Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score		
Dedicated Schools Grant High Needs Funding for Special Educational Needs is inadequate to meet requirements.						
Causes	and life-lo National fr additional The numbil increase y Maintained expensive may contil Central G being plac The curre	eeds budgets are under considerable pressure from increasing numbers of children being diagnosed with comp long SEND related issues. If funding allocations are not increasing annually at a rate to reflect increases in local population demand and so a nal commissioned places need to be financed from within existing budget envelope. mber and value of requests from mainstream schools for "top-up" funding (for children with SEND) continues e year on year as schools face financial pressures to meet the first £6k of any SEN Support. ned special school provision is full and more children are being placed in independent provision which is me ive. Whilst this issue is being addressed through extra In-house provision, there remain risks that external placeme ntinue at high additional cost. Government have advocated parental preference for SEND provision - which has added to the number of child laced in independent provision - with no additional funding. Irrent accounting override whereby the HNF deficit is ringfenced will continue until April 2026, but the increas ulative deficit poses a significant financial risk to the council.				
Result	 The estiming regulations basis untilities to financia 	ated deficit on the high needs s do not expect the Local Aut 2026. The council does not l I sustainability.	hority's General Fund to cover accum have the reserves or balances to mee	buncil's Balance Sheet. Whilst the current DfE sulated deficits, this is still only on a temporary t this deficit if required in 2026 hence the threat ts will continue to be reported to cabinet and		
Current treatment and controls	demand fo Better Val • Leadershi SEN team • Sufficienc developm • Lobbying that this w • Engagem	or the service and the financia ue Programme. p from Sefton's Executive Dir Managers on how costs can l y statement produced that ent. and engagement of both DFE rill continue to be a DSG issue ent with special schools active	I forecast- it should also take full acco ector of Children's Social Care and Ed be contained. will drive future strategy and financ and MCCLG on financial impact and t post 2026	seeks to improve the support to children, the bunt of the progress in the DFEE led Delivering ducation, Assistant Head of Education and the cial sustainability – build programme under the need for increased support or confirmation eview impact of any proposed changes to their is to mitigate high calls on DSG High Needs		

	 funding. Review of place and top up levels of funding. In addition, further work is being undertaken on alleviating the barriers to inclusivity within mainstream settings and assessment of effectiveness of capital spend to maximise mainstream settings for children and young people. Council now part of DfE Delivering Better Value Program-it should be noted however that this is focused on the system and noy on delivering financial sustainability therefore the council cannot rely on this programme to meet its key financial objective Comprehensive 6 monthly reports to be presented to Cabinet and Council on sufficiency, in house provision, funding and deficit to provide rigor, transparency and inform decision making. As part of the council's transformation programme SEND is a specific transformation project and reflects the 3 key areas of activity each of which will support the service As part of the annual audit plan a review of the systems and processes within this function has been undertaken to ensure that the overall environment is robust, supports effective decision making and the use of resources- this report will be issued in Q3 of 24/25.
Risk owner	Assistant Director of Education
Proposed actions	 Through the High Needs Review the LA has been working on two specific workstreams with School representatives working on a number of key areas: Developing a new funding model to support children with EHCPs. Clarifying high needs funding outside of the EHCP process. Reviewing provision and placement sufficiency. Considering new ways of working with SEN children in schools, making them more cost effective and with good outcomes. Review of the graduated response and supporting SEN leadership in schools. Sefton has been working in partnership with the DfE since December 2022 to develop solutions to bring the High Needs Budget into a more financially secure position going forward and help to reduce the accumulated deficit over a set period. The sign off of the High Needs Deficit action plan through the Delivering Better Value Programme was conducted in summer 2023 with a work programme of planned improvements and changes in SEN support for HN children commencing from September 2023.

