

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member – Technical
Cabinet Member – Environmental
Cabinet Member - Regeneration
Cabinet

DATE: 2nd December 2009
16th December 2009
16th December 2009
17th December 2009

SUBJECT: Potential Funding Opportunity 2- Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010-2012

WARDS AFFECTED: Harrington, and Ravenmeols

REPORT OF: Alan Moore, Deputy Chief Executive and Strategic Director
Andy Wallis – Planning and Economic Regeneration Director

CONTACT OFFICER: Mo Kundi X3447

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform Members of the resources being made available under the Low Carbon Communities Challenge Programme, and the request by Formby Parish Council to assist them in the development and delivery of a successful bid for which the Parish Council will be the accountable body.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Any assistance to Formby Parish Council in the development of the bid, and if successful the delivery of the project will require significant officer time input, for which Cabinet approval is necessary.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

That Cabinet Members for Technical, Environmental and Regeneration:-

1. Note the report, and that the

Cabinet:-

1. Approve that Sefton officers assist Formby Parish Council in the development of the bid, and then, if successful, with its delivery.
2. Request further reports

KEY DECISION: Yes

FORWARD PLAN: Yes

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: After the call in period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

Sefton Council is eligible to bid for funding under the Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010-2012. However, the programme requires significant engagement and involvement of the community during all stages of the project. This is better suited to a local parish council. However, Formby Parish Council has no experience or expertise in developing bids, or delivery projects, and has requested assistance from Sefton Council. Not to assist would mean the loss of opportunity to attract funding, and more critically progress the climate reduction agenda at a community level.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: There are no direct financial implications as a result of this report.

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2006/ 2007 £	2007/ 2008 £	2008/ 2009 £	2009/ 2010 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources				
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
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: N/A

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Technical Services
Environmental Services
Leisure and Tourism
Legal
Finance

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

Report to Leaders Group meeting on 19th November 2009

1.0 Background

- 1.1 Members may be aware of a report entitled 'The Development Low Carbon Economy in response to Climate Change, presented to Cabinet Member Environment (18th November 2009), Cabinet Member Technical Services (18th November 2009), Cabinet Member Regeneration (23rd November 2009), and the Cabinet on 25th November 2009.
- 1.2 The report makes reference, inter alia, to a number of funding opportunities being made available by Central Government as part of its energy efficiency programme, including the Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010-2012.
- 1.3 The Challenge is about involving a broad section of people living and working in communities to develop plans for their area that integrate technology or infrastructure – such as wind farms, electric cars or home energy refurbishment – with financial and behavioural measures to create a broader low carbon area or zone.
- 1.4 The Government is making available financial support of up to £500,000 for capital expenditure, and will introduce successful bidders to partners who are offering free training, advice or support, and then evaluate the progress by gathering data and perspectives of what is and what is not successful.
- 1.5 The Government is looking to work with 20 'test-bed' communities already facing change in the area as a result of green or low carbon infrastructure or behavioural measures, with an interest in using this to spur the development of broader plans for cutting carbon emissions in their area.
- 1.6 Within Sefton only Formby stands out as an area where there are currently some 'low carbon infrastructures', and these include wind turbines at Range High School, and St. Jerome's School. The latter also features photovoltaic panels, grey water systems etc.
- 1.7 Officer had a number of discussions with Formby Parish Councillors, and at their meeting on 3rd November 2009, Formby Parish Council formally agreed to submit a bid under the Low Carbon Communities Challenge Programme, and requested Sefton Council's assistance. A copy of the letter is attached to this report as Annex A. The closing date for the submission of the bid is 30th December 2009, with successful applicants being informed on 25th January 2010.

2.0. Comments

- 2.1 Sefton Council, as a local authority is eligible to apply on behalf of local residents where, for example, a low carbon infrastructure is planned. However given the need to engage, and carry the community at all levels of the project,

from its development, delivery, and beyond, it was felt that an application from a local parish council would be more appropriate. Formby Parish Council has recognised this, and is prepared to engage the community, and other potential stakeholders, including Formby Civic Society, local Churches, local businesses via the Formby Business Village Partnership, Formby Pool Trust, local Schools, local Sefton Ward Members, etc. A copy of a submission by the Parish Council to Formby Area Committee, requesting its support is also attached as Annex B.

