

**REPORT TO:** Planning Committee  
Cabinet

**DATE:** 12<sup>th</sup> January 2011  
27<sup>th</sup> January 2011

**SUBJECT:** Core Strategy: Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy  
Capacity Study

**WARDS AFFECTED:** All

**REPORT OF:** Andy Wallis, Director of Planning and Economic  
Development

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Andrea O'Connor, Telephone 0151 934 3560

**EXEMPT/  
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

To seek members' approval of the Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study, which forms part of the evidence for the Core Strategy and other Local Development Framework documents.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

To approve the Study as part of the evidence for the preparation of the Core Strategy.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

**A. That Planning Committee:**

- i) Note this report;
- ii) Recommend that Cabinet approve the Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study.

**B. That Cabinet** approve the Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** After the expiry of the call in period for Cabinet.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

The alternative option is not to approve the study. However, this is a joint study between the greater Merseyside Districts (Liverpool City Region), West Lancashire and Warrington. It forms part of the Core Strategy evidence for each authority. The joint approach has saved costs, and added value. It is considered that approval of the study is the most feasible option.

**IMPLICATIONS:**

The study forms part of the evidence for the preparation of the Core Strategy.

**Budget/Policy Framework:**

The study forms part of the evidence for the preparation of the Core Strategy. Also it helps Sefton to meet the challenge of climate change.

**Financial:**

There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</b>	<b>2010/ 2011 £</b>	<b>2011/ 2012 £</b>	<b>2012/ 2013 £</b>
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<b><u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u></b>				
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:**

The Council has a duty to prepare the Core Strategy, as part of the Local Development Framework.

**Risk Assessment:**

Not approving the Study could increase the risk of the Core Strategy being found to be unsound, due to lack of appropriate evidence.

**Asset Management:**

No direct implications for management of Council assets.

**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

Director of Neighbourhoods, Investment Programmes Department, who suggested clarification, set out in para 1.1 and Merseyside Environmental Advisory Service, who have no substantive comments.

**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**

Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study Stage 1 Report and Stage 2 Reports (and see <http://www.sefton.gov.uk/renewableenergystudy>)  
 Regional Spatial Strategy: The North-West Plan (2008)  
 Planning Policy Statement 22 (PPS22): 'Renewable Energy' (2004): see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicystatements/pps22/>  
 Supplement to PPS1 'Planning and Climate Change' (2007): see <http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningsystem/planningpolicy/planningpolicystatements/pps1/>

## 1. Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study - overview

- 1.1 This is a joint study between the greater Merseyside Districts (Liverpool City Region), West Lancashire and Warrington. It forms part of the Core Strategy evidence for each authority. The joint approach has saved costs, and added value. This Study is distinct from the forthcoming Sefton Renewables Study, which is being carried out by Capita (commissioned by the Neighbourhoods, Investment and Programmes department).
- 1.2 The Study consists of two reports. The Stage 1 Report (2009) demonstrates that the City Region's sub-regional renewable energy targets set out in the Regional Spatial Strategy (2008) can be met.
- 1.3 The Stage 2 Report (2010) sets out a common policy framework for development plans in the City Region, for:
  - Low carbon energy and technology innovation for renewable energy (infrastructure & micro-generation);
  - Large scale energy proposals connected to the grid and off shore energy;
  - District heating; *and*
  - Sustainable development and prudent use of resources.
- 1.4 The Stage 2 Report also identifies priority zones for combined heat and power and areas of search for wind energy development across the sub-region, although other locations are not automatically ruled out. The Study also includes information on electricity grid capacity, and is linked to a process to help each local planning authority consider the potential and viability for low and zero carbon energy generation as part of new development proposals.
- 1.5 For Sefton, a priority zone for combined heat and power is identified at Kew, close to Southport Hospital and proposed housing and employment development.
- 1.6 An area of search for wind energy development is identified next to the River Alt, south of Great Altcar. This is based on comparison of wind speed evidence and major constraints such as national and international nature sites. However the Study notes that a fuller and more detailed assessment would be needed for all such wind sites, as other potential constraints, such as landscape character, flood risk and cumulative impacts of development have not been taken into account.
- 1.7 The Study helps us to meet the challenge of climate change as well as providing specialist, technical evidence for Sefton's Core Strategy. It is recommended that Planning Committee note this report and recommend that Cabinet approve the Liverpool City Region Renewable Energy Capacity Study.