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<b>Report to:</b> Cabinet Council	<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 21 <sup>st</sup> July 2011 1 <sup>st</sup> September 2011
<b>Subject:</b> Local Sustainable Transport Fund	
<b>Report of:</b> Director of Built Environment	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Is this a Key Decision?</b> Yes	<b>Is it included in the Forward Plan?</b> No
<b>Exempt/Confidential</b>	No

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### **Purpose/Summary**

To advise the Cabinet of the success of bids into the Local Sustainable Transport Fund and to seek authority to begin to commit the funds

### **Recommendation(s)**

It is recommended that:-

Cabinet:

- (i) note the successful bids;
- (ii) recommend the Council to approve the inclusion of £575,000 in the Capital Programme, phased as indicated in paragraph 3.2
- (iii) authorise officers to commence commitment of the funds; and
- (iv) approve the establishment of Sefton Council as the lead Accountable Authority for the Project subject to agreement with West Lancashire Council; and
- (v) note that the proposal was a Key Decision which, unfortunately, had not been included in the Council's Forward Plan of Key Decisions because at the time of the Forward Plan it was not known if the bid was going to be successful and the announcement was not made until 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011. Consequently, the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (Regeneration and Environmental Services) has been consulted under Rule 15 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Constitution, to the decision being made by Cabinet as a matter of urgency on the basis that it was impracticable to defer the decision until the commencement of the next Forward Plan because delivery of the project needs to commence at the earliest opportunity.

Council approve the inclusion of £575,000 in the Capital Programme, phased as indicated in paragraph 3.2

## How does the decision contribute to the Council's Corporate Objectives?

	<u>Corporate Objective</u>	<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		√	
2	Jobs and Prosperity	√		
3	Environmental Sustainability	√		
4	Health and Well-Being	√		
5	Children and Young People	√		
6	Creating Safe Communities	√		
7	Creating Inclusive Communities	√		
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy		√	

### Reasons for the Recommendation:

To allow the funds to be committed to commence delivery of the bid and ensure the required spend is made in the current financial year.

### What will it cost and how will it be financed?

#### (A) Revenue Costs

£975,000 of grant available over the four years of the fund (until 31 March 2015), including £190,000 in 2011/12

#### (B) Capital Costs

£575,000 of grant available over the four years of the fund, including £80,000 in 2011/12

All funds will be met by the Department for Transport through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund

## Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

<b>Legal</b>	None
<b>Human Resources</b>	None
<b>Equality</b>	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

## Impact on Service Delivery:

None

## What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance & ICT (FD 861/2011) has been consulted and her comments have been incorporated into this report.

Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 219/11) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the report.

## Are there any other options available for consideration?

No

## Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of the Cabinet Meeting

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## Background Papers:

Local Sustainable Transport Fund application form

## **1.0 Introduction**

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2011, Members approved the progression of bids for inclusion in the Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) in partnership with the Merseyside Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) and West Lancashire District / Lancashire County Councils.

## **2.0 The Bids**

### **2.1 The Merseyside Bid**

- 2.1.1 The Merseyside project submitted by Merseytravel was for £4.877m, to be used across Merseyside to support sustainable access to employment. This project is a key component of a larger £27m bid being considered by the Government for a decision later this year. The Merseyside key component project focuses on working with employers to develop workplace travel plans and active workforce initiatives, providing travel advice and supporting travel to employment and training and also improving facilities for walking and cycling.
- 2.1.2 Sefton will receive £725,000 from the Merseyside project to work with local businesses in addressing transport issues, to continue the work of the neighbourhood travel team in providing travel information and practical assistance to help people get to jobs, interviews or training and to improve accessibility for pedestrians and cyclist to key employment locations.
- 2.1.3 The bid has been approved in full and will be administered by Merseytravel as the lead Authority. The Merseyside Bid is not considered as part of this report and will be subject to a further report to a future meeting of the Cabinet.

### **2.2 The Sefton / West Lancashire Visitor Economy Project Bid.**

- 2.2.1 This project covers an area along the Sefton Coast from Waterloo to Southport and inland incorporating western parts of West Lancashire including Ormskirk and Burscough. The project will promote and develop opportunities for enjoying the area by sustainable transport and by promoting walking and cycling as attractions in themselves. It will benefit the local economy by improving the visitor experience, extending the time visitors spend in the area, attracting new visitors and providing new leisure experiences for local residents, as well as reducing carbon emissions from leisure and tourism related travel.
- 2.2.2 The project includes specific support for the expansion of the Southport cycle hire scheme; Seasonal re-opening of the Kew park and ride site in Southport; developing and promoting the visitor offer throughout the area; improving facilities for pedestrians and cyclists at key locations; and developing new and improved leisure routes and facilities. The project will be very much a partnership between the Councils, both local Primary Care Trusts, Sefton CVS, West Lancs CVS working together with local leisure and tourism businesses. It has been supported by both Merseytravel and Lancashire County Council.
- 2.2.3 Sefton's joint bid with West Lancashire to support and promote the visitor economy of the area has been granted £1.55m out of the original bid of £1.71m. The part of the bid which was unsuccessful was for a total of £160,000, to develop a low carbon travel and tourism education package.