- 2.2 However, Formby Parish Council has also recognised that it has limited expertise and experience in developing and delivery projects of this nature. In addition, it has very limited dedicated officer capacity. It has therefore formally asked Sefton Council to assist them in the development and delivery of a successful bid for which the Parish Council will be the accountable body.
- 2.3 Members may recall that a similar request for assistance from Lydiate Parish Council was agreed by the Cabinet, which led to the successful draw down of HLF money (£500,000), and the delivery of the Lydiate Village Centre, which is expected to open in December 2009.
- 2.4 From Sefton's perspective, there will be a significant demand on Sefton officers' time, initially in the development and submission of the bid, and then if successful the delivery the project. However, the project does offer the opportunity to progress the Climate Reduction, and Low Carbon Economy agenda, particularly at community level, and the opportunity to develop new expertise and experience in a field that is at its formative stage, but statutory obligations will require its expansion.

Annex A

Tel: 0151 928 5667
e-mail to: formbypc1@aol.com

Please Reply To:
Clerk to the Council
Mrs J Davis
27 Marlborough Road
WATERLOO
Liverpool L22 1RT

JED/MC/C3
6 November 2009

Mr M Kundi
Planning & Economic Regeneration Manager
Planning & economic Regeneration Department
Sefton MBC
Investment Centre
375 Stanley Road
Bootle

Dear Mr Kundi

CLIMATE CHANGE CHALLENGE

The Formby Parish Council has considered the proposal for it to make an application to this fund, which is aimed at providing funds for capital expenditure to assist communities determined to reduce their carbon generation.

At the Council meeting on the 3rd November 2009 the Council agreed that it makes good sense to take this forward embodying it into the Parish Community Plan. It is seen that we are a community in Sefton which would benefit from the project, building on our environmental track record and our ability to manage it successfully.

Two Councillors, Sean Brady and Michael Coles have been asked to make the application and to work with you in Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council to benefit the community as a whole.

The full application is in preparation and will be complete by mid December 2009 following a full working meeting of the Council at the end this month. It is proposed to set up a steering group consisting of members of the Parish Council, the Formby Area Committee and members of the public and representatives of interested bodies.

Continued ...

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We would ask you to accept this letter as confirmation of our decision.

Yours sincerely

Joanne Davis MCIPD
Clerk to the Parish Council

cc David Packard – Magdalen House

FORMBY PARISH COUNCIL
Climate Change Challenge

Submission to the Formby Area Committee November 2009

As a result of our joint meetings recently, the Formby Parish Council discussed the Climate Change Challenge at its meeting on the 3rd November 2009. It was agreed that the Parish Council will submit an application in an endeavour to gain access to funding for Formby.

The application is now being developed but it will focus upon investment in public and domestic programmes aimed to significantly reduce the consumption of energy by using a wide range of initiatives incorporating solar and heat recovery technology and through educational initiatives in schools and in the wider community. Other initiatives complementary to this aim will be developed.

It is a fact that Formby is a discreet community with an established history of awareness in its heritage, of the local fragile environment and its responsibility to protect and sustain it.

It should be noted that the focus upon the flood risks were first instigated by the Council in view of its continuous concern over the safety of the residents and their property, especially in regard to the replacement of the pumping stations at Crossens and Altmouth.

The Council has regularly monitored the condition of the water courses in Formby and the inadequate drainage system by way of its Stewardship reports which are reported to the officers responsible in Sefton MBC. The ongoing issues of Long Lane/Dobbs Gutter reveal how difficult it is to maintain and improve.

The Area Committee has provided financial support towards the improvements we have made in Chapel Lane replacing the street furniture and improving the general appearance of the village centre. As a consequence of this early work, the Memorial Gardens have been cleared of dead vegetation and have been replanted with new shrubs and bedding plants. This project is set to continue and has already been recognised but the Royal Horticultural Society with an award for the work done so far.

The FPC has funded more plant purchases, together with a complete refurbishment of the benches donated to the community over many years. This has been achieved by careful consultation through the local societies the local press and public consultation, with individuals who have made useful contributions to the work. Local retailers and groups have contributed money and gifts such as daffodil bulbs for the benefit of all the community.

The Parish Council believes it has a proven record of community involvement and consultation, which allows it to make this application to the Challenge. It asks for your support in this venture.

It is proposed to set up a body representative of the community to oversee this work which will include representatives of the Area Committee, the Parish Council the Civic Society, the Formby Partnership, the Formby Pool Trust and individuals representing the business community and residents. We would ask you please to suggest two members of the Area Committee to help in this task.

M. COLES

05 November 2009