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score	
Financial sustainability beyond 2024/25.					
Causes	 The national economy, taking into account inflation and direct government funding, which has been reflected in the finance settlement for 2024/25 and planning assumptions for future years and the demand for services will place substantial strue on the Council's overall medium-term budget. As a result, significant budget and cost reductions will be required. Due to the scale of budget reductions made since 20 there is a risk that further suitable cost-saving / income generating measures will be difficult to identify. The impact on the financial sustainability of the Council is therefore a key risk. 				
Result	 The Council will need to identify substantial sustainable savings to meet the funding gap that arises from inflation, potential government grant reductions and increased demand for services. The Budget reductions could have an adverse impact on residents and communities. The reputation of the Council may be compromised. Financial sustainability could be compromised. 				
Current treatment and controls	 ASC, CSC and Ho management and n variations to the app of general fund rese or 23/24, indeed the Within that budget n started on the next 3 for these next 3 yea following the Autum delivery vehicle for sustainability of the 	ome to School Transport as panonitoring will be required for the proved budget remedial plans we erves however these do not offer re is no scope to support an ove eport the key issues that need to 3-year budget plan. This include ars- this will be reported in a re n Budget - the council has a nee the MTFP with the stated aim of Council with the key risks rem	o be addressed within the next MTFF es refining all budget assumptions ar vised MTFP that will be submitted to w transformation programme that h of helping delivering financial sustair	nancial risk exists- robust financial approved budget. If there are any incil does have an appropriate level similar to that experienced in 22/23 P have been identified and work has nd updating the potential budget gap o Cabinet and Council in November as been established and this is the nability. This is key to the financial ildren's Services- these have been	
Risk owner	ED CS & C				

	Key financial risk for 2024/25 is delivery of savings within Adult Social Care and Children's Social Care delivering services
	within the budget agreed with DCS - regular and rigorous financial management, monitoring and reporting is required by
Proposed	SLB.
actions	• SLB will commence work on the 3-year budget plan for 2025/26 to 2027/28 and an updated MTFP will be presented to
	Cabinet in November 2024.

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score		
Demand and Cost of Home to School Transport, impact on the financial sustainability of the Council						
Causes	 Increasing expenditure is being driven by: Rising number of children and young people with an Education Health and Care Plan Rising number of children and young people whose needs are not met in local mainstream provision and placed in educational provision outside the local area. The rising cost of fuel and living. Driver and escort shortages, competing for scarce resources. Parental choice 					
Result	 Supply unable to match demand. Increased waiting times for service users, impact on school attendance Financial and reputational risks, financial sustainability of Council could be compromised, Budget pressure cannot be contained. Capacity of the workforce to meet this demand. Potential for poor service delivery Negative socio-economic impact. High level of media and public interest in the Council's actions 					
Current treatment and controls	 Loss of reputation There is a specific project that is reviewing each aspect of the Home to School Transport system and this will be reported to Executive Leadership Team in November and then subsequently Cabinet. This aligns with the DBV work and sufficiency of SEND placements within the borough. The key aspect of this is what is driving the demand for services and how can this be better met – this work is on-going in October and aligns to DBV, therefore engagement with SEND teams on how demand can be contained is fundamental. The review will include a review of In-House fleet and Post 16 charging policy, on-going review of all provision and Personal Travel Budgets 					
Risk owner	Assistant Director of Education					
Proposed actions	 Comprehensive rev and all decisions th 	view of the system has commen at impact cost. This is due to be	ced including reviewing all commerc e completed in the next 6 months.	ial arrangements, key cost drivers		

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score		
The Council is the victim of a cyber-attack.						
Causes	• Malware, ransomw	vare, or another virus infects the	Council's systems.			
Result	 Services will not have access to systems and data as standard and will have to fall back on non-ICT delivery methods, albeit without access to key data. Data breach occurs. Financial impact of ransom. Reputational damage 					
Current treatment and controls	 Reputational damage Cyberattack prevention measures are in place, including: Upgraded Council firewalls and active SIEM monitoring service. Anti malware tools Acceptable use policy updated annually LGA Stocktake completed/Cyber 360 completed PSN Accreditation achieved and reviewed annually New security standards for email encryption implemented Further network security in place to reduce risk 					
Risk owner	ED CR&CS					
Proposed actions	 The ongoing ICT Transformation programme has seen the majority of systems and data migrated to Microsoft Azure cloud hosting, which will reduce the overall risk; and improve Business continuity however further work is underway to improve the current security posture further. Ongoing Cyber Security Improvement plan in place. External validation and assurance ongoing linked to improvement plan. 					

