

COUNCIL

**MEETING HELD AT THE TOWN HALL, BOOTLE
ON THURSDAY 1ST MARCH, 2012**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Cummins) (in the Chair)
 The Deputy Chair (Councillor M. Fearn) (Vice Chair)

Councillors Ashton, Atkinson, Ball, Blackburn, Booth, Bradshaw, Brady, Brennan, Brodie - Browne, Byrom, Carr, K. Cluskey, L. Cluskey, Crabtree, Cuthbertson, Dodd, Doran, Dorgan, M. Dowd, P. Dowd, Dutton, Fairclough, Lord Fearn, Fenton, Friel, Gibson, Griffiths, Glover, Gustafson, Hands, Hardy, Hill, Howe, Jones, Kelly, Kerrigan, Maher, Mahon, Mainey, McGinnity, McGuire, Mclvor, McKinley, Moncur, Page, Papworth, Parry, Pearson, Porter, Preece, Rimmer, Roberts, Robertson, Robinson, Shaw, Sumner, Tonkiss, Tweed, Veidman, Sir Ron Watson, Weavers, Webster and Welsh

99. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Hubbard.

100. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The following declarations of interest were received:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Minute No.</u>	<u>Reason</u>	<u>Action</u>
Councillor Booth	108 - Capital Programme 2011/12 and Capital Allocations 2012/13	Personal – He is the Chair of Governors of Linaker Primary School, which is referred to in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Brennan	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal – He is employed by Sefton Council for Voluntary Service, which is referred to in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item

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Councillor Brodie - Browne	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal – His employer receives funding from the Council's Supporting People Service which is referred to in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Cummins	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal – His employer is affected by the proposals set out in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Fairclough	106 – Treasury Management Policy and Strategy 2012/13	Personal – His employer is referred to in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Hill	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal – He is the Council representative on the Sefton Council for Voluntary Service; a Trustee of Age Concern, Crosby and the Crosby Older Peoples Luncheon Club; a member of the National Trust; the Council's Fuel Poverty Champion and the Chair of the Sefton Affordable Warmth Partnership Group, which are affected by proposals set out in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item

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Councillor Kelly	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal – He is a Trustee of an organisation which was consulted on the proposals set out in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor McGuire	108 – Capital Programme 2011/12 and Capital Allocations 2012/13	Personal – She is a Member of the Hesketh Park Heritage Group which will be affected by proposals in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor McGuire	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal - She is a Member of the Hesketh Park Heritage Group which will be affected by proposals in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Papworth	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal – He is a Member of the Sefton Council for Voluntary Service, which is affected by proposals in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Councillor Shaw	111 – Revenue Budget 2012/13	(a) Personal – His son is employed by Sefton Library Service which may be affected by the options set out in the report (b) Prejudicial – He is a member of the Local Government Pensions Committee (LGA	(a) Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item (b) Left the room during the consideration of the amendment on this issue in Minute 111below

body) and a substitute member of other LGA bodies in the Human Resources field, membership of which would be affected by issues referred to in the report

Councillor Sir Ron Watson	111 - Revenue Budget 2012/13	Personal – His relative works for Sefton Council	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item
Margaret Carney – Chief Executive	105 – Localism Act 2011 – Pay Policy	Personal – Her post is referred to in the report	Stayed in the room and took part in the consideration of the item

101. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

RESOLVED:

That the minutes of the Council meeting held on 16 February 2012 be approved as a correct record.

102. MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

The Mayor reported that the Mayoral Charity Ball held in the Floral Hall (Southport Theatre and Convention Centre) in Southport on 17 February 2012 had been a resounding success. Although final figures were not yet available, indications were that this year's event would set a record for fund raising on behalf of the Mayor's Charity. The Mayor extended his thanks to all those who attended and to those who contributed in any way

PUBLIC SESSION

103. MATTERS RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

The Mayor reported that following the publication of the report relating to the Revenue Budget 2012/13, to be considered under Minute No. 111 later in the meeting, a petition had been submitted, containing 2,124 signatures objecting to the proposal set out in budget saving option E4.8 for the closure of the facilities at the Botanic Gardens and Hesketh Park.

The Mayor indicated that the petition did not contain the requisite number of signatures required under the Council's Petition Scheme to enable the petition organiser to present and address the Council on the content of the petition but he requested the Council to take the petition into account when it debated the proposals later in the meeting.

COUNCIL BUSINESS SESSION

104. QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The Council considered a schedule setting out a written question submitted by Councillor Hands to the Leader of the Council, and the response given.

