

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member Technical Services
Cabinet Member Regeneration

DATE: 26th May 2010
9th June 2010

SUBJECT: Sefton Business Village Partnership Reports
(21st April 2010 Meeting)

**WARDS
AFFECTED:** All

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis – Planning and Economic Development Director

**CONTACT
OFFICER:** Mo Kundi
3447

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:
To inform Members of the activities undertaken by Sefton Business Village Partnerships

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:
To comply with standard portfolio reporting procedures.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that:-

1. The content of report be noted, and that
2. When appropriate further reports on activities undertaken by Sefton Business Village Partnerships be presented.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: N/A

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:
Sefton Business Village Partnerships have been operating since 2002, with funding from the Regional Development Agency, Sefton Council, relevant Parish Councils, and the private sector, and have proved to be very successful vehicle for partnership working between the public sector, the local business community, and the voluntary sector for developing and delivering projects that benefit the business community and the public realm. The alternative option of not continuing Sefton Business Village Partnerships, would lead to loss of business engagement, the loss of valuable and free expertise that the business and the voluntary sectors bring to the table, and critically Sefton Council's ability to demonstrate business sector involvement as part of the Comprehensive Area Assessment regulations.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: N/A

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS:-

Legal
FD 317
Technical Services

CORPORATE OBJECTIVE MONITORING:

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community	/		
2	Creating Safe Communities	/		
3	Jobs and Prosperity	/		
4	Improving Health and Well-Being	/		
5	Environmental Sustainability	/		

6	Creating Inclusive Communities	/		
7	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening local Democracy	/		
8	Children and Young People	/		

LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Report to Cabinet Member (Regeneration) 17th February 2010, Cabinet Member (Technical Services) 24th February 2010 and the Cabinet 4th March 2010 entitled 'Sefton Business Village Partnership Reports (20th January 2010 Meeting)'.

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet (Regeneration) at his meeting on 17th February 2010, the Cabinet Member (Technical Services) at his meeting on 24th February 2010 and the Cabinet at its meeting on 4th March 2010 considered a report entitled 'Sefton Business Village Partnership Reports, (21st April 2010 Meeting)'. The report provided an update on the current projects and activities being developed and delivered by Business Village Partnerships in Southport, Birkdale, Formby, Crosby, Waterloo, Bootle, and Altside, which covers the four Town/Parish Councils of Maghull, Aintree, Lydiate and Melling.
- 1.2 The Report also provided information on the work of Sefton Business Against Crime Partnerships operating in Southport, and Bootle.
- 1.3 Members consider the Report and requested that when appropriate further reports on activities undertaken by Sefton Business Village Partnerships be presented.

2.0 Further Update

- 2.1 The overarching Sefton Business Village Partnership Board met on 21st April 2010 to consider the latest reports submitted by each of the local partnerships, copies of which are attached as Annex A to this report. Please note that Annexes relating to the Mapping exercise below are available on request.
- 2.2 Members may be interested to note that for the first time a major exercise has been undertaken to map the shops in those areas where Business Village Partnerships operate, i.e. Southport, Birkdale, Formby, Crosby, Waterloo, and Altside. Whilst the exercise is still incomplete, and will be geographically expanded, both within BVP areas and non BVP areas to ensure that all town centre shops are included, the results do highlight a number of key points:-
 - A total of 968 shops were recorded together with their current status
 - Of these currently 101 shops are empty – some 10.43%
 - In terms of size of these shops, some 669 fall with the small category (less than 800 square feet), 167 in the medium (5,000 or less square feet), and 85 as large (over 5,000 square feet).
 - 206 (21.28%) are considered as big chains stores, i.e. those brand stores that are likely to be operating regionally, and nationally
 - 102 (10.54%) were considered to be retail stores
 - 40 (4.13%) as Takeaways, 54 (5.58%) as restaurants, and 26 (2.69%) as Public Houses/Bars
 - In terms of empty shops, Waterloo has the highest percentage (19.3%), followed by Formby at 11.6%. Southport and Crosby are

both around 10%, with Birkdale at 8%. Altside has the least number of empty shops, 5% of the total.

2.3 It is intended to undertake a more detailed analysis of the captured data, and to present the findings at future meetings.

3.0 Proposal

3.1 It is proposed that:-

- The content of the report be noted, and
- Further reports on activities undertaken by Sefton Business Village Partnerships be presented.



21st April 2010

Southport Town Hall, Birkdale Room

Starting at 3.00pm



BETTER TOGETHER



southport business enterprise



Birkdale Business Village Partnership

Agenda

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1. Introductions & Apologies

2. Reports:

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3. Any Other Business

4. Dates and Venues of future meetings:

- 21st July 2010 Bootle Town Hall (Committee Room 1) @ 3.00pm
- 20th October 2010 Southport Town Hall (Birkdale Room) @ 3.00pm

The ART of SHOPPING

Presentation by Liverpool Biennial

Introduction

Sefton Council is partnering with Liverpool Biennial, through its Art 'for Places' project, to develop and deliver the 'ART of SHOPPING' project across the borough. In order to deliver this project the partnership is seeking £30,000 from Arts Council England to supplement the funding (£48,000) it has already received from DCLG as part of the Empty Shop Fund. Should this bid be successful Crosby Housing Association has indicated that it would be prepared to contribute £5,000, and Sefton Council's Leisure and Tourism Department is also willing to provide £3,500. In addition, discussions are currently taking place with StepClever officers to determine if there is any possibility of additional funding for this project.

Background

Liverpool Biennial and the Art for Places project have been working in Sefton since 2008 on a major new public art commission for the Leeds and Liverpool canal. Arts for Places aims to creatively explore new ways of working within the regeneration process, with community engagement at its heart. The commission, Sefton Waterworks, is planned for lunch later into 2010.

As part of the above projects' engagement work, Liverpool Biennial has been running the Seaforth Ideas Shop in the former Post Office in the heart of Seaforth Village, as a space for artist residencies and community led activities for a period of 12 months. The work undertaken here, and the experience gained underpin the proposal for funding from the Arts Council England.

The ART of SHOPPING Proposal

The ART of SHOPPING project aims to build on the Art for Places work in Seaforth, and use creative approaches to stimulate activity across key Sefton shopping areas. The aim is to be creative, engaging and thought provoking, whilst proving a platform to stimulate and enliven shopping areas. One of the key goals is to encourage people to shop locally and to consider taking on shop ownership.

The proposal is aimed at meeting the following objectives:-

- To create opportunities to stimulate enterprise and economic activity, through increased use of local shopping areas, and increased take up of empty shops.
- To contribute towards creating a unique identity & sense of place for the shopping areas.
- To improve the physical environment where ever possible through creative activity.
- To reduce the negative impact of empty shops.
- To bring communities together to act for the improvement of their area.
- To encourage sustainable cultural activity.
- To attract additional funds where possible
- To maximise marketing and publicity opportunities.

The project will focus on the following shopping areas:-

- Ainsdale Village
- Birkdale Village
- Bootle Town Centre
- Crosby Village
- Formby Village
- Maghull Shopping Centre
- Seaforth Village
- Southport Town Centre
- Waterloo

Bid Time Scale

Due to changes at the Arts Council England the ART of SHOPPING bid was not formally submitted and accepted until mid March. The Arts Council England has indicated that it is likely to be late June early July before a decision is made.

Presentation

Paul Kelly from Liverpool Biennial will be presenting in detail the proposals contained in the bid, and how the objectives identified above will be realised.

Sefton Business Village Partnership

Notes of meeting held on 20th January 2010 at

Bootle Town Hall

Present:

Margaret Carney	Chair, CEO Sefton MBC
Mo Kundi	Manager, Sefton BVP, Sefton MBC
Steve Dickson	Sefton Chamber of Commerce
Sue Dare	Chair, SBE
Jim Breen	Manager, SBE
Les French	Chair, Altside BVP
Janet Barnet	Chair, Waterloo Traders Association
Sean Brady	Chair, Formby Partnership
Nicky Owen	Manager, Formby and Crosby BVPs
Derek Sarath	Manager, Waterloo BVP
Chris White	Manager, BTCM
Rob Uffendell	Chair, Birkdale BVP
John Keogh	Manager, Altside BVP

Apologies:

Councillor Robertson	Sefton MBC
Bob Greenhalgh	Chair, BTCM/Strand Shopping Centre
Catherine Caddick	Chair, Crosby BVP/Caddick Jewellers
Stuart Roberts	Chair, SBE/Specsavers
Steve Booth	Manager, SBAC and Birkdale BVP
Valaina Bowker	Representing SBE

1. Minutes of meetings held on 20th January 2010

1.1 Southport Business Enterprise

Business and Retail Strategy Working Group

An inception meeting was held in November 2009 with the Retail consultant White Young Green, who have been appointed to undertake a detailed Study of the current retail position and to assess future need, including the identification of potential sites. In addition it was highlighted that:-

- The former Woolworth site is currently being renovated for new tenants, New Look and H & M, who are expected to occupy the site in April 2010.
- Old Bank Building at 253-254 Lord Street is now an ASK Italian Restaurant.
- Cambridge Walks will shortly be re-branded and re-launched by owners Threadneedle Asset Management, as part of a programme to recruit new retailers.
- Former Yorkshire Bank property on Eastbank Street is very close to having new tenants.