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score		
Inadequate capability to prepare for and respond effectively to a major incident affecting the Council or occurring in Sefton as per the Council's responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.						
Causes	A major incident	occurs affecting the Council or	the Borough			
Result	Major damage orDisruption or loss	e, illness, or serious injury destruction to infrastructure, pro of critical services such as tran nancial harm to the authority	operty and/or the environment sport, communications, utility service	es		
Current treatment and controls	 Emergency Response Manual and Major Incident Guidance in place. Revised Command and Control structure in place which defines Strategic and Tactical level officers. Emergency Duty Co-ordinators (EDCs) are able to access Resilience Direct containing incident response plans. Relevant training provided to Emergency Duty Co-ordinators and volunteers on an ongoing basis. Six EDCs have now completed Multi Agency Gold Incident Commander (MAGIC) accredited training. Attendance and participation in Merseyside Resilience Forum and joint planning across Merseyside. Humanitarian volunteers in place and regular meetings and training now offered. Continuous development and review of supporting plans. Service Level Business Continuity plans now completed. Business Continuity eLearning package available to all staff Business Continuity risk register completed and review on quarterly basis Business Continuity Policy and strategy have been devised and approved. BC exercises completed in January 2023 and March 2024 for Senior Leadership Board 					
Risk owner	CEX/ED CS&C					
Proposed actions	 A Business Continuity Management System has been devised and is currently being implemented. This includes following: Six monthly review of BC plans and activation exercise undertaken to confirm accuracy of contact details included. External provider to continually provide support in hosting regular BC exercises for all Exec/Assistant Directors. Review and update of BC manual ongoing All SLB members to make arrangements to be MAGIC trained as soon as possible and refresher training must completed. SLB to ensure that other training provided by MRF is attended by at least 3 members of SLB e.g. Recovery Training Update Report on Emergency Planning will be presented to SLB on a quarterly basis that will take account of training training the presented to SLB on a quarterly basis that will take account of training training training the presented to SLB on a quarterly basis that will take account of training traini					

recent incidents etc.

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score
Market Failure of Soc Adults and Children's	ial Care Provision across			
Causes	market		ble workforce to provide domiciliary ket to provide choice and control. CO	
Result	 Strategic - Lack of Borough, by other Operational and 	of alternative providers able to s r LAs placing additional pressur	ervice users and fulfil statutory duty of upport social care. Increase in placin e on ASC markets linked to transition e provision and high costs. Significan eveloping Strategy	ng young people within
Current treatment and controls	Strengthen govern Strategic Commis priorities improve Winter Planning/c adults and childre CQC Assurance p Strategies in prod	nance via actions and oversight ssioning Team more permanent ment plan. Delivery of Health an hecklist. Regular review of sup on's. Mitigation of market failure preparation. Provider Failure Po luction to focus on relationship-to commissioning of Local Dynami osts with AD, DASS and wider s	h of Children's Sufficiency strategy 2 of Executive Commissioning Group/ capacity to increase resource. Imple of Wellbeing Strategy 2020-2025. Im ply chain contracts. Demand Manage by block purchasing arrangements to licy updated, regular Cost of Care ex based market management. ic Purchasing system for Domiciliary system. Maximising learning opportur	Strategic Commissioning Group. mentation of Commissioning plementation of robust and timely ement Programme embedded in o support hospital discharge. tercises and Market Engagement Care. Weekly escalation/ visibility
Risk owner	DCS/DASCH			
Proposed actions	 ability to refocus 0 Strategic - Contin Gather intelligenc Sefton Place Bas work plan. Recrui now developed, a 	QA resources on identified areas nue to focus on strategic plans to e to inform risks and ensure res ed Partnership development. Ch tment campaign developed with and subsequent Market Sustaina	Assurance (QA) with dedicated Senie s of Market Risk. o current contracts to ensure Value f ilience and capacity. Development o nildren's High Risk/High-Cost Project Market with ongoing input from Seft ability Plan roll out 2023/24. Work ind Links maintained with LCR on key m	or Money and objectives are met. f new opportunities through c, Commissioning priorities and full on at Work - Workforce Strategy cludes use of International

cost of living, ceasing of covid funding, demand). New Procurement for Domiciliary Care completed. Integrated commission arrangements will develop via new place arrangement. Market Sustainability Plan and Fair Cost of Care Exercise to be sent to Central Government mid Oct. National Government Market Sustainability funding applied to Dom Care and Care Homes 65+. Discharge funding now recurrent through the Better Care Fund. Work continues to mobilise a rapid reablement expansion. Linked to ND review. Work jointly with Health to develop approach to reduction of one-to-one requests. Cost of Care / fee setting work for 2024/25 is commencing, including Care Analytics being commissioned to support with 2024/25 fee setting work, including analysis of impacts of implementing RLW across all ASC sectors. SOP for fee setting in place. Presentation to A&CG by DASS on risk 20 March 2024.

