
Report to: Cabinet Member - Transportation
Cabinet
Council

Date of Report : 5th August 2011
Date of Meeting : 18th August 2011
1st September 2011

Subject: Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund Project –
Facilitating Sustainable Access to Employment in Merseyside

Report of: Director of Built Environment **Wards Affected:** All

Is this a Key Decision? Yes **Is it included in the Forward Plan?** Yes

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose/Summary

To advise the Cabinet of Sefton's role in the Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund project and to seek authority to commit and to allocate the funds.

Recommendation(s)

It is recommended that Cabinet Member Transportation note the report and recommends Cabinet to approve the allocation of funds and authorise officers to commence commitment of the funds.

Cabinet

It is recommended that:-

- (i) the elements of the Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF) project to be delivered in Sefton be noted;
- (ii) it be noted that Merseytravel is the lead accountable body for the Merseyside LSTF project;
- (iii) the Head of Corporate Finance and ICT be authorized to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with Merseytravel to enable the project to commence and subsequently to enter into a formal agreement with Merseytravel for the funding, delivery and monitoring of the project;
- (iv) the Council be recommended to approve the inclusion of £260,000 in the Capital Programme phased as indicated in paragraph 2.5; and
- (v) officers be authorized to commence commitment of the funds.

Council approve the inclusion of £260,000 in the Capital Programme phased as indicated in paragraph 2.5

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

£465,000 of grant available over the four years of the fund (until 31 March 2015), including £60,000 in 2011/12

(B) Capital Costs

£260,000 of grant available over the four years of the fund, including £15,000 in 2011/12

All funds will be met by the Department for Transport through the Local Sustainable Transport Fund through Merseytravel as the accountable body.

Implications:

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

Legal	None
Human Resources	None
Equality	
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 887/11) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into this report.

Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD 246/11) 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:

Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund application form

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the meeting of the Cabinet held on 14th 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 the Merseyside local authorities. The success of the Merseyside bid and an overview of the content of the project was reported to Cabinet on 21st July 2011

2.0 The Merseyside LSTF Project - Facilitating Sustainable Access to Employment in Merseyside

- 2.1 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.
- 2.2 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. Further details are provided below.
- 2.3 The bid has been approved in full and Merseytravel will act as the lead Authority and accountable body. The project will be administered by Merseytravel in accordance with the Terms and Conditions specified by the Department for Transport (DfT). The letter of confirmation for the project from the DfT is attached as Annex A. Merseytravel proposes to enter into formal agreements with the partner local authorities for the management, delivery and monitoring of the project. However, this may take time to finalise so, as an interim measure, Merseytravel is proposing the use of a Memorandum of Understanding with the partner authorities to enable the project to commence and to support the partners in committing resources to project delivery. This is particularly important because there are spending commitments to be met in 2011/12 and the DfT has made it clear that there is no scope for carrying forward any funding to future years.
- 2.4 It is recommended that the Head of Finance is authorised to enter into the Memorandum of Understanding with Merseytravel and the subsequent formal agreement to enable the delivery and financial management of the project.
- 2.5 The funding amounts and spend profile for the components of the project to be delivered in Sefton are summarised below.

Working with Employers	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	Total
	Revenue	30	60	55	50	195
	Capital	5	15	15	15	50
Travel Solutions	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
	Revenue	30	90	95	55	270
	Capital					
Sustainable transport infrastructure	£k	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	
	Revenue					
	Capital	10	70	70	60	210
GRAND TOTAL						
		75	235	235	180	725

2.6 Members will note that there is 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.

2.7 In view of the above and subject to confirmation of the Memorandum of Understanding with Merseytravel, the Cabinet is requested to authorise officers to commence commitment of the funds identified for 2011/12. Delivery of these commitments will be subject to further subsequent reports to the Cabinet Member – Transportation.

3.0 Project Spend 2011/12

3.1 Paragraph 2.5 above outlines the spend profile for all Sefton's elements of the project. The proposed spend for 2011/12 is as follows:-

3.1.1 **Working with Employers (£30k Revenue, 5k Capital)** - This element of the project consists mainly of the appointment of a Business Travel Advisor who will engage with employers through the existing Invest Sefton business network to identify travel related concerns and issues for local business and initiate working programmes with employers to address these concerns. In addition, a "Sustainable Transport" business engagement strategy will be defined and agreed with partners as part of the wider Sefton Sustainable Economic Development strategy and themed business events will be undertaken. There will be engagement with growth employers on bespoke support programmes for local recruitment and retention, with early activity centred on employers within the Dock estate. It is also intended to support the establishment of business networks based at key employment locations in Sefton including Atlantic Park Netherton, Southport Business Park, A565 route corridor (Waterloo and Crosby). Capital resources will be used to fund a business travel grant scheme to assist employers with introducing initiatives or infrastructure in support of workplace travel plans.

3.1.2 **Travel Solutions (£30k Revenue)** – This targeted package of measures is aimed at making people more employable by expanding their travel horizons, developing independence and enabling them to obtain and retain employment. Delivered in conjunction with existing employment services it will assist key groups such as long term unemployed, NEETS, Incapacity Benefit Claimants, ex-

offenders and recovering drug users with both seeking and securing employment. It will include the provision of personal travel advice, journey planning and, where appropriate, specific assistance with travel through the provision of public transport travel passes or by supplying a bicycle. The scheme will be delivered by Sefton Council through its existing delivery arrangements of employment support Sefton@Work and the Neighbourhood Travel Team. The funding provides specific support for some of the staff costs of the Neighbourhood Travel Team, currently employed by Sefton Council. Additional links will be provided through Job Centre Plus and other agencies. Community engagement for the delivery of the employability services will be provided through Sefton CVS and other partners within the Sefton Local Strategic Partnership

- 3.1.3 **Sustainable Transport Infrastructure (£10k Capital)** – This element of the project is intended to provide new or improved walking and cycling infrastructure at key employment locations, thereby improving access for pedestrians and cyclists to these key employment locations. Initially, potential infrastructure improvement schemes at key employment locations will be evaluated and preliminary design of suitable schemes will be undertaken as a basis for consultation with employers at the selected locations and with the associated local communities. These interventions can be incorporated into the action plan for the Strategic Regeneration Framework for North Liverpool/South Sefton.

4.0 Financial Implications

- 4.1 The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT comments that the financial implications of the report for the Council are that the expenditure of £60,000 revenue and £15,000 capital to be incurred in 2011/12 is to be funded by grant from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, along with further funding up to 2015 as shown in the schedules above, awarded by the Department for Transport and administered by Merseytravel. Confirmation is awaited from the DfT and Merseytravel on procedures as to how the grant will be claimed. There are not expected to be any financial resource implications to the Council as a result of this project as it is fully funded.

Department for
Transport

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5 July 2011

Dear Neil Scales,

Facilitating Sustainable Access to Employment in Merseyside

I am pleased to inform you that Ministers have approved the above Key Component bid to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund, submitted in April. I can tell you that we received a very healthy response to the Fund and a large number of bids which Ministers fully considered before arriving at their decisions.

This bid is excellent at describing how you will achieve the core objectives of the Fund, by meeting your communities' needs for access to employment. The package of measures focuses on advice to employers, and we would recommend that you build on this by considering what services to offer businesses directly as well.

The Department's funding contribution to the project will be paid as resource and capital grant on the basis of the expenditure profile set out in your bid document. 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 (richard.mace@dft.gsi.gov.uk ; 020 7944 6647) 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,



Jessica Matthew