105. LOCALISM ACT 2011 - PAY POLICY

Further to Minute No. 118 of the Cabinet meeting held on 1 March 2012, the Council considered the report of the Director of Corporate Support Services on the requirement under the Localism Act 2011 for all local authorities to produce a pay policy statement for 2012/13 and each subsequent financial year. The report set out the proposed Pay Policy for the Council and the proposed changes to the functions of the Employment Procedure Committee and the Pay and Grading Committee in order to ensure compliance with the guidance in the Act.

It was moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher and

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to:

- (1) the proposed Pay Policy set out in Annex A to the report; and
- (2) the proposed changes to the functions of the Employment Procedure Committee and the Pay and Grading Committee set out in the report and the consequential amendments being made to the Council's Constitution.

106. TREASURY MANAGEMENT POLICY AND STRATEGY 2012/13

Further to Minute No. 108 of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 February 2012, the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT which provided details of the proposed procedures and strategy to be adopted in respect of the Council's Treasury Management Function in 2012/13.

It was moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher and

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to:

- (1) the Treasury Management Policy Document for 2012/13 (Annex A);
- (2) the Treasury Management Strategy Document for 2012/13 (Annex B);
- (3) the amendment to banking arrangements contained within the Financial Procedure Rules of the Constitution;
- (4) the Money Laundering Policy Document (Annex C); and
- (5) the option set out in Section 5 of the report being used as the basis for the calculation of the Minimum Revenue Provision for Debt Repayment in 2012/13.

107. THE PRUDENTIAL CODE FOR CAPITAL FINANCE IN LOCAL AUTHORITIES - PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS 2012/13

Further to Minute No. 109 of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 February 2012, the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT on proposals to establish the Prudential Indicators required under the Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities. This would enable the Council to effectively manage its Capital Finance Activities and comply with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy Prudential Code of Capital Finance in Local Authorities.

It was moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher and

RESOLVED:

That approval be given to:

- (1) the Prudential Indicators detailed in the report and summarised in Annex A, as the basis for compliance with The Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities;
- (2) the amendment of relevant Prudential Indicators in the event that any unsupported borrowing is approved as part of the 2012/13 Revenue Budget; and
- (3) delegated authority being granted to the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT to manage the Authorised Limit and Operational Boundary for external debt as detailed in Section 5 of the report.

108. CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2011/12 AND CAPITAL ALLOCATIONS 2012/13

Further to Minute No. 107 of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 February 2012, the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT which provided details of the 2012/13 Capital Allocations received

to date and their use in the development of a new starts programme for 2012/13. The Council also considered an addendum to the report which provided details of the revised Capital Programme for 2011/12.

This was a Key Decision and was included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

It was moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher and

RESOLVED:

That the revised Capital Programme for 2011/12 as set out in the addendum report be approved.

109. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 2003 - CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER'S REQUIREMENTS

Further to Minute No. 105 of the Cabinet meeting held on 16 February 2012, the Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT which provided an assessment on the robustness of the estimates, the adequacy of the financial reserves and the longer term revenue and capital plans based on the proposals in the report on the Revenue Budget 2012/13 to be considered under Minute No. 111 below.

It was moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher and

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

110. STATEMENTS BY PARTY GROUP LEADERS

The Leaders of the three Political Groups, Councillors P. Dowd, Robertson and Parry made statements and outlined the policies of their respective Groups in respect of the issues to be considered under Minute No. 111 below, in respect of the Revenue Budget for 2012/13.

111. REVENUE BUDGET 2012/13

Further to Minute No. 90 of the meeting held on 16 February 2012, the Council considered the joint report of the Chief Executive and the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT which provided details of the remaining budget savings options to be considered under the Transformation Programme proposals, and the proposed framework budget referred by the Cabinet on 16 February 2012 to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Performance and Corporate Services) meeting on 21 February 2012 for consideration prior to this Council meeting.

The report incorporated the following information:

Executive Summary

Annex A	Revenue Budget Proposals 2012/13
Annex B	Revenue Budget Summary 2012/13

Part A Transformation Programme

- Work Programme and Prioritisation
- Consultation and Engagement Overview
- Impact Assessment Overview
- Risk Management
- Remaining relatively Low and Medium Impact Options
- Reviews
- Options requiring further consideration
 - Landscape Services
 - Supporting People
 - Adults Transport
 - Re-Commissioning of Nursing and Residential Care
- Conclusion

Annex C	Work Programme Timetable
Annex D	Remainder of options where the impact has been assessed as relatively low or medium following the analysis of the consultation and engagement activity
Annex E	Community Care Practitioner Review
Annex F	Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Review
Annex G	Terms of Reference - Library Services Review
Annex H	Terms of Reference - Leisure Activity Review
Annex I	Terms of Reference - 24 Hour Response Review
Annex J	Terms of Reference - Street Lighting Review
Annex K	Landscape Services Change Proposals
Annex L	Supporting People Proposal

Part B “Framework” Budget

The Mayor reported that the details of the frequently asked questions on the Transformation Programme 2011-2104, had been circulated around the Council Chamber to enable all Members of the Council to consider the content.