Marketing Working Group

Following the success of the **"I Love Southport"** promotion in Spring 2009, the Partnership held a very successful **"I love Southport at Christmas"**, campaign which encouraged residents to shop locally, support local retailers, and sustain the retail offer in Southport. Linked to this was a Christmas Festival held for the first time in Chapel Street over three weekends involving a range of traditional and modern musical entertainment, children's rides and six food stalls. As part of the wider Christmas campaign a parking promotion permitted free parking after 3.00pm on Thursdays and Fridays in December.

SBE Newsletter

The SBE Newsletter containing information relevant to the town's retailers, such as sales performance, new store openings, marketing activity and events, environment and safety issues was delivered to retailers. The intention is make this a regular quarterly feature.

Action – Jim Breen

1.2 Birkdale Business Village Partnership

Britain in Bloom

Birkdale village won an award for the Britain in Bloom competition. This is a major success for the Partnership, which was instrumental in taking this forward.

Events

The Partnership held its annual Christmas Lights Switch on 3rd December. The event attracted some 1,000 visitors despite the inclement weather. A feedback exercise undertaken with local retailers showed that 84% of those that responded were happy with the event. A key issue raised was the lack of sufficient parking in the village.

For the first time the Partnership assisted with the erection 18 solar powered Christmas trees in around the Hillside Bridge area, and the Birkdale Library area.

The Partnership will be undertaking an Arts and Craft fair in the spring.

Action – Steve Booth

1.3 Formby Partnership

The chair of Formby Partnership, Gill Fell has resigned due to work commitments. Sean Brady, a Formby Parish Councillor has agreed to be the interim chair until a private sector representative can be found.

The Partnership has agreed to take over the organisation of the Formby Christmas event from 2011. The Partnership will be undertaking its second "Formy Alive" event on 19th and 20th June, and is hoping to build on the success of the first one.

Sean Brady provided a brief summary of the Low Carbon Community Challenge bid that Formby Parish Council and Sefton Council developed and submitted for funding. Unfortunately the bid was not successful, but there was an acknowledgement on how well the two Councils worked

together, and that this could be a model for joint working arrangements in the future.

Action – Nicky Owen

1.4 Crosby Business Village Partnership

Events

The Christmas event took place on 27th November, and despite some minor hiccups the event went very well. A post event evaluation will be undertaken.

Parking

Instead of the "Free After 3" scheme, Crosby Partnership opted for free parking after 10.30am on Saturday 12th and Saturday 19th December. A feedback exercise will be undertaken to gauge the success of the scheme.

Sainsbury's Development

The second round of consultation took place in November, and Sainsbury's have indicated that no further consultations are planned before the planning application is submitted.

Action – Nicky Owen

1.5 Waterloo Business Village Partnership

Car Parking Survey

The Partnership undertook two comprehensive parking surveys, which highlighted the need for changes in the local car parking arrangements for shoppers. The parking surveys also showed that when any changes are made to Traffic Regulation Orders the business community needs to be also consulted as these changes could have significant adverse impact on their trade. A number of conclusions and suggestions were made, which were forwarded to Council's Traffic Section for action.

Business Rates

Work has been done by the Partnership to provide an analysis of rateable values in Waterloo and for comparable areas. The results show that rateable values overall in South Road and St. Johns' Road are reasonable. However a couple of unusual queries were identified in the study, which are now being referred to the Valuation Office for clarification.

Action Plan

The Partnership has produced a draft Action Plan, which will be discussed at the next meeting. The intention is that this will form the basis of the actions of the Partnership in 2010.

A vote of Thanks

In recognition of the fact that Derek will be taking early retirement Margaret thanked Derek for all his hard work, and wished him all the best in his retirement.

1.6 Bootle Town Centre Management Partnership

Events

Bootle Festival events that were held on Friday 23rd and Saturday 24th October were a major success. The events were well attended, increasing the Strand's footfall by some 2% over the previous week. The Christmas event held on 26th November was packed with activities, including the junior Ski slope, which generated a great amount of publicity across the local media including Bootle Times, Crosby Herald and the Liverpool Echo and Real Radio North West.

The first Bootle Dash, which attracted 46 entries and was undertaken in association with The Jospice is expected to raise some £1,000.

The Partnership is planning to hold the following three events in the next quarter:-

- A focus on Fitness promotion
- A Valentine promotion
- A Spring Festival/Market on Stanley Road

Action – Chris White

1.7 Altside BVP

Tourism

Camping and Caravanning Club – Due to difficulties in securing the site, the Partnership is now exploring alternative sites.

Lydiate Marina – Detail discussions have been held with the Planning Department, and the developer has been informed of the nature of the information that has to accompany the planning application.

Hornby Centre – The deadline for the submission of Stage one HLF bid is the end of February and the Trust is currently developing a number of policies in order to comply with HLF regulations.

Hornby Experience Exhibition – A third exhibition was held on 14th and 15th November, which was also very successful. The aim of this exhibition was to raise awareness of Frank Hornby’s link with Maghull to gauge interest for a permanent Hornby Heritage Centre. The total cost of the event was £5432, which was funded from Sefton Express, Maghull Town Council, and income generated from rental of tables at the exhibition.

Central Square & Aintree Village Christmas Illuminations – With fundings from Maghull Group, Sefton Tourism, and Sefton East Parishes Area Committee, additional Christmas illuminations were installed at Maghull Central Square. In addition fundings from the Bleasdale Group, Aintree Village Parish Council, and Sefton Tourism meant that for the first time similar lighting was installed at the three shopping parades in Aintree Village.

Action –John Keogh

1.8 Sefton Business Against Crime Partnership (SBAC)

The Southport Shopwatch and Bootle Shopwatch Partnerships received a presentation by the Anti Terrorist Team of the Merseyside Police. The aim of the presentation was to highlight the outcome of a terrorist attack in a crowded area and the preventative measures that can be taken by public and private sector workers.

New target files of current offenders were produced for both the Southport and Bootle areas and have been distributed to all members of Business Against Crime Partnerships. It is interesting to note as a result of BACs, both Southport and Bootle police have reported a decrease in store related crime.

Nightsafe Radios – Additional funding to provide radios to pubs and clubs in Waterloo and Crosby areas has been secured, and these will be rolled out. Once in operation Nightsafe Radios will help to combat crime and anti-social behaviour associated with the night-time economy.

Action – Steve Booth

1.9 Sefton BVP

Lydiate Village Centre – the construction of the Centre is experiencing 6 weeks delay due to adverse weather conditions, but the total cost of the project will be contained within existing budgets.

Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010 – 2012 – Sefton Council and Formby Parish Council have jointly developed and submitted a bid under this programme to draw down some £500,000. It was verbally reported at the meeting that this bid was not successful.

Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energies in Social & Low Income Housing – For the first time the European Commission has agreed to allow ERDF grant to be used in social and low income housing for the purpose retrofitting energy efficiency measures. Sefton Council has agreed to develop and submit a bid and be the accountable body for this some £22 million sub-regional project

Merseyside Rural Economy Strategy & Action Plan – Consultants 'Rural Innovation', commissioned to develop the Rural Strategy presented their findings on 3rd December at Bootle Town Hall. The next stage of the study is to develop Actions Plans for each of the Boroughs within the Merseyside region.

Supporting Town Centres

Sefton Council along with 57 other local authorities, has been allocated £52,631.58 by DCLG to help town centres address the adverse impact of the current economic climate. It was agreed that £500 should be given to the nine town/retail centres within Sefton so that local Partnerships could market and promote them leading up to the Christmas period.

It was also agreed that a bid be submitted to Arts Council England in partnership with Liverpool Biennial in order to draw down additional funds, which could be between £10,000 and £30,000.

Scarisbrick Avenue Building, Southport – It was reported that after some lengthy delay Thomas Barnes have now commenced work on site, which is expected to be completed by July 2010.

Funding Opportunities

The report also provided a detailed breakdown of the current funding opportunities from the various European Programmes as well as national funding sources such as the Regional development Agency and the Lottery.

Other Issues Raised at the Meeting

1. Tracking Change in Town Centres – It was agreed that a base line information should be developed in those Town Centre areas where Partnerships operate so that changes could be recorded and tracked, thereby allowing the development of evidence based actions and activities.
2. Co-ordination of common activities – It was recognised that there are a number of common activities taking place by local Partnerships across the Borough, and if these could be identified, and then co-ordinated there may be some opportunities to pool the resources and secure savings through commissioning and procurement.