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score	
Children's Services Framework Outcom	- Impact of Regulatory les				
Causes		services are currently rated as port of a commissioner and	s inadequate. As a result, the coun DFE advisor.	cil is currently delivering its	
Result	 Social work practice does not meet the standard required Services are found to not adequately safeguard children Reputational damage to the Council and Statutory partners Loss of confidence in partnership arrangements Workforce and financial pressures develop 				
Current treatment and controls	 Workforce and financial pressures develop Improvement board established under DfE improvement notice DfE Advisor supporting Improvement Programme Regular reports to Overview & Scrutiny Committee Self-evaluation has been refreshed and updated Comprehensive Performance dashboard developed based on required specification Quality Assurance Framework in place Practice Standards in place Triangulation of evidence through audit and peer review, regular auditing and monitoring of performance Workforce strategy in place and delivering skilled and stable workforce Financial plan in place based on DCS requirement Accommodation in place for consolidated service 				
Risk owner	DCS				
Proposed actions	The council will continue improvement plan	to Progress the delivery of re	ance and support will continue and commendations made by Children nmittee each cycle, in addition to in	's Commissioner and the	

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score	
Increase in academisation of schools within the borough					
Causes	 Instability within LA 	emies for schools in a category.			
Result	 With Academisation there will be a loss of SLA income which would may require service reductions in Education, corporate services and operational in-house services. With Academisation there will be a loss for the LA ability to monitor educational standards. 				
Current treatment and controls	 EE team continue to review offer Engaging with academies to encourage purchase of SLAs Promote "Sefton Family of Schools" image- working party established to support schools with decision making and to ensure compliance with academies act Review of traded services offer to all schools and academies Representation by Academy CEOs on School Improvement Board Presentation of this risk to A&G Committee for awareness raising 				
Risk owner	Exec Director CSC & EE				
Proposed actions	 Many of the decisions on academisation are out of council control Individual service areas continue to make attractive and robust SLA offers New AD to reconvene regular CEO meetings 				

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score		
Failure to Comply with Sections 1 and 10 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000						
Causes	 A person requesting information from a public authority has a right, subject to exemptions, to be informed by the public authority in writing whether it holds the information, and to have that communicated to him, if the public authority holds it (section 1 of The Freedom of Information Act 2000). Section 10(1) specifies that public authorities must respond to requests within 20 working days. A public authority which fails to comply with any of the requirements of Part I of the FOIA, may be served with a notice by the Information Commissioner (referred to as an 'enforcement notice') requiring the authority 'to take within such time as may be specified in the notice, such steps as may be so specified for complying with those requirements' (section 52(1)). Compliance performance levels differ across the Council, due to the demands on particular service areas. Consistency is required in terms of prioritising responses to FOIA requests so that the Council ensures it responds to requests in a timely way. 					
Result			nent action by the Information Comm rsion of resource and financial conse			
Current treatment and controls	 the Information responsibilities Risk Owner and Each service is area. Each service has processes and Operational Gro Support, co-ord 	Management and Governance E for key aspects of information co d Chief Legal and Democratic Of responsible for the handling and as designated Information Asset issues are communicated to the oup. ination, advice and guidance is p s implemented policies, procedu	Iding compliance with the Freedom of Executive Group (IMGEG), which con- ompliance (i.e. Data Protection Office fricer) supported by other officers with a management of FOIA requests made Owners and Information Asset Administer se officers through the Information M provided corporately. res and processes to assist the man	nsists of officers with lead er/IG Lead, Senior Information h key roles relating to IMG. de to their respective service inistrators. Policies, procedures, lanagement and Governance		
Risk owner	CEX					