The Mayor indicated that much of the information within the report was based on the large scale consultations held on the budget savings options and he expressed thanks to the Members of the public who had taken part in the consultation exercise.

The Mayor requested Members to take into account the issues raised at the Members’ Briefing Sessions held on 9 and 16 February 2012 and be aware of their responsibilities relating to the consideration of the key issues set out in the report.

This was a Key Decision and was included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions.

It was moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher:

"That:

- (1) the work programme timetable contained in Annex C of the report be noted;
- (2) after taking into account the equality analysis assessment, the consultation feedback, risks and mitigating actions for each individual proposal, approval be given to the following actions being taken on the budget savings options set out in Annex D of the report:

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Action to be taken
E4.4	Highways Maintenance	A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number of cuts to all highway grassed areas	That a reduction of three cuts to all highway grassed areas at a saving of £50,000 be approved
E6.6	Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences - Market Test	That a formal procurement process to provide the public convenience operational service be approved, which would result in a saving of £100,000
E6.7	Tourism	Review of Service	(a) That approval be given to the Tourist Information Centre being relocated to the Southport Cultural Centre (SCC) in 2013, resulting in a saving of £90,000; and (b) It be noted that £38,000 will be taken from the Tourism event reserve budget in the 2012/13 financial year to achieve the £90,000

			target in order to manage the transitional arrangements pending the opening of the SCC
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- (3) in respect of the Assessment and Care Management - Community Care Practitioners (CCP) Review, set out in Annex E of the report, it be noted that savings of £193,000, associated with the CCP Review have already been achieved through the Voluntary Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy process;
- (4) in respect of the Voluntary, Care, Faith (VCF) Sector Review, set out in Annex F of the report:
- (i) it be noted that the VCF Sector review is now concluded and any future changes would be considered within the prioritisation process;
 - (ii) the key messages identified from the results of the VCF consultation and equality analysis assessment be noted;
 - (iii) approval be given to the introduction of three year commissioning processes where grant aid is given to organisations subject to annual performance reviews;
 - (iv) approval be given to a budget reduction of £150,000; and
 - (v) the grant to the Sefton Play Council be retained at £40,000;
- (5) in respect of the Landscape Services Change Proposals, set out in Annex K of the report:
- (i) after taking into account the equality analysis assessment, the consultation feedback, risks and mitigating actions, approval be given to the following actions being taken:

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Action to be taken
E4.6 E4.7	Landscape Services	Recharge sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities and the costs of Grounds Maintenance	That the total saving to be achieved from the recharge of sports users and allotment users for utilities and maintenance be reduced from £170,000 (over 2 years) to £85,000. The specific achievement of these savings to be the subject of a negotiation

			with the users of these facilities
E4.8	Landscape Services	Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park	That the Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at the Botanic Gardens and the Conservatory at Hesketh Park be retained.

and

- (ii) approval be given to the proposal (E4.5,10,11,12) to redesign the Parks and Green Spaces Service and Coast and Countryside Service in order to achieve a saving of £250,000 in 2012/13 and £330,000 in 2013/14 and it be noted that the final proposals would be reported to the Cabinet in June 2012 at the conclusion of the process;
- (6) in respect of the Supporting People Proposals, set out in Annex L of the report:
- (i) approval be given to an in principle budget reduction of £2m in 2012/13 and a further £1m in 2013/14;
 - (ii) approval be given to a further period of consultation on commissioning priorities and the detail of how the budget reduction could best be delivered whilst minimising/mitigating the impacts i.e. a further review;
 - (iii) it be noted that this further review would be completed by May 2012 and would determine the commissioning priorities and identify if and how services are to be ceased/de-commissioned/rationalised. (The outcome of this review would be reported to the Cabinet in June 2012 and it would also confirm if the in principle budget can be achieved); and
 - (iv) the high level project plan for the further review of the Supporting People budget and services be noted;
- (7) a further review of the transport services provided for vulnerable adults be undertaken in order to establish a policy and appropriate provision of such transport;
- (8) in respect of the Re-Commissioning of Nursing and Residential Care:
- (i) approval be given to an in principle budget reduction of £1.5m in 2012/13 and a further £1.5m in 2013/14;