Action – Mo Kundi

2. Southport Business Enterprise

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Southport Business Enterprise - Progress Report No. 34

Author of Report:

Steve Booth – Acting Southport Business Enterprise Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Southport Business Enterprise.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2010/11

2.1 Current Active Projects

Southport Business Enterprise Working Groups meet regularly. SBE outputs are to increase numbers of businesses, jobs, visitors, visitor spend, and enhance the environment and safety of Southport's town centre.

SBE Working Groups contain members from the public and private sectors and are focused on achieving the above outputs through the project activities described in this report.

2.2 Management and Admin

SBE is again participating in the STERLINK student exchange programme with Mons, Belgium, and final year student, Yasmina Stansfield has joined us for a four month period, from Feb -May 2010. This exchange programme provides the final year student with both work experience and an opportunity to greatly improve their

English language skills, and provides SBE with additional administrative support at no cost.

2.3 Business and Retail Strategy Working Group

Due to a re – structuring and re- alignment this group will be set up again in May 2010. Major retailers have expressed an interest in getting involved following on from the presentation from White, Young, Green and Cheetam and Mortimer that was given to major stakeholders in Southport in March. And there is now a wealth of retail expertise that will be tapped into to deliver the next part of the Retail Strategy.

2.4 Southport Investment Strategy (SIS)

SBE is the thematic leader for Chapter 2 of the SIS, Town Centre Management, and a copy of the proposed Implementation Plan, together with key delivery priorities for year 1 (2010/11), and year 2/3 are highlighted in the attached Annex A below. To progress this Implementation Plan the SBE together with its SIS Retail Working Group is being realigned to ensure effective delivery. The attached Annex B shows the proposed make up the SBE Board and the SIS Retail Working Group. This group had their initial meeting in December 2008. This group is now awaiting a draft report to develop its work plan in more detail. Namely Sefton Council's updated Retail Strategy Review by White Young Green. This is expected within the next few weeks, and further information on this group's activity will be provided in the next Sefton BVP report.

2.5 Marketing Group

"I Love Southport" Campaign

This campaign will run again from mid April till June 30th and will consist of two elements

1. Customers who spend over £10 in a participating retailer will be entered into a free prize draw where two winners will either receive a night for two in the Ramada Hotel or Albert and Victoria Hotel and a meal for two
2. There will be a downloadable discount vouchers booklet, which will enable visitors or residents to save over £200 by shopping or dining in selected Southport businesses.

To enter applicant must fill in their e- mail addresses on a form that will be available at till points, this will then be passed onto Sefton Tourism who will add the names onto their database utilise this information to send out details of events etc:

The main elements of the campaign, " I Love Southport" are:

- A loyalty scheme that would encourage local shoppers to use a broad range of town centre shops.
- A PR campaign in selected media within 90 minutes drive time of Southport.

A sample of the marketing materials will be available for inspection at the Sefton BVP meeting. Local press, radio, and Sefton Council PR will promote this campaign.

2.6 Environment and Safety Working Group

Southport Business Against Crime

A separate report on the Sefton Business Against Crime Partnership by the SBAC Manager , Steve Booth, is included elsewhere on the agenda.

In addition, a section 215 notice is being pursued on a property in Eastbank Street that has been empty for over 10 years and is in an advanced state of decay. The aim of this action is to compel the owner to take action to improve the property as it is encouraging anti-social behaviour and having a negative impact on the surrounding properties.

Graffiti issues are a common element of all town Centres and SBE is working to reduce the impact on the visitor economy by targeting central and tourist related areas within Southport and working closely with the Safer Stronger Communities team.

Wesley Street has had a major uplift including hanging baskets and themed street lighting, which has made a vast difference to the overall ambience of the area and the traders and owners have all commented positively.

2.7 Chapel Street Management Working Group

This is a group will be reconstituted as part of the retail strategy group agenda.

SBE is now assisting or enabling several events, public services, and attractions to take place on Chapel Street to inform or entertain visitors to Chapel Street. These include schools, charities and health authorities.

Work is ongoing to expand the Farmer's market both in offer and in size. The last market had 17 attendees including 2 new stalls.

Merseyside Police now have a stall on a regular basis which distributes crime prevention advice. This was expanded on during the March market by the Traffic section who displayed their Police Motorbikes on Chapel Street. whilst also distributing literature to the general public, and it is hoped that other sections and departments will come in from time to time.

Social Services have also taken a stall to enable the Adult Learning Horticultural Centre to sell plants and at the same time allowing some of it's workers the opportunity to work in a different environment than one that they are used to and to meet the general public.

2.8 Mapping Exercise

An extensive exercise carried out on 3rd April 2010 by Yasmina Stansfield, the final year student from Belgium into number of shops in Southport Town centre, and their current status shows that Southport Town Centre, which includes Chapel Street, Lord Street, London Street, and Eastbank Street has some 274 shops, of which 24 (9%) are currently empty. As to be expected Lord Street dominates the picture in terms of number of stores, 142, with 24 (9%) empty. Chapel Street with some 42 stores has the least number of empty stores (2 or 5%), but Marble Place with some 16 stores has the highest vacancy rate at 19% and this will go up once New Look store is relocated to Chapel Street in May. Key points to note are:-

- The new H + M store is schedule to open on 22nd April
- New Look store is set to now open on 13th May as opposed to 29th April
- Famous Footware (Lord Street) opened on 1st April,
- A Nail and Beauty Parlour (Eastbank Street) opened on 3rd March
- Bodycare opened its doors for trade on 16th March
- Holland and Barrett will be moving into the Nobles amusement arcade on Chapel Street. The planned date for this move is end of April.

These will totally transform Chapel Street from its position this time last year when several properties were vacant and will enable Southport to extend its retail offer. It is intended to expend this mapping exercise, both in terms covering all other shopping streets in Southport Town Centre, but to also capture other pertinent information.

The results of this exercise are contained in Annex A included as part of the Annexes containing Town Centre Mapping information.

Visitor Economy Strategy – Implementation Plan

3. Priority 2 - Retail Development

Development Area	Current Position	Year 1 Development Priorities	Year 2/3 Development Priorities	Delivery & Constraints	Funding Opportunities	Risk
<p>Major Retail Development – Lord Street, Chapel Street & Environs</p> <p><i>Lead - Town Centre Management Group</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ No clear policy (size/scale of ambition) around the development of large, modern units capable of attracting mid/upper end retail brands. ❑ Spatial Planning - Limited clarity around the role of Lord Street, Chapel Street & potentially Tulketh Street in accommodating offer. ❑ Limited market information – existing demand, projections, current footfall and target retail brand/operators 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. WYG Feasibility Study to provide gap analysis, site assessments, development opportunities & market need. 2. Prioritise activity within Local Development Framework/SPD. 3. Market evaluation & research policy. 4. Engaging commercial retail agents with vision & market intelligence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Consultation ❑ Seek Development Partner ❑ Start work on masterplan ❑ Integration of access/transport policy. ❑ Retail Sales Strategy targeting national retail brands etc. ❑ Local environmental development – public realm, access & transport policy etc ❑ Establish public/private sector 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Resource to deliver ambition – human & financial. ❑ Environmental. ❑ Who leads? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ NWDA ❑ Local Authority (land value etc) ❑ Developer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Access/integrated transport strategy. ❑ Not LA priority. ❑ Political pressure ❑ Impact of Area Management proposals.

			'experience retail' development group			
<p>Attracting 'on-brand' Retail – Lord Street & Chapel Street</p> <p>Lead - Town Centre Management Group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ No clear policy re clustering/prioritising of desired retail brands in designated quarters. ❑ Retail mapping – increased knowledge of empty town centre retail space & landlords. ❑ No agreed action plan to target & encourage 'on-brand' retail into designated quarters – grants, business support, rate incentives etc. ❑ Lack of stakeholder/private sector input into develop 'block by block' development of Lord Street. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complete Land lord mapping survey of Lord Street and identification of key premises/sites. 2. In conjunction with Sefton's inward investment team & SIS comms plan, develop promotional initiatives & align support activity (grants, marketing etc) with 'on brand' retailers. 3. Through WYG strategy, define Lord Street 'character areas', prioritise development opportunities & establish mechanisms for block by block development with existing retailers, potential developers & Landlords/letting 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Integrate approach with major retail strategy and planning policy. ❑ Implementation of BID's within designated areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ As above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ As above 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❑ Current economic down turn. ❑ Lack of officer and political will given other priorities of the council ❑ Incentives offered by other retail destinations – Liverpool 1, Chester, Preston etc. ❑ Lack of industry knowledge and market potential of Southport as a retail destination for target retail brands.

