

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Technical
Cabinet Member – Environmental
Cabinet Member – Regeneration

DATE: 30th June 2010
30th June 2010
7th July 2010

SUBJECT: Climate Change Local Area Support Programme (CLASP) –
Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sefton’s Businesses Project

WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis – Planning and Economic Development Director
Peter Moore – Environmental and Technical Services Director

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**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform Members of the outcome of a bid submitted under the Climate Change Local Area Support Programme – Local Partnerships Small Projects Fund.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To comply with reporting procedures

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that:-

Cabinet Members for Regeneration, Technical Services, and Environment:-

1. Note the success of the bid,
2. Request further progress reports.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately after the call in period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: The main aim of this project is to engage with local businesses in Sefton to introduce the importance of Climate Change adaptation and the opportunities that may arise from it. Not to undertake this work could leave businesses unable to respond thus leading to businesses closure and loss of jobs.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: The total cost of the project is £18,600, of which £11,100 is being funded by CLASP, with the balance of £7,500 being met from an existing 'Regeneration Programmes' Earmarked Reserve account (BZ 901). This reserve account has been verified as having sufficient funds by the Finance Department.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £	2013/ 2014 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	£18,600			
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources	£7,500			
Funded from External Resources	£11,100			
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Yes	When? 2010/11			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	N/A			

Legal: No

Risk Assessment: No

Asset Management: No

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD 437 The Head of Corporate Finance & Information Services has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report

LEGAL

ENVIRONMENTAL AND 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		/	

<p>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT Climate Change Local Area Support Programme – Guidance for Applicants</p>
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1.0 BACKGROUND:

- 1.1 CLASP – the Climate Change Local Area Support Programme - provides free support for all North West Local Authorities and Local Strategic Partnerships on climate change mitigation and adaptation. This includes the reduction of CO2 emissions from their own estate and wider local areas, with particular emphasis on the implementation and progression of National Indicators 185 (Percentage CO2 reduction from LA operations), 186 (Per capita CO2 emissions in the LA area) and 188 (Planning to adapt to Climate Change).
- 1.2 The programme has 5 core activity themes:-
- Network & Communications
 - LSP and LA Member Support
 - Regional Events, Training and Workshops
 - Sub-regionally Specific Support
 - Further Advice & Support Services
- 1.3 CLASP is funded by NWIEP (North West Improvement and Efficiency Partnership) and NWDA. The programme is hosted by Liverpool City Council on behalf of the region.
- 1.4 The North West Climate Change Local Area Support Programme (CLASP) – has created the Local Partnerships Small Projects Fund in order to: *Increase the pace of delivery, develop leadership and encourage the effective co-operation of Local Authority led sub-regional and local partnerships to tackle carbon emission reduction and resilience to climate change, with a specific focus on NI 185, 186 and 188.*
- 1.5 CLASP issued a call for projects in early 2010 that would cover most, if not all, of the objectives listed below:-
- Tackle critical and immediate barriers to improvement on NI 185, 186 and 188
 - Develop best practice and stimulate innovation in carbon reduction, adaptation and efficiency savings
 - Share best practice within the North West
 - Accelerate progress towards a low-carbon and well adapting public sector
 - Develop sub-regional and local leadership on climate change
- 1.6 Subject to meeting the above criteria, CLASP is making available the following grant rate and award value:-
- Grants to support discrete, small, short-timescale projects (usually completed within 6 months).
 - Funding for work that is truly additional, over and above activities that are already planned, expected or required.
 - 100% grant funding in exceptional cases, however 50% expected to be the typical contribution.

- A minimum grant of £1,000 and typical grants expected to be in the range of £5,000 - £10,000. Awards above £15,000 will be considered only in exceptional circumstances.

3.0 Sefton Project

3.1 Sefton Council submitted a project to CLASP entitled 'Building the Adaptive Capacity of Sefton's Businesses' that would engage with local businesses to introduce the importance of Climate Change adaptation and the opportunity that may arise from it. In particular the project would highlight why adaptation is important to businesses, in terms of cost savings, improve productivity, and identifying opportunities that would provide adaptation solutions locally. This would involve the following steps:-

- Consultation business organisations to identify which businesses to target and what information they might need
- Develop concise information about Climate Adaptation as an A5 size leaflet/small booklet. This will be set out as familiar areas of concern that maybe relevant to them, such as their premises, staff, customers, market, money as well as less familiar areas such as dependency on external factors.
- The leaflet/booklet will be delivered to all 4,000 business addresses throughout Sefton
- To support businesses, the leaflet/booklet will signpost engaged businesses towards an online resources that will provide more in depth Climate Adaptation information; for instance future weather scenarios as well as tools to take them through a self assessment process to look at their own business and evaluate threats & opportunities specific to them. The materials will also signpost businesses toward Carbon reduction support.
- Develop the online resources as outlined above as well as signposting to information sources that already exist on specific topics of concern as well as provide a facility for online feedback/questionnaire
- Work with selected and engaged businesses that have particular examples of adaptation after initial referral from Invest Sefton Business Support service. To act as demonstration to other businesses of the importance of adaptation and how to deliver adaptation.
- Consultants employed will support the development of future bids for European funding. To include the assessment of the results of "the Building the adaptive capacity of Sefton's businesses" project and production of recommendations for how the learning gained can assist the development of larger bids to progress the work begun in this project and future business related Climate issues

- 3.2 Members will be pleased to learn that the above bid was successful and is expected to start in late June 2010, and be completed by December 2010.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The total cost of the project is £18,600, of which £11,100 is being met by CLASP, with the balance of £7,500 coming from an existing Planning and Economic Regeneration Reserve account (BZ901). This Reserve account has been verified as having sufficient resources by the Finance Department.

5.0 Summary

- 5.1 Sefton Council, like other public sector organisations is under obligations to address the adverse impacts of Climate Change. This is reflected in the range of national indicator targets that have to be met.
- 5.2 This project provides an opportunity to assist businesses to adapt to or exploit any opportunities arising from a changing climate, and at the same time strengthens the economic performance of businesses in Sefton.