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- (ii) approval be given to the continuation of the review of Nursing and Residential “real cost of care”;
 - (iii) in parallel with the review referred to in relation to 8(ii) above, approval be given to the commencement of a procurement process and to continue to explore alternative commissioning approaches; and
 - (iv) it be noted that it is anticipated that the review referred to in resolution 8(ii) above would be concluded in May/June 2012. (The outcome of this will be reported to the Cabinet in June/July 2012. The review and the work identified in resolution 8(iii) above would also confirm if and how the in principle budget reduction can be achieved);
- (9) in respect of the other reviews set out in Annexes G to J of the report:
- (i) the terms of reference for the following reviews and the associated timescales be approved:
 - Annex G Terms of Reference - Library Services Review
 - Annex H Terms of Reference - Leisure Activity Review
 - Annex I Terms of Reference - 24 Hour Response Review
 - Annex J Terms of Reference - Street Lighting Review; and
 - (ii) it be noted that the terms of reference for other reviews would be presented to the Cabinet at a later date;
- (10) the Revenue Budget options for 2012/13 contained within Annex A of the report be approved for inclusion in the Council’s Revenue Budget 2012/13 and the Medium Term Financial Plan with the following amendments

Annex A Line Ref	ITEM	2012/13	
		£000	£000
49	Community Care Practitioners	61	
1	Reviewing Officers	153	
45	Sefton Play Council Grant	20	
41	Recharge for sports users and allotments users	85	
41	Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park	50	
	Total added back to Framework Budget		369
53	Framework Budget Surplus		-284
	Resulting deficit		85

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- (11) the use of one-off reserves to fund the £85,000 deficit detailed at resolution (10) above, be approved;
- (12) Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately in relation to those proposals in Annex A, then subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions, issue relevant statutory and contractual notifications;
- (13) the overall Revenue Budget for 2012/13 as set out in Annex B of the report be approved, subject to the amendments contained in resolutions (10) and (11) above; and
- (14) it be noted that subject to the approval of the above recommendations, the Revenue Budget for 2012/13 assumes that no savings would be taken from the following options:

- E1.3 Children’s Special Transport
- E2.3/4 Transportation for Adult Client Groups
- E2.10 Fair Access for Care Criteria
- E3.14 Crosby Civic Hall
- E4.3 Capita Contract
- E4.8 Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park
- E5.6 Home Improvement Agency
- E6.1 Dispense with Mayoral/Twinning
- E6.10 Southport Theatre/Floral Hall
Sefton Play Council – VCF Grant.”

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne that the Motion be amended as follows:

Resolution in the Motion	Reference	Proposal	Description	Impact on 2012/13 Budget (+ve = increased net Council expenditure)
				£000
2	E6.7	Reinstate Tourism Marketing		27
10	New Proposal	Plastic and Cardboard Recycling	Assumed roll-out starting Jan 2013 estimated full year cost £1m. Estimated cost for 2012/13 is £160,000. Subject to a successful bid to the Department for Communities and Local Government Weekly	40

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			Collections Support Scheme (WCSS). With contributions Council's (25%) and WCSS (75%)	
10	E6.9	Reduce Trade Union Facility time		-17
10	New Proposal	Rear Entry Cleansing	To reduce crews from 5 to 4	-50
10	New Proposal	One off refund Sefton residents as detailed:	One off refund of £12 per qualifying dwelling excluding exempt dwellings, second homes, and residents in receipt of 100% Council Tax Benefit. The refund be paid to the first named occupant on the Council Tax account for each dwelling in situ on 1st April 2012 only. The Council delegate final administrative arrangements to the Head of Finance and ICT	1116
10	New Proposal	Reduction in Member Allowances	Reduce Special Responsibility Allowances by 10% subject to Independent Remuneration Panel	-37
10	New Proposal	Review number of wards, councillors and ward boundaries	Formal request to Boundary Commission to review to achieve financial change in future years	0
10	New Proposal	One-off Reserves	Further use of one-off reserves to balance the budget	-1079
		Net budget impact		0

Following debate thereon, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the amendment was **lost** by 43 votes to 22.

A further **amendment** was moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Porter that the Motion be amended as follows:

“The Council has a duty to balance the budget and in order to cover the budget gap and produce a balanced budget; it is proposed that Resolution 10 of the Motion should be amended by:

- (1) Cancellation of the subscriptions to the Local Government Association (£47,000) and the North West Employers Association (£28,000) set out in Annex A of the report;
- (2) Inclusion of further savings of £12,000 for Option E6.9 – Trade Union facility time, set out in Annex A of the report (It is proposed that this be achieved by deleting the vacant post); and
- (3) The proposals in (1) and (2) above would create a budget surplus of £22,000 and this amount should be used to support Options E4.6 and E4.7 (Sporting Activities) referred to in resolution 5 in the Motion.”

