

Report to: Cabinet

Date: 13 December 2012

Subject: Council Motion - Sefton Sustainable Energy Action Plan

Report of: Director of Built Environment

Wards Affected: All

Is this a Key Decision? No

Is it included in the Forward Plan? No

Exempt/Confidential No

Purpose

To update Cabinet, following the motion at Council on 22 November 2012 on the financial implications of the development of the Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

Recommendation(s)

That further to the Council motion on the 22 November, Cabinet note that the Sustainable Energy Action Plan is a mechanism for Liverpool City Region and Sefton Council to coordinate its own, externally funded and partner activities to deliver low carbon economy goals, is effectively self funding and in itself has no direct additional financial demands on core Council resources above contributory work streams already in progress.

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 provide clarification of the financial implications of the Council Motion in accordance with Rule 84 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules (Motions on Expenditure)

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

(A) Revenue Costs None

(B) Capital Costs: Non

Implications:

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

Legal:	The Council is under an existing obligation to reduce its carbon emissions under the CRC Energy Efficiency Scheme which was introduced by government in 2008 and to reduce overall household energy use under the Home Energy Conservation Act.	
Human Resources		
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 (FD1973/12) has been consulted and has no comments to make on this report.

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD1290/12) has been consulted and any comments have been incorporated into the briefing report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

No

Implementation Date for the Decision: Following expiry of the call in period for the minutes of this meeting

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Background Papers:

None

Background to Sustainable Energy Action Plan

1. At the Council meeting held on 22 November 2012, the following motion was moved by Councillor Weavers, seconded by Councillor Maher and unanimously approved:
“This Council welcomes the appointment of consultants for a sustainable energy action plan for the Liverpool City Region.

The Council recognises that a sustainable energy action plan will be of immense importance for investment, businesses, jobs and the environment within Sefton.

This Council commits itself to implementing a sustainable energy action plan and notes that delaying the implementation of an action plan will cost jobs and money.”
2. In accordance with Rule 84 of the Council and Committee Procedure Rules (Motions on Expenditure), the Motion was referred to the Cabinet for consideration of the financial implications in advance of any budgetary commitment and prior to any action being taken to implement the decision.
3. Cabinet Members and Cabinet have considered several reports in relation to the development of Liverpool City Region Sustainable Energy Action Plan and of a Sefton Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP). On 17 August 2011, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration agreed to support the production of a LCR Sustainable Energy Action Plan.

LCR SEAP approved.

4. On 8 November 2012, the Cabinet Member Regeneration and Tourism approved the published Liverpool City Region Sustainable Energy Action Plan (SEAP) as the programme and framework for the City Region to advance its sustainable energy actions.
5. The Liverpool City Region (LCR) SEAP has been prepared at no direct cost to the Districts or the Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and is funded through the CLASP Climate Change Skills Fund. Work has been completed by MEAS and consultants and overseen by a Steering Group for which all Districts have had officer representation. The SEAP is a single LCR Programme of activity and it seeks to advance our sustainable energy infrastructure aspirations for a more resilient and lower carbon energy infrastructure future for the City Region
6. The Low Carbon Economy Committee of the LEP has now embraced and taken ownership of the SEAP Programme. The Committee recognises that it is a key and strategic part of the Low Carbon agenda and is keen to work with the Local Authorities in its development and delivery. Progress with the SEAP Programme will be monitored and reported to the LEP Board and City Region Cabinet.

7. To date the programme for supporting the development of the Low Carbon Economy (SEAP) has attracted £4m of European and private sector funding.

Sefton SEAP

8. On 19 January 2012 Cabinet approved “the development of a Sefton Sustainable Energy Action Plan that considers carbon reduction and economic development progress for the maximum benefit of Sefton communities and meets the criteria of the Covenant of Mayors”.
9. ‘Sefton SEAP’ is a sub-set of the LCR plan, which will drive clear targeted actions against identified challenges and opportunities in Sefton. To date a vast amount has been achieved by the Council in reducing energy consumptions in homes by 27.4% since 1996, drawing in over £27 million investment in Sefton for domestic energy improvements.
10. The Low Carbon driver of SEAP relates to other current work streams;
 - Sefton Council Carbon Management Plan
 - Sefton Sustainable Travel Plan
 - Air Quality Management Plan
 - Home Energy Conservation Act Plan
 - Sefton Affordable Warmth Strategy
 - Sefton Economic Regeneration Plan
 - Climate Change Adaptation Plan
 - Joint Municipal Waste Management Strategy (Merseyside)
11. The Sefton Sustainable Energy Action Plan will group a range of carbon reduction interventions into a series of smaller evidence based opportunities and projects placing those projects within the overarching framework so that projects support each other and the steps to delivering energy goals become clearer and achievable.

Council Motion Comment

12. The adopted LCR SEAP is a strategic context document and will steer delivery of projects in the LCR districts. The Sefton “delivery” SEAP is currently being drafted and will be taken through the political process for corporate adoption within the next few months. Activity in this area is continuing whilst the coordinating Sefton SEAP document is being drafted.
13. The adopted LCR Sustainable Energy Action Plan and its subsidiary Sefton (and other districts) SEAP is a mechanism for Liverpool City Region and Sefton Council to bid for and coordinate externally funded and related partner activities to deliver low carbon economy goals.
14. The SEAP programme will be effectively self, grant or private sector funded and in itself has no direct additional financial demands on core Council resources over and above the coordination of contributory work streams and statutory activity already in progress.