		<p>agents.</p> <p>4. Re structure existing research activity to evidence performance of resort's retail sector – footfall, turnover etc.</p> <p>5. Structure outline BID's framework for prioritized areas of Lord Street & Chapel Street.</p>				
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DRAFT**Proposed Representation on the Board and Working Group**

Retailers	SBE Board*	SIS Retail Group
Marks & Spencers	x	
Primark (Confirmation)	x	
Boots	x	x
Debenhams	x	x
Wilkinson's		x
Broadbents	x	
Wayfarers Arcade	x	x
Sainsbury's	x	
Mason Owen		x
BHS	x	
Champion Press	x	x
H&M (Confirmation)		
Rob Anderson		x
Antony Hill Partnership		x
Valaina Bowker	x	
Covet & Crave		x
H&M (Confirmation)		
Edinburgh Woollen Mill	x	
Dransfield Property		x
Specsavers	x	
Tony Brough	x	

*SBE Board also currently has 3 Ward Councillors plus Chair of Area Committee.

Note: SIS Retail group to meet quarterly. To also include Officers (Alan Young, Mark Catherall, Stefan Jankowski, Peter Sandman) Mo Kundi & Steve Booth to sit on both.

4. Birkdale Business Village Partnership

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Birkdale Business Village Partnership - Progress Report

Author of Report:

Steve Booth - Birkdale Business Village Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Birkdale Business Village Partnership.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2010/11

4.1 Current Activities

The Arts and Crafts Fair is to be held on Sat April 17th between 1:00 – 4:00 currently there are 16 stallholders confirmed for the event, which is a 50% increase on the last event. Birkdale will also be included in a week of Arts and Crafts events that are happening throughout the whole of West Lancashire.

The date of the Summer Festival has also been finalised. It will now take place on July 17th from 13.00 – 18.00. There will be fairground rides, live music Southport Lifeboat, food vendors along with Arts and Crafts stalls.

Negotiations are also under way to bring the Sefton Youth Services Bus down for the event, which will allow teenagers to play video games etc. whilst interacting with Youth Services. It is envisaged that this whole event will be self funding

Birkdale will be entering the Britain in Bloom competition again this year, after receiving a commendation in last year's event.

As part of this commitment, the raised kerb edging around the tree stumps will be renewed and replaced

Discussions are ongoing with Social Services regarding planting of the flower beds by the Adult Learning Nursery located on Rotten Row who have offered to plant flowers in the beds, once the work is completed. This will hopefully be at either low cost or no cost and when completed, will add to the overall ambience of the village

There are currently 4 empty units in Birkdale, However one of the properties has planning permission for a Beauty salon and early indications are than a restaurant may be re – opening under new management.

4.2 Mapping Exercise

The Mapping exercise shows that that there are some 60 Shops in the village centre, of which 5 (8%) are currently, although two of these will to be reoccupied soon.

The results of this exercise are contained in Annex B included as part of the Annexes containing Town Centre Mapping information.

5. Formby Business Village Partnership

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Formby Business Village Partnership - Progress Report No. 5

Author of Report:

Nicky Owen - Formby Business Village Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Formby Business Village partnership.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2010/11

5.1 Partnership Issues

This Group consists of local Traders, the Parish Council, Sefton MBC and local community organisations. Sean Brady is currently acting as an interim chair.

The Partnership meets bi-monthly.

The Chair is working to encourage more businesses to join the Partnership.

5.2 Events

Formby Live: preparations are well underway for the 2010 music event. The dates for the event have changed since the last report and it will now take place on Saturday 17th and Sunday 18th July.

On 17th there will be street entertainment in the Village during the day and then there will be acts in the bars in the evening. On the Sunday there will be a free concert in the grounds of Formby pool as well as family entertainers, food and fair rides.

Christmas Event: the first meeting to plan the Christmas event will take place during the next 4 weeks.

Markets: the potential for craft markets and community markets is currently being investigated.

Street Entertainment: a licence application for this is due to be submitted by the end of April. If the application is successful it will allow music, theatre and dance events to take place in the Village Centre throughout the year.

5.3 Communications

Press Advert: the 'Visit Formby' advert went into Trinity Group newspapers in mid-January. This was paid for from the Sefton MBC Retail Centres pot.

Electronic Communication: the formbyfirst blog that Sean has developed is being used by a range of people. A facebook site for Formby Live 2010 has also been created.

5.4 Environment

Parking: a meeting has taken place between a number of BVP's, including Formby, and traffic services to discuss parking issues. Traffic services are now looking at the issues in Formby around parking restrictions and car-park signage.

Village Centre: the Parish Council are continuing to work on making the Village Centre more attractive. Improvements to the area adjacent to the post office are currently being investigated. The Village will also participate in Britain in Bloom again this year, with additional planters from 2009.

Security: the Partnership, the Parish Council and Sefton MBC are investigating the potential of expanding the current shop radio scheme within the Village to reduce retail related theft.

5.5 Mapping of Business Premises in the Village

An exercise has been undertaken to map out the nature, type, and number of shop premises currently in the Village Centre. The key findings of this exercise is as follows:-

- There are currently 112 shop premises
- 13 are currently empty, which is some 11.6% of the total.
- 8 are charity shops, and 12 cafes/restaurants

The results of this exercise are contained in Annex C included as part of the Annexes containing Town Centre Mapping information.

5.6 Other Issues

Low Carbon Pilot: unfortunately the application for funding for this project was unsuccessful.

6. Crosby Village Traders Association

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Crosby Business Village Partnership - Progress Report No. 34

Author of Report:

Nicky Owen - Crosby Business Village Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Crosby Business Village Partnership.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

6.1 Partnership

There is a range of Traders involved in the Partnership, along with Officers and Councillors from Sefton MBC. The Group meets on a bi-monthly basis.

Unfortunately the last meeting of the Partnership had to be cancelled as the Chair had an accident. A new meeting date is expected to be set shortly.

6.2 Events

A summer event and Christmas event are planned for the Village in 2010. At present no dates have been set for these events. Event planning is expected to start shortly.

Crosby Bars Festival: this is organised by the licenced premises in the Village in association with Sefton Tourism. This years event will take place on the 28th – 31st May. There will be a stage in the Village Centre as well as acts in the bars.

6.3 Development

Sainsbury's: the planning application for the new Sainsbury's store was submitted on 12th March. If the application is successful the layout of the Village will be substantially changed. Discussions now need to take place between the Traders

Association, Sefton MBC and Sainsbury's about phasing for the project and ways to manage the Village through the change period.

6.4 Other Issues

Parking: a meeting has taken place between a number of the BVP's, including Crosby, and traffic services to discuss parking issues. Traffic services are now looking at the parking charges for the Village and how parking will be managed if the Sainsbury's application is successful.

6.5 Mapping Exercise

An exercise has been undertaken to map out the nature, type, and number of shop premises currently in the Village Centre. The key findings of this exercise is as follows:-

- There are currently 91 store premises
- 9 are currently empty, which is 10% of the total.

Clearly this figure will go up once Sainsbury's start their re-development.

The results of this exercise are contained in Annex D included as part of the Annexes containing Town Centre Mapping information.

7. Waterloo Traders Association

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Waterloo Traders Association - Progress Report

Author of Report:

Derek Sarath – Waterloo Traders Association Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Waterloo Traders Association.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2010/11

7.1 Management Issues

Derek Sarath has taken early retirement. Until the post of Waterloo Traders Association Manager is formally filled, Stephen Evans with assistance from John Keogh will be co-ordinating and servicing the Waterloo Traders Association.

7.2 Car Parking

Since undertaking detailed parking surveys, the Partnership has met to consider how the findings can be implemented, particularly those elements considered to have the greatest adverse impact on the trading position of the area. Concerns were expressed about enforcement of parking restrictions, the need for better signage, parking for delivery vehicles, and traffic serving local school. It was agreed that a detailed traffic survey down St. Johns Road should also be undertaken. In addition a request was made to invite Council's Traffic Services Manager to the next meeting of the partnership to address traffic and road safety concerns.

7.3 Rateable Values

Following the detailed study undertaken, which showed that that rateable values overall in South Road and St Johns' Road are reasonable, the Partnership has agreed to drop this item from the agenda for future meetings. The Partnership agreed instead to concentrate on those activities that would raise the profile of the area, and encourage more pedestrian footfall.

7.4 Events

The Partnership is very keen to undertake a number of events in the area during the year that would bring more shoppers to the area, and at the same time generate income for the Christmas event.

It was agreed that proposals for a "waterloo Day" event be considered at the next meeting.

Discussions also took place around the Shop Sefton 2010 (AKA 'The Art of Shopping') bid that has now been submitted to the Arts Council for additional funding, and how that could benefit Waterloo.