Following debate on part (1) of the above Amendment, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that part (1) was **lost** by 54 votes to 9.

Following debate on part (2) of the above Amendment, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared part (2) was **carried** by 35 votes to 28.

The Mayor ruled that part (3) of the above Amendment would not be considered following the lost vote on part (1) of the Amendment.

A further **amendment** was moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Porter that the Substantive Motion be amended as follows:

“That Resolution (3) of the Substantive Motion be amended by the addition of the following text:

‘A review of the re-organisation of the Community Care Practitioners Staff be undertaken to identify further savings and the proposals be reported back to the Cabinet in October 2012’.”

Following debate thereon, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the further amendment was **lost** by 48 votes to 10 with 5 abstentions.

A further **amendment** was moved by Councillor Parry, seconded by Councillor Porter that the Substantive Motion be amended as follows:

“That Resolution 4(v) of the Substantive Motion be amended to read:

‘the grant to Sefton Play Council be reduced from £40,000 to £20,000’.”.

Following debate thereon, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the amendment was **lost** by 49 votes to 10 with 5 abstentions.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor adjourned the meeting for a period of ten minutes to enable Members of the Council to have a refreshment break. The meeting then reconvened.

A further **amendment** was moved by Councillor Doran, seconded by Councillor Cuthbertson, that resolution (10) of the Substantive Motion be amended as follows:

- “(1) That the Council reorganises its Governance Structures and
- (a) abolishes all Area Committees at a saving of £467,980 which represents the costs of administration and direct spending budgets; and
 - (b) removes the position of shadow spokespersons with an estimated saving of £76,000

This results in a total permanent additional saving of £543,980 which should be used to offset future years savings and the use of one-off resources in 2012/13.

- (2) In addition the Council should immediately seek the necessary review and approval for a reduction in the number of councillors per ward. It is recognised that no savings will accrue in the short term but this could contribute once the review was completed.”

Following debate on part (1) of the above Amendment, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the amendment was **lost** by 60 votes to 5.

Following debate on part (2) of the above Amendment, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the amendment was **lost** by 60 votes to 5.

A further **amendment** was moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne that the Substantive Motion be amended as follows:

“That Resolution (2) be amended by the reinstatement of £27,000 for Tourism Marketing to be financed from a reduction of that amount in the Rear Entry Cleansing Service.”

Following debate thereon, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the further amendment was **lost** by 43 votes to 22.

A further **amendment** was moved by Councillor Robertson, seconded by Councillor Brodie-Browne that the Substantive Motion be amended as follows:

“That Resolution (10) be amended by the addition of £40,000 for Plastic and Cardboard Recycling to be financed by a reduction in Member Allowances of £37,000 and use of £3,000 from one-off reserves.”

At this point, it was moved by Councillor Ron Watson and seconded by Councillor Pearson “that the question be now put”. In accordance with Rule 15.11(c) of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules, the Mayor

declared that the amendment had not been sufficiently discussed and he rejected the Motion.

Following debate thereon, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the further amendment was **lost** by 43 votes to 22.

On a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the **Substantive Motion** (including the further savings of £12,000 for Option E6.9 – Trade Union Facility Time) was **carried** by 44 votes to 2, with 18 abstentions and it was

RESOLVED:

That:

- (1) the work programme timetable contained in Annex C of the report be noted;
- (2) after taking into account the equality analysis assessment, the consultation feedback, risks and mitigating actions for each individual proposal, approval be given to the following actions being taken on the budget savings options set out in Annex D of the report:

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Action to be taken
E4.4	Highways Maintenance	A further reduction in Highways Grounds Maintenance Works Budgets which will be delivered by a reduction in the number of cuts to all highway grassed areas	That a reduction of three cuts to all highway grassed areas at a saving of £50,000 be approved
E6.6	Public Conveniences	Public Conveniences - Market Test	That a formal procurement process to provide the public convenience operational service be approved, which would result in a saving of £100,000
E6.7	Tourism	Review of Service	(a) That approval be given to the Tourist Information Centre being relocated to the Southport Cultural Centre (SCC) in 2013, resulting in a saving of £90,000; and