Proposed actions	 SLB to continue to ensure appropriate resourcing, prioritisation and focus on information management and governance across the Council include the following: Monthly reports continue to be sent to Heads of Service with lists of any outstanding FOIA requests, to ensure appropriate action across their service. Monthly monitoring and review by IMG EG of compliance with statutory timescales associated with requests and numbers outstanding. Set targets to ensure compliance with ICO recommendations (95% or more of requests are responded to within 20 working days = good, 90 to 95% of requests are responded to within 20 working days = adequate, fewer than 90% = unsatisfactory). Regular reporting by IMG EG to SLB and Audit and Governance Committee, as necessary, as to the Council's compliance with the FOIA. Compliance statistics to be published on a monthly basis on the Council's website. Q1 statistics will be available at the end of June 2024. Maximise the opportunities from the Council's ICT Transformation to increase and embed effective information management and governance.
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Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score			
Ability of the Council to recruit to its workforce in order to deliver its Core Purpose							
Causes	 Due to the contraction of the labour market both nationally and locally the council cannot recruit sufficiently skilled staff in order to meet business need. At present this is especially acute within social work teams in both Adults and Children Services. 						
Result	 The Council does not have the capacity to deliver the services it needs to at the pace or standard required Due to the contraction in the market the council cannot recruit to key roles - over the past 12 months this has been evident in Social Care, Regeneration, Procurement, Performance, Property and Finance Such a scenario places increased pressure on the workforce that cannot be maintained over the long term In addition to the lack of candidates in the market seeking permanent employment and a reduction in availability of temporary or agency staff, the cost of bringing in temporary cover is increasing exponentially this creating budget pressure 						
Current treatment and controls	 The Council's approach to recruitment and retention has been and will continually be the subject of review. This is a key theme within the recently produced year 2 action plan. The Council is building on the success in some areas will seek to 'grow its own' workforce with the promotion of apprenticeships, the social worker academy and graduate programmes. The Council will seek to continually enhance its culture in order that staff remain in Sefton The Council will work with Liverpool City Region Partners to recruit talent nationally and look at training and development programmes across the region that will be attractive to potential candidates 						
Risk Owner	ED CS&C						
Proposed Actions	 The action plan for the workforce strategy details the key activities that will be undertaken to maximise the council's position in the workforce market. Extensive work has been undertaken within Children services over the last 36 months to ensure that a skilled and stable workforce can be recruited to and retained. This includes a full review of pay and benefits the development of the social worker academy and the recruitment of overseas social workers. this work will continue to support the service and similar activities and innovation will take place across the council Work has commenced with Liverpool John Moore's University to determine how pathways can be opened for graduates to join the council both on interim placements and full-time employment 						

Risk Description		Previous risk score	Current risk score	Target risk score		
Inability to deliver the requirements and commitments for the Growth Programme and its associated Projects.						
Causes	 Required Capital and Revenue funding not available to deliver the projects for Economic Recovery and Growth. This can be due to unavailability or timing of funds available. External pressures affecting the construction sector, leading to challenges to project deliverability, affordability or timescales. This includes inflationary cost pressures; insufficient market capacity, contractor availability and contractor capacity; insufficient availability of materials and/or labour; delayed lead-in times for materials or services; rising prices for services, materials and equipment. Insufficient internal staffing resource, hindering effective and timely delivery. 					
Result	 Increased business failure Reputational Damage especially on projects declared already in the public domain. Increased unemployment Financial and reputational risks to the Council Impact on communities. Loss of reputation Impact of wider economic change on residents, particularly the most vulnerable 					
Current treatment and controls	 Growth Programme and associated Governance and project controls. Bid process and expertise applied to all existing and new funding opportunities. Members approval and prioritisation of existing and new projects. Constant and consistent evaluation and use of Growth Budget. Opportunities in respect to Capital receipts from asset disposal. 					
Risk owner	ED Regeneration, Economy & Assets					
Proposed actions	 of any funding oppo Actively pursue all a Create and make a Establish Project R and any emerging a Proactive external and understanding Develop and implea suitable partners for 	ortunity. additional funding available in tin vailable Bid Team focused on a eview forums and reporting med issues - on a project-specific an engagement with construction s of risks to the sector and potent ment procurement strategy to er or project delivery - Currently bei	ector and key partners (e.g. LCR C ial mitigants. Insure sustained competition, robust	ing of project progress A) to ensure visibility mess of process and		