

**REPORT TO:** Cabinet Member Environmental  
**DATE:** 18<sup>th</sup> November 2009  
**SUBJECT:** **LOW EMISSIONS STRATEGIES**  
**WARDS AFFECTED:** All  
**REPORT OF:** Peter Moore  
Environmental Protection Director  
**CONTACT OFFICER:** Gary Mahoney  
Principal EMAP Officer ext 4300  
**EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL:** No

**PURPOSE/SUMMARY:**

The purpose of the report is to advise the Cabinet Member - Environmental of a Low Emissions Strategy (LES) for Sefton and a Low Emissions Strategies Partnership, of which Sefton is a founder member.

**REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:**

An effective Low Emissions Strategy (LES) could contribute significantly towards the achievement of Sefton's Statutory Objectives for Air Quality, as such it is important to keep the Cabinet Member, Environmental, informed on progress.

**RECOMMENDATION(S):**

That the Cabinet Member - Environmental notes the report and the progress being made.

**KEY DECISION:** No

**FORWARD PLAN:** No

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** Immediately following the expiry date of the "call-in" period for the Minutes of this meeting.

**ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:**

The only alternative option would be not to progress the work on LES. LES represents an innovative way of securing air quality improvements and reducing emissions of greenhouse gasses. The initiative will contribute to the achievement of Sefton's statutory objectives and national indicator targets and consequently the option not to progress work on LES was rejected.

**IMPLICATIONS:****Budget/Policy Framework:** None.**Financial:** None

<b><u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u></b>	<b>2006/ 2007 £</b>	<b>2007/ 2008 £</b>	<b>2008/ 2009 £</b>	<b>2009/ 2010 £</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:****Risk Assessment:** N/A**Asset Management:** N/A**CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS**

**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		✓	

<b>LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT</b>
Low Emissions Strategies – Good Practice Guidance

## Background

1. Low Emissions Strategies (LES) provide a holistic approach to ensuring that new developments are designed with the minimum environmental impact. The term LES is used to mean a package of measures for mitigating air pollution and carbon dioxide emissions associated with the road transport impacts of new (or significantly altered) developments.
2. The primary aim of the LES is to accelerate the uptake of low emission fuels and technologies in and around a new development, thereby complementing other design and mitigation options, such as travel planning and the provision of public transport infrastructure. LES can also help with meeting carbon reduction targets.
3. During 2007/8 Sefton was awarded Beacon Status for their air quality monitoring programmes. One of the outcomes that the Beacon Councils produced during their Beacon year was the production of good practice guidance on LES. This is available at [www.lowemissionstrategies.org](http://www.lowemissionstrategies.org). The guidance contains case studies and examples of actions that can be included in a LES. The guidance is soon to be included in DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management Guidance.
4. At the end of the Beacon Year, additional funding was secured from DEFRA and DCLG to continue the project and a LES Partnership (LESP) was established which included Sefton as one of the original members. The aim of the LESP is to support the adoption and implementation of LES by Local Authorities. An advisory group, encompassing both LES champions and 'critical friends' from Central Government, Local Government, consultancies, industry, academia and the NGO sector was also established to monitor the development of the project.
5. Fundamental to the partnership is a practical programme of work centred on a nationally funded performance improvement scheme. This work is overseen by a peer group of fifteen Local Authorities working together to support the local implementation of LES and to demonstrate good practice. A toolkit giving information on the types of alternative technologies that are available and providing a calculator to determine the emissions savings that can be achieved by various LES measures has also been commissioned.
6. As well as being an LESP board member, Sefton is part of the above Peer Group and is currently working to develop an LES for Sefton.

## The Current Situation

7. As part of the Peer Group, Sefton receives around £10,000 worth of consultancy support, from the Centre of Excellence for Low Carbon Technology (CENEX), towards developing an LES. The support has been increased by obtaining some free support from the consultants Arup and two Students. One of the students is examining the economic implications of LES and the other the health implications. Arup are providing advice on developing a Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) about LES.

8. A Sefton working group has been established that includes officers from Environmental Protection, a Development Control Officer, Planning and Transportation Departments, the Strategic Transport Planning Unit and Environmental Regeneration.
9. The working group has met a number of times, initially to determine what would be appropriate to include in an LES for Sefton and subsequently refining this. The intention is to produce a Planning Guidance Note. This note will be submitted to Planning Committee and Cabinet Member, Environmental for formal approval as guidance for developers. The planning guidance note can be converted to an SPD once Planning's core strategy work has been completed. It is intended that the Sefton LES will encompass a range of other measures to reduce emissions from construction activities and taxis, for example.

### **Future Proposals**

10. The LESP has secured further funding from DCLG to continue the development of LES within Local Authorities. It is intended that this money will be used to develop regional centres of excellence for the development of LES. Three regional centres will be established and £20,000 provided to support the development of LES in the region. Sefton is in a good position to bid to become a regional centre and consideration is currently being given to the content of a possible bid. Interest in developing LES across the Liverpool City Region has already been shown from the other Local Authorities situated in the area, plus Merseytravel and the LTP Support Unit.