7.5 Action Plan

The Partnership is keen to ensure that work activities contained in its Action Plan are delivered. In relation to this the following issues were raised:-

- How the local environment, including public realm could be improved
- Signs indicating that you are entering Waterloo
- Raising the profile of South Road and St Johns Road, particularly in relation to its retail area
- As part of Merseytravel's bus/station improvements to re-brand the Waterloo Station as 'Home of Another Place'.

7.6 Mapping Exercise

The mapping exercise shows that Waterloo has some 197 shops of which currently 38 (19.3%) are empty. This is the highest rate amongst the areas mapped to date.

Detailed results of this exercise are contained in Annex E included as part of the Annexes containing Town Centre Mapping information.

8. Bootle Town Centre Management

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Bootle Town Centre Management - Progress Report No. 34

Author of Report:

Chris White - Bootle Town Centre Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Bootle Town Centre Management.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2010/11

Sefton Chamber of Commerce and Trade, who manages the Bootle Town Centre Management Partnership, will be presenting the report at the meeting.

9. Altside Business Village Partnership

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Altside Business Village Partnership - Progress Report No. 34

Author of Report:

John Keogh - Altside Business Village Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Altside Business Village Partnership.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2010/11

9.1 Tourism

Camping & Caravanning Club site -

Marina - Planning application for Lydiate Marina has now been submitted and is being considered by the planning department who have requested additional documentation.

Hornby Visitor Centre - The stage one application has been submitted to the Heritage Lottery Fund and confirmation has been received from the case officer assigned to the project. The application will be considered for approval at the next quarterly meeting on 17th June, if the application is successful funds will be available to develop a stage two bid which would be submitted in December. In the interim period leading up to the 17th June meeting the Trust will be developing a website to raise awareness and raise funds, and build a stronger collection of Hornby items and ephemera.

Proposed Hornby Centre and the activities of the Frank Hornby Trust have featured in several news articles including the local free press, the Liverpool Daily Post and Echo, and the 250,000 circulation Camping & Caravanning Club magazine.

then some for you in this show, which was a for the evening. Flawless - of course.

Hornby museum is well on track

by Jim Sharpe



MAGHULL is on track to become the national centre for anyone interested in the life and work of Frank Hornby - the man who invented Meccano, Dinky Toys and Hornby trains.

Following the success of the second 'Hornby Experience' at Maghull Town Hall, local commerce group the Altside Business Village is spearheading the setting up of the Frank Hornby Experience Charitable Trust to oversee the development of a 150sq. m space on two floors in Maghull's new Leisure Centre currently under construction.

The charity will have representatives from the four parish councils within Altside (Maghull, Lydiate, Melling and Sefton) with Tony Robertson (leader of both Maghull and Sefton councils and a self-confessed Hornby enthusiast) representing Sefton Council on the board, along with collectors and enthusiasts.

The plan is to display the work of Maghull's most famous son with the advantage that the charitable trust will be able to apply for grants that would not otherwise be available.

"We are looking to bring in people with expertise - John Keogh from the Business Village has already asked exhibitors at the recent Frank Hornby Experience to join the board," said Cllr Robertson.

"It will take a while to set it all up, but we are on the road to pulling everything into place."

And Cllr Robertson emphasised that though the exhibition space will be primarily used for the Hornby exhibition, it will also be available for use by other local organisations as well.

He thought that it was Maghull Town Council who first really set the ball rolling when it nominated Frank Hornby's home in Station Road, Maghull, for a Blue Plaque award some years ago.

"I hope this will become a Mecca for Meccano, a Home of Hornby!" said Cllr Robertson.

"It is an ambitious, long-term project which needs significant work to be done but we are determined to celebrate the fact that Maghull was Frank Hornby's home and this exhibition will offer one long-term legacy as a tribute to the Liverpool '08 Year."

Graham Quinn of Southport with some of his Hornby O gauge stock which was on view at the recent Frank Hornby Experience staged at Maghull Town Hall. Code 1024731

Students put on slick

Thursday, January 21, 2010



Trustee Board member John Keogh with a Hornby train

Museum full steam ahead

By LINDA FOO GUEST

PLANS for the long-awaited Frank Hornby museum are a step closer this week with a 25-year lease in the pipeline to help secure lottery funding.

Space for the Hornby Centre has been allocated at the Meadows, but trustees need to demonstrate they have long-term control for the museum.

This will then secure Heritage Lottery funding, which will be used to furnish the interior of the museum.

Sefton Council is expected to agree to a 25-year lease agreement next month.

John Keogh, who is on the board of trustees, said: "Now that we have got the room to house the museum at the Meadows we need a formal contract to show the Heritage Lottery Fund we have that commitment, otherwise we will not be able to apply for the funding."

"If we are successful in the stage one bid then we have got a strong chance of passing the second stage - past exhibitions have been very, very popular so there is a need for it."

The Hornby museum will pay tribute to the legendary toy maker, who grew up in Maghull, and catalogue a social history of his life from inventor to when he became MP at 73.

Members of the Frank Hornby Trust have appointed specialist consultants to assist in the lottery bid application.

Fellow board member, Cllr Tony Robertson, added: "We need to get a formal lease of 25 years from Sefton Council so that we can apply for Heritage Lottery funding."

"This will show that we have got a secure tenancy of space for the museum at the Meadows. The consultants have significant expertise in submitting successful lottery bids."

A decision for the lease agreement will be made at Sefton Council's cabinet meeting on February 4.

The Meccano Challenge - The proposed Meccano challenge has met with a very positive response from the Heads of the local schools, and discussions have taken place with Redbrick Communications who are the PR company for Meccano and who have agreed to promote the event and give assistance free of charge. The Meccano company which is based in France and which was the French arm of the original Meccano company do not produce the original Meccano sets anymore but instead produce sets to build specific models, for example a truck or a robot, however they do sell all the original spare parts for enthusiasts and we have price lists for these. The next stage will be to work with Liverpool University and Meccano enthusiasts to come up with a project that the schools can work on as an extra curriculum activity, and seek sponsorship from local companies to purchase sets for each school. It has been suggested that the project could be led by the DT teachers in the secondary schools and that the primary schools could

approach the project through an after school Meccano Club led by an interested parent.

9.2 Community & Environment

Britain in Bloom – The manager is in discussion with Maghull in Bloom chairman George Baker about building on last years successful Britain in Bloom entry. For 2010 the group plan to focus more on Central Square with additional pavement planters and barrier planters, the manager will be approaching the Maghull Group and retailers within the Square for sponsorship and it is hoped that a poster can be put on one of the public information pillars listing the sponsors names as these can not be put on the planters

9.3 Business & Retail Support

Retail Mapping – A exercise has been carried out by all BVP managers to build a picture of the retail provision across the borough. Altside differs from other Business Village partnerships in that rather than having a clearly defined town centre, such as Southport or Bootle Strand, there is a collection of 16 local shopping parades. The survey produced the following key points:

- There are very few vacant shops - 12 (5%)
- The majority of shops are convenience serving the local population
- There are very few restaurants, bars and cafes
- There are very few establishments that contribute to the night-time economy
- Most retail establishments are independent

The results of this exercise are contained in Annex F included as part of the Annexes containing Town Centre Mapping information.

9.4 Marketing

Information Card & Website – The executive committee have decided to produce a 4 page colour business card and to create information packs using existing colour folders containing laser print information sheets. The website is to remain unchanged for the time being.

Ringmaster - The ringmaster database is regularly updated when new members wish to join and is provided as a tangible benefit to Altside BVP membership.

Greenpages - The Greenpages document is regularly updated as and when new members join the Business Village and is sent out to all members every three months.

10. Sefton Business Against Crime Partnership

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Sefton Business Against Crime Partnership - Progress Report No.

Author of Report:

Steve Booth - Sefton Business Against Crime Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise the Sefton Business Village Partnership of the progress made to date by Sefton Business Against Crime Partnership.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2009/10

10.1 Current Activities

Since the last report Southport Pubwatch have had an anti terrorism presentation by Merseyside Police

Members from both the Southport and Bootle shopwatch groups have attended the Operation Argus anti terrorism seminar and as a result one major department store has asked its attendee to brief the store on the project.

Following on from a meeting in late Feb, 4 businesses on the Meols Cop / Kew retail park have now signed up to SBAC and this has proved beneficial to all parties. A further meeting is planned for May when it is hoped to expand the interest to further members.

Early moves have been instigated to start up a pubwatch in the South rd area of Waterloo, to address residents needs and concerns, although the first meeting was low in attendance interest has been shown in the upcoming meeting and I

have received a call from a licensed premises in Crosby to set a pubwatch up there

Formby have contacted SBAC with view to extending the radio link network within Formby and a meeting is to be held in which the stores will be invited

Purse Theft and Shoplifting had continued to fall in Southport. Shop theft was down 42% on last Feb figures and as a result of decreasing purse thefts Merseyside Police are being nominated for a Tilley Award

10.2 Other Key Activities

Police Training

As previously mentioned SBAC has been approached by Merseyside Police to assist in the training of its new recruits. So far this has resulted in 7 trainees being placed for a day with SBAC as part of their Community Involvement. This has allowed the trainees to get a wider picture of how policing in the community involves many different partner agencies, whilst at the same time allowing recruits to interact with businesses

Graffiti

SBAC continues its work with the community payback team to identify areas of concern within the town centre environment of Southport.

