

REPORT TO: Cabinet Member - Technical Services
Cabinet

DATE: 16 December 2009
17 December 2009

SUBJECT: Funding for Transport Asset Management

WARDS AFFECTED: All Wards

REPORT OF: A. Wallis – Planning and Economic Regeneration
Director

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EXEMPT/CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To seek approval to include the Capital funding received from the Department for Transport into the 2009/10 Transportation Capital Programme and to identify revenue spending associated with a revenue element of the Department for Transport funding.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

Approval of the grant funding into the identified programme will assist Sefton Council in developing its asset management capacity for its highway assets.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that:

- i) Cabinet Member – Technical Services notes the content of this report
- ii) Cabinet approve the inclusion of the Capital funding from the Department for Transport into the 2009/10 Transportation Capital Programme

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: Published

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: None

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

There are no alternative options available.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework: None

Financial: The funding from the Department for Transport is set out below, split between Capital (£69.1k) and Revenue (£50k).

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure		£69.10k		
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources				
Specific Capital Resources		£69.10k		
<u>REVENUE IMPLICATIONS</u>				
Gross Increase in Revenue Expenditure	£10k	£40k		
Funded by:				
Sefton funded Resources				
Funded from External Resources	£10k	£40k		
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	When?			
How will the service be funded post expiry?				

Legal: None.

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

FD - 249 The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

- Officers of the Planning and Finance Departments.

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				

1.0 Background

- 1.1 For some time, the Department for Transport has encouraged local authorities to develop an asset management approach to managing their highway networks and to draw up and implement Transport Asset Management Plans (TAMPs).
- 1.2 Good asset management requires a thorough understanding of the assets under management with the collection of inventory and condition data being an essential element of this. These highway assets include carriageways, footways, bridges and other highway structures, street lighting and signage.
- 1.3 In July 2008, the Department for Transport invited all local authorities to apply for funding to assist them in gathering important inventory information in respect to the condition of their highway assets.

2.0 Transport Asset Management Funding

- 2.1 In February 2009, the Department for Transport informed Sefton Council that it had been granted capital funding of £69,100 and revenue funding of £50,000 to assist in the development of its asset management capability for its highway assets. The funding is specifically intended to assist Sefton Council with the building of its highway asset inventory and analysis capability. This work will be crucial in enabling Sefton Council to comply with changes in local authority accounting for highway assets which are due to come into force in 2012 and in the development of a Transport Asset Management Plan for Sefton Council's transport assets.
- 2.2 It is proposed that Cabinet approve the inclusion of the £69.10k capital funding into the 2009/10 Transportation Capital Programme. The report to Cabinet Member –Technical Services on 2 December 2009 recommended approval of work being carried out to develop Sefton Council's asset management capability for its highway assets subject to the approval of this funding into the 2009/10 Transportation Capital Programme. Given the start date for the project, it is probable that this capital funding will not be required to be spent until 2010/11.
- 2.3 The work has not yet begun but it is intended to commission Capita Symonds to undertake this work in the near future. The work is not covered by the partnership contract, and as a result, the revenue element of the Department for Transport grant will be required to fund the fees paid to Capita Symonds to carry out the work. The work is scheduled to commence in January 2010 with a planned revenue spend of £10k in 2009/10 and £40k in 2010/11.
- 2.4 The actions proposed for developing the Sefton Council's asset management capability in line with the DfT funding application are as follows:
 1. Review of existing data - availability, extent, coverage, where the data are held and in what format

2. Consolidation of the existing data where possible - i.e. combine systems where data are held in compatible formats
3. Development and review options for a fully integrated system to contain/hold all the data - assess feasibility of delivering and operating such a system
4. Identification of existing gaps in the data - i.e. where data is not available or is held in incompatible format
5. Prioritisation of the areas where there are gaps in the data to identify those that are most important to collect/resolve
6. Preparation and implementation of a programme for collecting/modifying data to plug the gaps identified in 4 and based on the priorities agreed in 5.

2.5 The inclusion of the capital funding into the Transportation Capital Programme and the carry over of an estimated £40k of the revenue funding into 2010/11 will enable this important work to be carried out and so assist Sefton Council in the development of its Transport Asset Management Plan. All spend will be contained within the programmes concerned and progress in respect to the project will be reported to future Cabinet Member – Technical Services meetings.

3.0 Recommendations

It is recommended that:

- i) Cabinet Member – Technical Services notes the content of this report
- ii) Cabinet approve the inclusion of the Capital funding from the Department for Transport into the 2009/10 Transportation Capital Programme