### 3.0 The Sefton / West Lancashire Visitor Economy Project

3.1 The project has secured a total of £1.55m with a further £1.485m being identified in local contributions through Local Transport Plan capital contributions; Sustrans Connect 2 funding; developer contributions; Merseyrail contribution to cycle hire operation; income from Park & Ride; Heritage Lottery Fund; staff time and input from partner organisations (e.g. PCTs, CVS) either directly or in kind. Private sector participants in the project (e.g. hotels, visitor attractions, leisure companies etc.) will also be encouraged to contribute to the project, either directly or in kind.

3.2 The package costs are summarised below.

Southport cycle hire	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	Revenue	45	45	40	40	<b>170</b>
	Capital					
Southport Eastern Park and Ride	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	Revenue	75	90	90	90	<b>345</b>
	Capital					
Developing and promoting the visitor offer	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	Revenue	70	140	130	120	<b>460</b>
	Capital					
Improved facilities for walking and cycling	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	Revenue					
	Capital	10	35	35	35	<b>115</b>
Leisure routes and facilities	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	Revenue					
	Capital	70	170	120	100	<b>460</b>
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>						
		<b>270</b>	<b>480</b>	<b>415</b>	<b>385</b>	<b>1550</b>

3.3 Members will note that there is significant spend profiled for 2011/12 and in order to deliver the aims of the project and meet this spend it is necessary to commence committing funds at the earliest opportunity.

3.4 In view of the above the Cabinet is requested to authorise officers, in liaison with colleagues in West Lancashire, to commence commitment of the funds identified for 2011/12. Details of these commitments will be subject to further subsequent reports to the Cabinet Member – Street Scene and Transportation.

- 3.5 It is suggested that Sefton be the lead accountable authority for the project, a formal agreement between the Authorities will be pursued by Officers of Sefton Council working with Officers of West Lancashire District Council with a view to assessing any risks involved. It is considered that the risks involved are minimal as a large proportion of the funding for the project is revenue and will be spent mainly within Sefton (Cycle Hire and Park & Ride) The principal resource in West Lancashire will be staff resources via a post funded through the project and hosted by Sefton Council. A small amount of Capital fund will be expended in West Lancashire and that will be subject to close control through the governance arrangement to be agreed with West Lancashire.
- 3.6 The letter confirming the offer of the grant is attached for Members information.

# Department for **Transport**

Dave Marrin  
Traffic Services Manager  
Sefton Council  
(via email)

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8 July 2011

Dear Mr Marrin,

## **Sefton & West Lancashire Visitor Economy Project**

Thank you for your tranche 1 bid to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, submitted in April. This letter is to inform you that Ministers have decided not to fund the bid in full, but instead agreed to fund defined elements of your bid as set out below. We received a very healthy response to the Fund and a large number of bids which Ministers fully considered before arriving at their decisions.

Your bid was generally considered to comprise a coherent package of mutually supporting measures and provided clear evidence of the benefits for the local economy. However, Ministers have decided not to fund the “low carbon travel and tourism education” package as they did not feel that it sufficiently addressed the strategic objectives of the Fund. The Department would be happy to provide further feedback and advice. Please contact Richard Mace in the first instance ([richard.mace@dft.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:richard.mace@dft.gsi.gov.uk) ; 020 7944 6647).

The Department’s funding contribution to the project will be paid as resource and capital grant as follows:

	£m	Revenue	Capital	Total
<b>2011/12</b>		0.190	0.080	0.270
<b>2012/13</b>		0.275	0.205	0.480
<b>2013/14</b>		0.260	0.155	0.415
<b>2014/15</b>		0.250	0.135	0.385
<b>Total</b>		0.975	0.575	1.550

There will be no opportunity to carry forward any unspent funds into subsequent financial years. In order to manage funding levels nationally, we would be open to any requests to bring forward expenditure from 2012/13 into 2011/12. Please contact Richard Mace should you wish to do so.

We will write to you shortly with a formal offer of grant under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003. The letter will include the full terms and conditions under which the grant is to be provided. These conditions will include accepting full financial responsibility for the project going forward and a commitment to submitting quarterly reports to the Department on progress and expenditure. You will be asked to confirm these conditions in writing.

Thank you for taking the time to develop your bid to the Fund. My team and I look forward to working with you and we wish you every success in implementing the project and realising the benefits for your local communities.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "J Matthew". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'J'.

**Jessica Matthew**