The payback team were in Southport in Feb and a lot of work was done. Most notable was at the Tulketh st Car park which is a main destination for visitors to the town.



Before



After

SBAC is currently working with other partners to ascertain if the park benches on Lord st can be cleaned and painted by the team on their next visit.

Also I would like to thank Gary Berwick and the Sefton Graffiti Removal team who removed offensive graffiti in Wright st within 24hrs of it being reported by myself.

Nightsafe Radios

Due to the no of attendees at the Waterloo pubwatch it was decided to distribute the radios at the next meeting

There are also radios available for Crosby, again these will be offered at the Pubwatch meeting

This will help these areas to combat crime and anti social behaviour associated with the nighttime economy, particularly along South Rd, Waterloo

11. Sefton Business Village Partnership

21st April 2010

Title of Report:

Sefton Business Village Partnership - Progress Report No. 34

Author of Report:

Mo Kundi - Sefton Business Village Manager

Purpose of Report:

The purpose of this report is to advise members of the current position with regard to Sefton Business Village related issues.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that the Partnership:-

Note the content of the report.

Note the current progress of projects

Note the proposals in the Delivery Plan for year 2010/11

11.1 Lydiate Village Centre

I am pleased to report that the Lydiate Village Centre is now almost completed, with the exception of a wind turbine, and that Lydiate Parish Council has now formally taken possession of the building and have moved their offices to the Centre. There are still some teething problems, which are currently being addressed. The Parish Council is planning a formal opening of the new Centre, although the precise date is still to be determined.

11.2 Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010-2012

Partnership Members may recall that Formby Parish Council with the support of Sefton Council submitted a bid under this programme in December 2009. The aim of the bid was to seek £500,000 of grant to:-

- Purchase of SMART Meters to reduce energy use in residential properties

- A demonstration pilot for growing fruit and vegetables in a number of residential houses
- Retrofitting of energy saving measures, such as solar PV panels on Formby Library, and to make it a show case where residents could get advice on energy saving measures within their homes
- Green travel plans, including Cycle to School Project
- Visitor Management – to reduce the impact of visitors going to the coast, which is under threat from climate change.

The Parish Council was informed in late January 2010 that unfortunately we were not successful. Whilst extremely disappointed at not securing the £500,000 funds, both the Parish Council and Sefton Council felt that it has been a worthwhile exercise in partnership working.

11.3 Energy Efficiency & Renewable Energies in Social & Low Income Housing

Sefton Council in partnership with other local authorities, including Halton has submitted a sub-regional bid under this programme. The bid has been successful at the Regional Development Agency's Expression of Interest stage and the Concept stage, and officers are currently assembling information for the final Development and Appraisal stage, which needs to be submitted by the end of May. The aim of this some £22 million bid is to undertake:-

1. Physical housing improvement works to reduce CO2 emissions
2. Development of small-to-medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and the local supply chain
3. Growing the market for a low carbon economy through renewables and energy efficiency
4. Evaluation and local learning
5. Engage with the private landlord sector to complement the ongoing work on a sub-regional accreditation scheme.

9.4 Merseyside Rural Economy Strategy and Action Plan

Following the conclusion of the Merseyside Rural Economic Strategy, external consultants Rural Innovation are currently individual local

authority Actions Plans. As part of the exercise consultants are seeking potential projects that could go in the Action Plan, and as part of that exercise Sefton has submitted nine Expressions of Interest forms. These are summarised in Annex A below.

9.5 Supporting Town Centres

Please see report at the beginning of the Agenda, and presentation by Liverpool Biennial.

9.6 Scarisbrick Avenue Building, Southport

I am pleased to report that this project, which attracted both Objective 1 ERDF grant, and Heritage Lottery fund and was at risk of being left half completed due to the original developer going into administration is now back on track. The project is scheduled to be completed in August 2010, and will house on the ground floor the Council's Independent Living Centre and the Shopmobility facility currently at Tulketh Street Car Park. Sefton Carers will operate both these facilities.

Cosmopolitan Housing Association, who will provide much needed 18 social residential units, will take up the upper floors of the building.

9.7 Christmas Events and Activities in 2009

Annex A below provides detailed information on Christmas events undertaken in 2009 by Partnerships including breakdown of expenditure for each location and where this is met from. In addition the table provides information on events and activities undertaken and who were the key delivery partners that helped to deliver the events. The total cost of holding Christmas events last year in Crosby, Maghull, Aintree, Waterloo, Birkdale, Bootle, and Southport came to approximately £36,800, with Sefton Council contributing £12,517, and the balance being met from external partners, and income generation.

Annex B shows all significant events and activities undertaken in town centres across the borough. Of the 26 events undertaken 22 were managed and delivered by local BV Partnerships, helping to raise the profile of town centres, increase footpath, and address the adverse impact

of the recession. In total some £71,088 was spent in town centres across the borough in 2009. Whilst it is always difficult to assess the full impact of these activities or the social and economic benefits that such events bring to the area, consultation undertaken with the local business community, and anecdotal evidence suggests that such events help to stimulate and enliven shopping areas, create a sense of place and well being, and critically help to retain and bring new shoppers to the area, thus helping to enhance the viability and vitality of town centres.

Annex C provides information on events and activities that the local BV Partnerships are planning to undertake this year. In some cases these are subject to finding the necessary resources. It is too early at this stage to identify the total cost of undertaking these events, however having identified planned activities and events across the borough, every opportunity will be undertaken to rationalise, and where possible avoid duplication of effort, and minimise costs through commissioning and procurement process.

New Funding Opportunity

The attached Annexes D1, D2 and E below provide an update on the various funding streams, and for which Expressions of Interest have either been submitted or are pending.

9.8 Town Centre Mapping Exercise

This is the first time a major exercise has been undertaken to map the shops in those areas where BV Partnerships operate, i.e. Southport, Birkdale, Formby, Crosby, Waterloo, and Altside. Whilst the exercise is still incomplete, and will be geographically expanded, both within BVP areas and non BVP areas to ensure that all town centre shops are included, the results do highlight a number of key points:-

- A total of 968 shops were recorded together with their current status
- Of these currently 101 shops are empty – some 10.43%
- In terms of size of these shops, some 669 fall with the small category (less than 800 square feet), 167 in the medium (5,000 or less square feet), and 85 as large (over 5,000 square feet).

- 206 (21.28%) are considered as big chains stores, i.e. those brand stores that are likely to be operating regionally, and nationally
- 102 (10.54%) were considered to be retail stores
- 40 (4.13%) as Takeaways, 54 (5.58%) as restaurants, and 26 (2.69%) as Public Houses/Bars
- In terms of empty shops, Waterloo has the highest percentage (19.3%), followed by Formby at 11.6%. Southport and Crosby are both around 10%, with Birkdale at 8%. Altside has the least number of empty shops, 5% of the total.

It is intended to undertake a more detailed analysis of the captured data, and to present the findings at the next meeting.

Annex A

Christmas Events Undertaken in 2009

Area	Event Date	Event Activities	Acts	Costs	Income	Partners	Comments
Crosby	27th Nov	Market Fair Rides Music Other Stalls Light switch on	Another Place ABD Panto Paris Wynne-Jones	lights £5,300 Publicity £440 Stalls £300 Cleansing £72 Raffle £259 Total £6,371	Fair rides £300 Market £204 Traders £2,850 Tourism £2,650 Ec.Regen £367	CVTA SMBC	Dune FM org. stage
Maghull	14/15th Nov	Light switch on		lights £6,000 Total £6,000	Maghull Gp £2,000 Area Comm £2,000 Tourism £2,000	Altside BVP Maghull TC Sefton MBC	Mayor switched on
Aintree	14/15th Nov			lights £9,600 Total £9,600	PC £3,600 Tourism £3,000 Bleasdale £3,000		No formal switch on
Waterloo	3rd Dec	Music Light switch on	Another Place Local schools	Total £2,000	Crosby Hsg £1,500 SMBC £500		Dune FM org. stage
Birkdale	4th Dec	Light switch on	Xmas Belles Elфина the Elf	Banners £189 Raffle Tickets £20.51 Advertising £350	Area Committee £500 Fair rides £400 Stall Rental £100	Traders SMBC	

