

Council – 29 February 2024

Revenue and Capital Budget Plan 2024/25 – 2026/27 and Council Tax 2024/25

1. Introduction

- 1.1. The Council is legally required to agree its budget and set a Council Tax for 2024/25 on or before 10 March 2024.
- 1.2. This paper provides final information on the level of resource required by levying bodies, plus agreed precepts from the Police & Crime Commissioner, Liverpool City Region Combined Authority (Mayoral Precept) and local parish councils. The Fire & Rescue Authority are not due to meet until 1.00pm on 29 February 2024 to agree their precept. Therefore, the information contained within the report is based on the precept being recommended for approval by the Fire and Rescue Authority. This report will be updated and re-published immediately following confirmation being received from them.
- 1.3. The recommendation to Council on the Authority's Budget and Council Tax level for 2024/25 is contained on the main agenda. Assuming this is approved unaltered at the Budget Council meeting, and the Fire and Rescue Authority confirm their precept at the same level assumed; the overall Council Tax level for 2024/25 is set out below. A formal resolution for Council, based on these figures, will be published as an Appendix immediately following confirmation being received from the Fire & Rescue Authority. If any amendments to the proposed Council Tax level for 2024/25 are made at the Budget Council meeting, a new Council Tax Resolution will be circulated.

2. Charges relating to External / Levying Bodies

- 2.1. The Council is required to pay charges relating to levies from external bodies. The expected amounts to be paid in 2024/25, and their impact on Sefton's budget compared to 2023/24, is shown in the table below: -

<u>Levying Body</u>	<u>2023/24</u>	<u>2024/25</u>	<u>Change</u>
	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
Liverpool City Region (LCR) Combined Authority - Transport Levy	20,102,000	20,518,159	416,159
Waste Disposal Authority	15,849,243	16,510,438	661,195
Environment Agency	168,147	172,438	4,291
Inshore Fisheries & Conservation Authority	73,646	89,089	15,443
Port Health Authority	94,500	94,500	0
	36,287,536	37,384,624	1,097,088

3. Precepts

3.1. Police & Crime Commissioner and Fire & Rescue Precepts

The Police and Crime Commissioner set a budget / precept on 14 February 2024, with a Band C increase of 5.16% (or £13 on a Band D property). The Fire and Rescue Authority is due to set its budget / precept for 2024/25 on 29 February 2024; with a Band C increase of 2.98% being recommended for approval by the Authority. This report will be updated and re-published immediately following confirmation being received from them.

	Precept			Band C		
	2023/24	2024/25	Change	2023/24	2024/25	Change
	£	£	£	£	£	%
Police	21,584,660	22,909,010	1,324,350	223.97	235.53	5.16
Fire	7,590,652	7,889,375	298,723	78.76	81.11	2.98

3.2. LCRCA Mayoral Precept

To be able to deliver the Mayor's key priorities in 2024/25 a Mayoral Precept is levied on Council Taxpayers across the region, with no increase on the 2023/24 charge approved at the Authority's meeting on 26 January 2024.

	Precept			Band C		
	2023/24	2024/25	Change	2023/24	2024/25	Change
	£	£	£	£	£	%
Mayoral	1,627,608	1,642,719	15,111	16.89	16.89	0.00

3.3. Parishes

The Parish precepts and variations are highlighted below: -

	Precept			Band C		
	2023/24	2024/25	Change	2023/24	2024/25	Change
	£	£	£	£	£	%
Aintree Village	169,890	174,522	4,632	73.42	74.59	1.59
Formby	107,381	116,109	-8,728	10.43	11.19	7.29
Hightown	25,000	25,000	0	25.62	25.42	-0.78
Ince Blundell	2,800	3,000	200	14.38	15.32	6.54
Little Altcar	5,091	5,672	581	10.43	11.19	7.29
Lydiate	210,270	227,100	16,830	88.61	95.66	7.96
Maghull	840,254	856,115	15,861	108.59	109.96	1.26
Melling	39,655	39,655	0	32.11	31.52	-1.84
Sefton	15,000	15,000	0	41.07	40.70	-0.90
Thornton	9,000	12,000	3,000	10.27	13.80	34.37
	1,424,341	1,474,173				

4. Summary of Budget Proposals for 2024/25

- 4.1. As a result of the information contained within the main report and this update the bridging of the 2024/25 funding gap is shown as follows:

	2024/25
	£'m
Revised MTFP Funding Gap	19.087
Local Government Finance Settlement	-14.295
Potential Growth to the Budget	7.471
Proposed Budget Savings	-4.265
Revised MTFP Funding Gap – excluding Council Tax	7.998
Council Tax – Core increase (2.99%)	4.792
Adult Social Care Precept (2.00%)	3.206
	0.000

A summary of the budget for 2024/25 is shown in a revised Appendix C.

5. Recommended Council Tax for 2024/25

- 5.1. Council is recommended to approve the Budget for 2024/25, as set out in the main report.
- 5.2. The recommended overall Band C Council Tax to be raised for 2024/25 (excluding Parish Precepts) is as follows: -

	2023/24	2024/25	Increase
	£	£	%
Sefton	1,647.91	1,730.14	4.99
Police & Crime Commissioner	223.97	235.53	5.16
Fire & Rescue Authority	78.76	81.11	2.98
Mayoral Precept	16.89	16.89	0.00
	1,967.53	2,063.67	4.89

6. Government Grant Notifications 2024/25

- 6.1 Since the original report was published there has been confirmation of the Public Health Grant allocation announced by the Government:

Public Health Grant

- 6.2 The Department of Health and Social Care announced indicative allocations of Public Health Grant for 2024/25 when the final allocations for 2023/24 were published in February 2023. This resulted in an increase in grant of £0.308m and was this is reflected in the Budget Report. Final allocations were announced on 5th February 2024, and include an uplift for the additional

recurrent pay pressures due to the 2023/24 consolidated NHS Agenda for Change pay award. Sefton's allocation has increased by a further £0.212m. It is proposed that this further increase in the 2024/25 allocation should be allocated to the Public Health budget.

7. Capital Programme 2024/25 – 2026/27 - Update

Special Educational Needs and Disabilities

- 7.1. The Council is expected to receive additional capital grant funding in 2024/25 from the Department for Education relating to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities provision. An indicative allocation of this funding is included in the overall Capital Programme, shown in a revised Appendix D, to be approved by Budget Council. It should be noted that as this is an indicative grant allocation, it will be updated in future reports to Cabinet and Council once the allocation has been confirmed by the Government.

ICT Data Centre Move

- 7.2. Cabinet in July 2023 gave approval to complete the freehold disposal of three property assets comprising St Anne's House, St Peter's House and Balliol Road Car Park, Bootle as part of Phase 3 of the Council's Asset Disposal Programme. Cabinet was also requested to note that the relocation of the Council's ICT Data Centre from St Peter's House will be fully funded by the capital receipt from the sale pending confirmation of the preferred option and costs associated with the move.
- 7.3. The preferred option for the Data Centre move has now been determined and is estimated to cost £0.400m.

Council is recommended to:

13. Approve a supplementary capital estimate for £0.400m for the ICT Data Centre Move funded by capital receipts.

Stephan Van Arendsen
Executive Director Corporate Resources and Customer Services