount of £52.8m is available from 2022 to 2025. Further detail on the allocations, workstreams and deliverables from the UKSPF allocated to the LCR can be found in a separate report to Cabinet on 5 January 2023.

4.4. The following allocations are to be made to Sefton Council for delivery:

Green, Resilient and Safe Communities	£551,552
Local Cultural Arts and Heritage	£251,850
Town Centres	£251,850
UKSPF Programme Management	£140,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,195,770</b>

4.5. Sefton's responsibilities in relation to delivery of the above will include:

- Feeding into the CA's UKSPF Programme management and providing updates on LA Investment Plan progress and supporting risk management.

- Providing adequate resourcing to UKSPF, including key contact for CA UKSPF requests, responding to DLUHC requests by set deadlines; and
- Having arrangements in place to:
  - evidence, monitor and evaluate projects
  - sign off financial claims by section 151 officer
  - manage project risk, including risk registers
  - to prevent breach of procurement rules, policies or procedures or Legal, including Subsidy Control and GDPR
  - to prevent Fraud including Grant Funding Fraud / Misuse of Government Funds / Bribery.

4.6. Delivery plans against each of the three areas above will be finalised during January 2023, for submission to the LCR and thereafter to Government. This provides limited time to obtain the necessary approval of a Supplementary Revenue Estimate in line with the Financial Procedure Rules from Council. Therefore, work will take place alongside approval being sought. Should Council not approve, then work will cease immediately, however, there will be a risk that the associated funding would be lost.