				Ten £21 Road closure £350 St Johns £75 Stage £300 Diversion signs £375 TOTAL £1,900	Raffle £569 Reserves £331		
Bootle	26th Nov	Ski slope Santa Dash Treasure Hunt Light switch on	Another Place	Slope £3,662.75 Trans £70 Print £310 Tree £1,500? Total £5,542.75	Stepclever £3,162.75 SMBC £500 Area Comm £1,500 Hugh Baird Balance of £380	BTCM Step Clever Area Comm SMBC Traders Jospice	Real Radio compared
Southport		Switch-on					
	5/6th Dec	Rest. Stalls		Stalls £380 Generator £389.86	Rest. £180	STBN Rest. Group SBE	
	12/13th Dec	Rest. Stalls Entertainment Cont. market	Chris Bannister Two Left Feet Harmony Belles Nativity performers Dave Denham Coll.	Stalls £665 Entertainment £1,100 Generators £577.24	Cont mkt £200	STBN SBE Rest. Group	Event was judged a success. Additional money from Tourism 2010 if regionally

		David Dutton Andy Cornmell				significant event.
19/20th Dec	Rest. stalls Entertainment Fair Rides	Harmony Belles Nativity performers Dave Denholm coll. David Dutton Andy Cornmell Marmosets	Stalls £498.00 Entertainment £1,050 Generators £100.00 Stage etc. £1,200 Total £6,003.58	Fair Rides £300 STBN £14,676	STBN Rest. Group SBE	

ANNEX B

ALL EVENTS/ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN IN 2009

Area	Event Name	Event Type	Date	Cost	Funders	Partners	Comments
Crosby	Spring Festival (start free sat pkg)	Fair Rides Music Other stalls	18th Apr	£1,300	SMBC Ec.Regen Traders Stalls Fair rides	SMBC CVTA	£750 free parking ads
	Summer Event	Market Fair Rides Other stalls	22nd Aug	£1,415	SMBC Ec.Regen Traders Stalls Fair rides	SMBC CVTA	
	Christmas Event	Music Light switch-on Fair rides Market Other stalls	27th Nov	£6,371	SMBC Ec.Regen Traders SMBC Tourism Fair Rides Stalls	Ec Regen CVTA Tourism	
	Bars Event	Music					Not org, by CVTA
Formby	Formby Live	Music Event	2nd Aug	£4,299	Bars SMBC Ec.Regen Formby Pool Area Comm. Parish Council	SMBC Formby part Parish Council Traders Area Comm Parish Council	

	Dickensian Day						Not org. by Partnership
	Christmas Lights				Traders SMBC Tourism		Not org. by Partnership
Altside	Farmers Market	Market	Monthly			Altside BVP SMBC	1st Sunday
	Hornby Exp.	Wkd exhibition	14/15th Nov.	£5,432	SMBC Culture pot Table rental Maghull TC Altside BVP	Altside BVP Maghull TC SMBC	In kind
	Maghull Christmas	Lights Formal switch on	4th Dec.	£6,000	Tourism Maghull TC Area Comm.	SMBC Altside BVP Maghull TC	
	Aintree Christmas	Lights	early Dec.	£9,600	Fenwick Parish Council Tourism	Altside BVP SMBC Parish Council	
	Open Air Theatre						Org. by tourism
Waterloo	Christmas Lights	Light switch on Music	3rd Dec.	£5,293	SMBC Crosby Housing	SMBC Crosby Hsing	Org. by Crosby Hsg
Birkdale	Summer Event	Music Fair rides Stalls	18th July	£2,000	SMBC Fair rides Raffle Stalls	Birkdale BVP SMBC	
	Arts & Crafts fair	Market	4th Sept	Nil	Stalls	Birkdale BVP	event brought in money

	Christmas Lights	Music Fair rides Stalls Light switch on	4th Dec.	£1,900	SMBC Area Comm Stalls Fair rides Raffle	SMBC Birkdale BVP	
Bootle	Valentine Promo	Multi-buy	9 - 14th Feb	£155	BTCM	BTCM Traders	Printing costs
	Spring Promo	Competition	16 - 29th Mar	£455	BTCM	BTCM Traders	Printing/prize
	Bootle Awards	Award eve	30th April	£18,000	Sponsorship Table sales	Bus,trg,regen Move Publish Design Found	
	Green Week	Bag giveaway	25 - 30th May	5 hours	TC Manager	BTCM Traders Wkg neigh	
	Bootle Festival	Launch Tea dance Music Competitions	22 - 24 Oct	£3,026	SMBC BTCM Bus Focus Eze Fitness Riverside	Sayers Wilkinsons SMBC Bus Focus Eze fitness Riverside BTCM	
	Christmas	Light switch on	26th Nov	£5,542.75	Stepclever	BTCM	

		Santa dash Ski slope Treasure Hunt Website launch			Area Comm SMBC	Traders Area Comm Jospice SMBC Stepclever	
Southport	Farmers Market	Market	Monthly	net £300			Last Thurs
	Continental Market	Market	14 - 17th May				Part of food & drink fest
	Christmas Festival		5/6/12/13/19/20Dec				
	I love Southport						

ANNEX C

CURRENTLY PLANNED EVENTS/ACTIVITIES IN 2010

Area	Event Name	Event Type	Date	Est. Cost	Funders	Partners	Comments
Crosby	Spring Festival	Fair Rides Music Other stalls	tbc	£1,300	SMBC Ec.Regen Traders Stalls Fair rides		
	Summer Event	Market Fair Rides Other stalls	tbc	£1,465	SMBC Ec.Regen Traders Stalls Fair rides		
	Christmas Event	Music Light switch-on Fair rides Market Other stalls	tbc	£6,371	SMBC Ec.Regen Traders SMBC Tourism Fair Rides Stall		
	Bars Event	Music	29 - 31 May?				Not org, by CVTA
Formby	Formby Live	Music Event	17 - 18 June	£5,200	Bars SMBC Ec.Regen Formby Pool Area Comm. Parish Council		
	Dickensian Day		tbc				Not org. by Partnership

	Christmas Lights		tbc		Traders SMBC Tourism		1st yr with Partnership
Altside	Meccano Challenge	Sch. Competition	tbc				
	Music Festival		tbc				
Waterloo	Christmas Lights	Light switch-on Fair Rides	tbc	£2,000	SMBC Crosby Housing Area Comm.		Crosby Hsg lead
	Waterloo Day?						Waterloo 2015
Birkdale	Arts & Crafts Fair		17th April	Nil			Income generation
	Summer Event		17th July				Income generation
	Arts & Crafts Fair		October	tbc			
	Christmas Lights		4th Dec.				
Bootle	Valentine Event	Competition	4 - 11th Feb	£300	Stepclever Wilkinsons Hugh Baird	BTM Hugh Baird	
	Sport Relief	Cycle Ride	15 - 19th Mar	£500	Stepclever	Traders Strand BTM	
Southport	Farmers Market	Market	Monthly	net £150			Last Thurs
	Continental Market	Market	13 - 16th May	no cost			Part of food & drink fest
	Christmas Festival	tbc	tbc				

ANNEX D1

Financial Details of Expressions of Interest Submitted.

Expressions of Interest Submitted to date	Fund Type	Total Project Cost £	ERDF/RDA Funding Sought £	Other External Funding Source £	Contribution from Sefton			Comments
					LTP Budget £	Capital Programme £	Others £	
Dunningsbridge Road Corridor	Public Realm (ERDF/RDA)	1,200,000	600,000 (ERDF) 200,000 (RDA)				400,000	Waiting for RDA decision, early indications are that the Agency has withdrawn its Single Programme allocation of £200,000, and unless Sefton is able to find this from its resources the scheme is unlikely to go ahead.
REECH Project	ERDF	£22,800,000	£11,400,000	£11,400,000				Development and Appraisal forms to be submitted at end of May
Demolition of Balliol House and (Connley House)	Demolition and remediation works	£1,415,000	£707,500 (ERDF)			£707,500		Waiting for RDA decision, but early indications are this is now unlikely to be successful
Frank Hornby Trust	Big Lottery - Heritage Grant	£175,000 - £200,000	-	£175,000 - £200,000 (Big Lottery)	-	-	£5,000 (WNF)	1st Stage bid submitted
Arts in Empty Spaces	Arts Council	£30,000						Bid submitted

	England								
Lydiate Canal Marina	Rural Development Programme for England	Over £2 million	-	£200,000 (RDPE)	-	-	Private Sector	This is a private sector lead project, but is being supported by Lydiate Parish Council, Maghull Town Council, and Altside BVP because of economic regeneration benefits that it will bring to the area.	
Another Place, Sefton Coast	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£50k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Ainsdale on Sea Heritage Centre	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£470k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Sefton Coast Partnership Officer and support	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£40k (per annum)	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Brown Hare Project (Habitat Management)	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£8k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Sefton Coast Access	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£500k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide	