			(b) It be noted that £38,000 will be taken from the Tourism event reserve budget in the 2012/13 financial year to achieve the £90,000 target in order to manage the transitional arrangements pending the opening of the SCC
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- (3) in respect of the Assessment and Care Management - Community Care Practitioners (CCP) Review, set out in Annex E of the report, it be noted that savings of £193,000, associated with the CCP Review have already been achieved through the Voluntary Early Retirement/Voluntary Redundancy process;
- (4) in respect of the Voluntary, Care, Faith (VCF) Sector Review, set out in Annex F of the report:
- (i) it be noted that the VCF Sector review is now concluded and any future changes would be considered within the prioritisation process;
 - (ii) the key messages identified from the results of the VCF consultation and equality analysis assessment be noted;
 - (iii) approval be given to the introduction of three year commissioning processes where grant aid is given to organisations subject to annual performance reviews;
 - (iv) approval be given to a budget reduction of £150,000; and
 - (v) the grant to the Sefton Play Council be retained at £40,000;
- (5) in respect of the Landscape Services Change Proposals, set out in Annex K of the report:
- (i) after taking into account the equality analysis assessment, the consultation feedback, risks and mitigating actions, approval be given to the following actions being taken:

Ref	Service Area	Proposal	Action to be taken
E4.6 E4.7	Landscape Services	Recharge sports users and allotment users the costs of provision of utilities and the costs of	That the total saving to be achieved from the recharge of sports users and allotment users for utilities and

		Grounds Maintenance	maintenance be reduced from £170,000 (over 2 years) to £85,000. The specific achievement of these savings to be the subject of a negotiation with the users of these facilities
E4.8	Landscape Services	Closure of Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park	That the Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at the Botanic Gardens and the Conservatory at Hesketh Park be retained.

and

- (ii) approval be given to the proposal (E4.5,10,11,12) to redesign the Parks and Green Spaces Service and Coast and Countryside Service in order to achieve a saving of £250,000 in 2012/13 and £330,000 in 2013/14 and it be noted that the final proposals would be reported to the Cabinet in June 2012 at the conclusion of the process;
- (6) in respect of the Supporting People Proposals, set out in Annex L of the report:
- (i) approval be given to an in principle budget reduction of £2m in 2012/13 and a further £1m in 2013/14;
 - (ii) approval be given to a further period of consultation on commissioning priorities and the detail of how the budget reduction could best be delivered whilst minimising/mitigating the impacts i.e. a further review;
 - (iii) it be noted that this further review would be completed by May 2012 and would determine the commissioning priorities and identify if and how services are to be ceased/de-commissioned/rationalised. (The outcome of this review would be reported to the Cabinet in June 2012 and it would also confirm if the in principle budget can be achieved); and
 - (iv) the high level project plan for the further review of the Supporting People budget and services be noted;
- (7) a further review of the transport services provided for vulnerable adults be undertaken in order to establish a policy and appropriate provision of such transport;

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- (8) in respect of the Re-Commissioning of Nursing and Residential Care:
- (i) approval be given to an in principle budget reduction of £1.5m in 2012/13 and a further £1.5m in 2013/14;
 - (ii) approval be given to the continuation of the review of Nursing and Residential “real cost of care”;
 - (iii) in parallel with the review referred to in relation to 8(ii) above, approval be given to the commencement of a procurement process and to continue to explore alternative commissioning approaches; and
 - (iv) it be noted that it is anticipated that the review referred to in resolution 8(ii) above would be concluded in May/June 2012. (The outcome of this will be reported to the Cabinet in June/July 2012. The review and the work identified in resolution 8(iii) above would also confirm if and how the in principle budget reduction can be achieved);
- (9) in respect of the other reviews set out in Annexes G to J of the report:
- (i) the terms of reference for the following reviews and the associated timescales be approved:
 - Annex G Terms of Reference - Library Services Review
 - Annex H Terms of Reference - Leisure Activity Review
 - Annex I Terms of Reference - 24 Hour Response Review
 - Annex J Terms of Reference - Street Lighting Review
 - (ii) it be noted that the terms of reference for other reviews would be presented to the Cabinet at a later date;
- (10) the Revenue Budget options for 2012/13 contained within Annex A of the report be approved for inclusion in the Council’s Revenue Budget 2012/13 and the Medium Term Financial Plan with the following amendments:

Annex A Line Ref	ITEM	2012/13	
		£000	£000
49	Community Care Practitioners	61	
1	Reviewing Officers	153	
45	Sefton Play Council Grant	20	
41	Recharge for sports users and allotments users	85	
41	Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park	50	