Improvements								some feedback on the EOI submitted
Seftons Rural Heritage	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£300k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Melling House/Barns and Outbuildings, Melling	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£100k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Kings Gardens	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	?	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£7.5k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Another Place, Sefton Coast	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£50k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Ainsdale on Sea Heritage Centre	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£470k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide

								some feedback on the EOI submitted
Sefton Coast Partnership Officer and support	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£40k (per annum)	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted

Annex D2

Expressions of Interests Submitted Under the Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan

Name of Project	Summary	Contact	What is the Funding for?	Total Cost
Another Place, Sefton Coast	A project to provide activities, information and interpretation for the Another Place Artwork on Crosby Beach. This will help to contribute to the Local Economy and enhance the visitor experience.	Will Moody, Planning 0151 934 3608	The funding will be for a website, interpretation board, activities, an annual event, and a booklet/leaflet for all of the above.	£50k
Ainsdale on Sea Heritage Centre	This visitor centre for the Sefton Coast would provide information and interpretation including the history of the coast, landscape, aviation, shipwrecks, Lifeboats etc. There will also be a café and a 'coastal museum'.	Dave McAleavy, Coast and Countryside 0151 934 2961	The Funding will be to implement an interpretation plan for the Heritage Centre and to help to develop and install technology.	£470k
Sefton Coast Partnership Officer and support	There is currently no dedicated officer working for the Sefton Coast Partnership. This funding would be for an Officer post, along with admin support. The role of this post would be to identify and deliver projects, facilitate networking, represent and publicise the partnership, seek funding opportunities, and service the Partnership Board and Sub-Groups.	Will Moody, Planning 0151 934 3608	Annual salary plus admin support.	£40k (per annum)

<p>Brown Hare Project (Habitat Management)</p>	<p>A project to improve our understanding of brown hare populations within Greater Manchester, North Merseyside and South Lancashire. It will also help to inform Local Biodiversity Action Plans by providing baseline data for which to set targets. The project will also help to give advice and best practice to farmers.</p>	<p>Paul Corner, MEAS, 0151 934 2809</p>	<p>The project could either be a stand alone project, or as part of the larger Brown Hare Project. It will help to create demonstration projects for Habitat Management best practice to feed into Local and Regional BAP targets and Agri-environmental schemes.</p>	<p>£8k</p>
<p>Sefton Coast Access Improvements</p>	<p>Access improvements to the paths and Birdleways along the Sefton Coast</p>	<p>Will Moody, Planning 0151 934 3608</p>	<p>Upgrade 4km of the Sefton Coast Path, create 2km of new footway/bridle way, upgrade the cycle link between Hightown and Formby, and improve linkages between Marshside and the RSPB centre for walking and cycling.</p>	<p>£500k</p>
<p>Seftons Rural Heritage</p>	<p>A project to repair, reinstate and consolidate Seftons historic structures including stocks, crosses, St Helens Well, St Catherine's Chapel and Lydiate Hall. This could then form an interpretation/heritage trail for Sefton, which could improve Tourism for Sefton. Web based technology could also be used, and schools could be involved with the work.</p>	<p>Daniel Byron Planning 0151 934 3584</p>	<p>Firstly repair work, then working on the interpretation.</p>	<p>£300k</p>

Melling House/Barns and Outbuildings, Melling	A project to repair the Listed Buildings in Melling to make them usable and sustainable for farming purposes. This also saves the need to construct new buildings in the green belt/rural area.	Daniel Byron Planning 0151 934 3584	Repair work	£100k
Kings Gardens	A project to restore Kings Gardens through restoring and refurbishing the Gardens, and upgrading the infrastructure to support events and attractions.	Andrew Hall Planning 0151 934 3604	The funding will match other funding for the project from HLF and Sefton Council.	?
Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework	A project to produce an interactive mapping tool, which will form part of the public consultation for the Ecological Framework for the Liverpool City Region. This mapping tool will be used by landowners, planners, conservation organisations, developers and LA's to help to target habitat creation, protect existing habitats and strengthen wildlife corridors and networks.	Paul Corner, MEAS, 0151 934 2809	The funding will develop the interactive mapping tool and produce a user guide.	£7.5k

ANNEX E

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Name	Funding Body	Amount Available	Deadline for EOI Submission	Date by which project must start	Date by which project must finish	Key Criteria
Rural Development Programme	National/European Grant	Total Budget for the sub-region £2m	On going	ASAP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A range Interventions, including Farm diversification, Rural tourism, supporting rural economy, access etc.
Heritage Grants	Big Lottery	£50,000 to over £5m	Any time	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To conserve and enhance nation's diverse heritage To encourage more people to be involved in their heritage
Future Jobs Fund	Dept. for Works and Pensions	£1.0 billion	Any time	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To create 150,000 new jobs Looking for Partnership bids Must be linked to locally agreed work and skills strategies

Access To Nature	Big Lottery	Total Budget £25m, and grants available between £50,000, and £500,000	Stage 1 closes 1 st February 2010, and stage 2 closes 4 th May 2010	N/A	N/A	Access to Nature aims to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, particularly those who face social exclusion or those that currently have little or no contact with the natural environment - perhaps because they lack the confidence to get out and enjoy natural places or have few opportunities to do so.
Arts in Empty Spaces	Arts Council England	Total Budget £500,000	Starts from 1 st April 2010	N/A	N/A	Priority given to those local authorities in receipt of Empty Shops Revival Fund, which Sefton is.
Contaminated Land Capital Projects Programme 2010/11	DEFRA	Yet to be determined		April 2010	March 2011.	fund intrusive investigation projects on land, which is potentially contaminated, and remediation projects on sites, which are contaminated. Money paid under the Programme is for capital expenditure. The Programme exists to help authorities carry out duties under contaminated land legislation (Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990).

Foundation	NWDA	Max grant £50k per project	On going	On going		Grants towards energy efficiency measures, renewable energy projects. Community engagement important – priority given to schemes which reduce fuel poverty
Aqua Fund	Advanced Demand Side Management	Overall budget: £500m	On going	On going		Provision of consultancy advice on water management, with tailored packages of new water management systems, in order to reduce water usage and bills
INTERREG IVB (Atlantic Area)	Welsh Assembly (Lead body) for west of UK	Not specified	Call for proposals not yet announced for 2010	Not available yet		4 transnational priorities:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Promote transnational entrepreneurship and innovation networks •Protect, secure and enhance marine coastal environment •Improve accessibility and external links •Promote transnational synergies in sustainable urban and regional development
Community Sustainable Energy Programme	Big Lottery	Max grant: £50k	Applications close at the end of October 2010	Not specified		Funding for sustainable energy projects within local communities, and involving local communities. Applications invited from community groups, Schools, Parish Councils.

Awards For All	Big Lottery	£300-£10,000	On going	On going, but the grant must be spent within one year		A wide range of activities can be funded which benefit a local community. These can include exhibitions if local interest, awareness raising of issues of particular interest, a small community event etc. Available to not for profit organisations and Parish Councils.
Reaching Communities	Big Lottery	£10,000-£150,000	On going	Not specified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •people having better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills •strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems •improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy •healthier and more active people and communities.

E.ON Sustainable Energy Fund	E.ON	£20,000	Any time	N/A	N/A	<p>Grants of up to £20,000 to community groups and not for profit for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the purchase and installation of one or more renewable energy technologies (e.g. wind, solar thermal, PV, wood etc) <input type="checkbox"/> the renovation of existing facilities to incorporate micro-generation technology (e.g. the reinstatement of a watermill and the purchase of a turbine to produce hydro-electricity) <input type="checkbox"/> an energy efficiency makeover for building that could demonstrate significant energy savings and also behavioral change amongst users <input type="checkbox"/> the use of new or innovative technology to deliver either energy savings or micro-generation capacity. <p>To be eligible for support from the Sustainable Energy Fund, organisations must benefit specific groups namely: Education, vulnerable people; and people in fuel poverty.</p>
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<p>European Commission and European Investment Bank launch European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility</p>	<p>European Local Energy Assistance Grant (UK)</p>	<p>€15 million grant aid</p>	<p>Any time</p>			<p>The European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB), the bank of the EU Member States, have launched a grant aid initiative to help local and regional authorities make investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p> <p>The ELENA facility aims at helping cities and regions implement viable investment projects in the areas of energy efficiency; renewable energy sources and sustainable urban transport</p>
<p>Rural Carbon Challenge Fund</p>	<p>Rural Development Programme for England (RDA)</p>	<p>£4 million</p>	<p>Two staged competition Stage 1 - 1st June Stage 2 - 31st August 2010</p>	<p>31st December 2010</p>	<p>31st March 2013</p>	<p>To support the delivery of renewable energy projects in rural areas across the North West of England.</p> <p>Open to Social enterprises, Charities, groups of businesses and micro enterprises. Exploring potential opportunities with Mersey Forest.</p>