	Total added back to Framework Budget		369
34	Personnel – Trade Unions Facility Time (Further Saving)		-12
53	Framework Budget Surplus		-284
	Resulting deficit		73

- (11) the use of one-off reserves to fund the £73,000 deficit detailed at resolution (10) above, be approved;
- (12) Officers be authorised to prepare for implementation immediately in relation to those proposals in Annex A, then subject to the duty to consult with employees and trade unions, issue relevant statutory and contractual notifications;
- (13) the overall Revenue Budget for 2012/13 as set out in Annex B of the report be approved, subject to the amendments contained in resolutions (10) and (11) above; and
- (14) it be noted that subject to the approval of the above recommendations, the Revenue Budget for 2012/13 assumes that no savings would be taken from the following options:
- E1.3 Children’s Special Transport
 - E2.3/4 Transportation for Adult Client Groups
 - E2.10 Fair Access for Care Criteria
 - E3.14 Crosby Civic Hall
 - E4.3 Capita Contract
 - E4.8 Aviary, Nursery Shop and Fernery at Botanic Gardens and Conservatory at Hesketh Park
 - E5.6 Home Improvement Agency
 - E6.1 Dispense with Mayoral/Twinning
 - E6.10 Southport Theatre/Floral Hall
Sefton Play Council – VCF Grant.

112. COUNCIL TAX 2012/13

The Council considered the report of the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT on the level of levies and precepts set for 2012/13 and the proposed level of Council Tax for 2012/13.

A copy of the formal budget resolution to be agreed by the Council, based on the resolutions referred to in Minute No. 111 above was circulated to Members of the Council for consideration.

It was moved by Councillor P. Dowd, seconded by Councillor Maher and

RESOLVED: That

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 1ST MARCH, 2012

- (1) it be noted that at its meeting on 19 January 2012, the Council calculated the following amounts for the year 2012/2013 in accordance with the Local Authorities (Calculation of Council Tax Base) (England) Regulations 1992 (as amended):
- (a) 93,119.58 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	Council Tax Base (Band D Equivalent Properties)
Aintree Village	2,281.68
Formby	9,422.50
Hightown	890.21
Ince Blundell	193.31
Little Altcar	288.46
Lydiate	2,251.14
Maghull	7,130.09
Melling	1,092.57
Sefton	277.93
Thornton	816.97

- (2) the Council Tax requirement for the Council's own purposes for 2012/2013 (excluding Parish Precepts) be calculated as £117,952,710;
- (3) the following amounts be calculated by the Council for the year 2012/2013 in accordance with Sections 31 to 36 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992:

(a)	£626,485,679	being the aggregate amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(2) of the Act taking into account all precepts issued to it by Parish Councils.
(b)	-£507,582,648	being the aggregate amounts which the Council estimates for the items set out in Section 31A(3) of the Act.
(c)	£118,903,031	being the amount by which the aggregate at 3(a) above exceeds the aggregate at 3(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 31A(4) of the Act as its Council Tax requirement for the year (item R in the formula in Section 31B of the Act).
(d)	£1,276.89	being the amount at 3(c) above (item R), divided by the amount at 1(a) above (item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 31B of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year (including Parish precepts).
(e)	£950,321	being the aggregate amount of all special items (Parish Precepts) referred to in Section 34(1) of the Act.
(f)	£1,266.68	being the amount at 3(d) above, less the amount given by dividing the amount at 3(e) above by the amount at 1(a) above (item T), calculated by the Council, in accordance with Section 34(2) of the Act, as the basic amount of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which no special item relates.

COUNCIL- THURSDAY 1ST MARCH, 2012

(g)	<p>The amounts below, being the amounts given by adding to the amount at 3(f) above the amounts of the special items relating to dwellings in those parts of the Council's area mentioned above divided in each case by the amount at 1(b) above, calculated by the Council in accordance with Section 34(3) of the Act as basic amounts of its Council Tax for the year for dwellings in those parts of its area to which special items relate:</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Parish</th> <th>£</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Aintree Village</td> <td>1,306.12</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Formby</td> <td>1,271.24</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Hightown</td> <td>1,270.89</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Ince Blundell</td> <td>1,275.47</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Little Altcar</td> <td>1,275.35</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Lydiate</td> <td>1,333.25</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Maghull</td> <td>1,355.53</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Melling</td> <td>1,283.15</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Sefton</td> <td>1,279.27</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Thornton</td> <td>1,272.19</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Parish	£	Aintree Village	1,306.12	Formby	1,271.24	Hightown	1,270.89	Ince Blundell	1,275.47	Little Altcar	1,275.35	Lydiate	1,333.25	Maghull	1,355.53	Melling	1,283.15	Sefton	1,279.27	Thornton	1,272.19																																																																																																																								
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- (4) it be noted that for the year 2012/2013 the Police Authority and Fire and Rescue Authority 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:

	Property Valuation Band							
Proportion of Band D	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Precepting Authority</u>								
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority	44.91	52.39	59.88	67.36	82.33	97.30	112.27	134.72
Merseyside Police Authority	100.41	117.15	133.88	150.62	184.09	217.56	251.03	301.24

- (5) 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 2012/2013 for each part of its area and for each of the categories of dwellings:

	Property Valuation Band							
Proportion of Band D	A 6/9	B 7/9	C 8/9	D 9/9	E 11/9	F 13/9	G 15/9	H 18/9
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
<u>Parish</u>								
Aintree Village	1,016.07	1,185.41	1,354.76	1,524.10	1,862.79	2,201.48	2,540.17	3,048.20
Formby	992.81	1,158.28	1,323.75	1,489.22	1,820.16	2,151.10	2,482.03	2,978.44
Hightown	992.58	1,158.01	1,323.44	1,488.87	1,819.73	2,150.59	2,481.45	2,977.74
Ince Blundell	995.63	1,161.57	1,327.51	1,493.45	1,825.33	2,157.21	2,489.08	2,986.90
Little Altcar	995.55	1,161.48	1,327.40	1,493.33	1,825.18	2,157.03	2,488.88	2,986.66
Lydiate	1,034.15	1,206.51	1,378.87	1,551.23	1,895.95	2,240.67	2,585.38	3,102.46
Maghull	1,049.01	1,223.84	1,398.68	1,573.51	1,923.18	2,272.85	2,622.52	3,147.02
Melling	1,000.75	1,167.55	1,334.34	1,501.13	1,834.71	2,168.30	2,501.88	3,002.26
Sefton	998.17	1,164.53	1,330.89	1,497.25	1,829.97	2,162.69	2,495.42	2,994.50
Thornton	993.45	1,159.02	1,324.60	1,490.17	1,821.32	2,152.47	2,483.62	2,980.34
<u>All Other Parts of the Council's Area</u>	989.77	1,154.74	1,319.70	1,484.66	1,814.58	2,144.51	2,474.43	2,969.32

- (6) the Council's basic amount of Council Tax for 2012/2013 is not deemed to be excessive in accordance with the principles approved under Section 52ZB of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.

113. MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES 2011/12

No changes were made to the Membership of Committees.

114. NOTICE OF MOTION SUBMITTED BY COUNCILLOR BYROM

Further to Minute No. 97 of the meeting held on 16 February 2012, it was moved by Councillor Byrom, seconded by Councillor Mahon:

“This authority supports the Metropolitan Fire Authorities Joint response to the Government’s Resource Review.

It notes that 62% of cuts in the English Fire Service, outside London, have fallen on the six Metropolitan brigades alone.

The number of frontline staff has been reduced by 458, nearly 6% of the establishment.

The six Chief Fire Officers have given a professional opinion that the scale of cuts now planned will severely affect frontline services and may result in the number of fire-fighters being “massively reduced, some by compulsory redundancy”. Fire appliance numbers will be cut and fire stations closed.

It is their professional view that the scale of cuts envisaged would “leave the main regional cities of this country with radically low levels of fire and rescue cover and significantly less ability to manage or assist at a major incident involving terrorism or flooding”.

The Metropolitan Brigades, including Merseyside, have had the biggest revenue support grant cut. Of the total RSG reductions planned between 2005/06 and 2012/13 of £75.9m - £62m has been in the Mets - 82% of all cuts.

In order to protect the life and property of the community of Sefton, the scale of these damaging cuts must be reversed and the strong message from the six Metropolitan Fire Chiefs given credence.

This authority resolves to write to the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Fire and Rescue Service, all of Sefton’s MP’s and the Prime Minister voicing our strong support for the joint Metropolitan Fire Services campaign.”

An **amendment** was moved by Councillor Jones, seconded by Councillor Papworth that the Motion be amended as follows:

“That the existing text in the seventh paragraph of the Motion be deleted and substituted by the following text:

'In order to continue the valuable service provided to Sefton, we ask the Government to consider the advice of the Fire Chiefs when making future decisions regarding finances'."

Following debate thereon, on a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the amendment was **lost** by 50 votes to 14.

On a show of hands, the Mayor declared that the Substantive Motion was **carried** unanimously and it was

RESOLVED:

This authority supports the Metropolitan Fire Authorities Joint response to the Government's Resource Review.

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