

REPORT TO:

REGENERATION CABINET:
LEISURE AND TOURISM CABINET:

DATE: 16 December 2009 Regeneration Cabinet
6 January 2010 Leisure and Tourism Cabinet
SUBJECT: SUSTAIN– Interreg IVC programme

WARDS
AFFECTED: ALL

REPORT OF: Andy Wallis, Planning and Economic Regeneration Director
Graham Bayliss, Leisure Services Director

CONTACT
OFFICER: Andrew Hall
Tel: 0151 934 3604
andrew.hall@planning.sefton.gov.uk

Dave McAleavy
Tel:0151 934 2961
Dave.McAleavy@leisure.sefton.gov.uk

EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL: No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To explain and update members on the current situation in respect of 'SUSTAIN' project for the Interreg IVC programme, in which Sefton, working with the North West Coastal Forum, are cooperating with transnational partners, as leaders in the field of coastal management. This will provide Sefton and its regional partners improved capability to look after our coastal asset and maintain Sefton's role as a leading coastal authority.

The aim of SUSTAIN is to have in place, at the end of three years, an implementable sustainability policy tool, applicable for all 22 coastal states of the EU, which will support sustainable integrated management of coastal issues.

This project in its current form, was brought to the Regeneration Cabinet on the 21st January 2009 and Sefton's participation subsequently approved. The Council has now received notification from the Dutch Lead partner that SUSTAIN has been approved.

The budget estimate is based on Sefton holding the final meeting, an international conference of around 150 delegates, in 2012 which would showcase the SUSTAIN project results. This is intended to be in Southport.

Cabinet Member for Regeneration approved Sefton's continued participation in the

Interreg IVC programme and authorised the Director for Planning and Economic Regeneration to re-confirm participation with the Dutch lead partner co-ordinating the submission. The recommendation to waive the contract procedure rules in respect of the working relationship with the North West Coastal Forum's Regional Coastal Project Officer (the secretariat officer) due to the special circumstance contained within that report was approved.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To update the Cabinet Member and confirm that the Interreg IVC proposal called 'SUSTAIN' has now been approved.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

- i) The Cabinet Member is asked to note that the Interreg IVC proposal called 'SUSTAIN' has now been approved and is scheduled to commence in January 2010.

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Following the call in period for the minutes of this meeting.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS: Not to participate in this follow on project, but this has previously been agreed.

IMPLICATIONS:

Budget/Policy Framework:

Financial: The financial implication for Sefton is a commitment to provide in-kind staff. This is likely to involve officers from several Departments. The maximum value would be £24,290 over four financial years

The NWCF will provide £3,536 of staff time match towards the local funding requirement.

	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>				
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 (In-kind)	1,290	6,000	6,000	11,000
Funded from External Resources				
Does the External Funding have an expiry date? Y/N	Dec 2012			
How will the service be funded post expiry?	N/A as project ends			

Legal:

Risk Assessment: A risk would be if the voluntary agency North West Coastal Forum could not continue during the life of the project. The remainder of the project would be assumed by lead officers within the Council.

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS

Senior officers from Planning and Economic Regeneration, Tourism, and Leisure have all been consulted on the drafting of this report. Environmental protection have been consulted.

FD252 - The Finance and Information Services Director has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

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
None

Background

Interreg IVC Project: SUSTAIN:

- 1) Interreg is a European Union Structural Fund aimed at achieving interregional cooperation between defined EU regions.

Proposal

- 2) If given approval for Interreg IVC project 'Sustain', it will be led by the Dutch Partner EUCC and involve 13 partners (see list attached), all with direct interest and experience in coastal management.
- 3) The key objective of SUSTAIN is to have in place, at the end of three years, a policy tool, applicable for all 22 coastal states of the EU, which will ensure that the integrated management of coastal issues will be sustainable. This entails the acceptance, within the project, of a set of criteria which are readily measurable and which cover both the threats of unsustainable development and the opportunities provided by a sustainable future, which faces all coastal authorities and communities throughout Europe.
- 4) SUSTAIN will provide a new way of thinking about sustainable management through the development of a unique set of indicators which incorporate objective quality information and targets related to key aspects of the EU Sustainable Development Strategy viz. nature and biodiversity, carrying capacity, water & environmental quality, climate change and socio-economic aspects. They will be different from the current state-of-the-coast indicators, which inadequately try and measure sustainability at present. They will have been designed specifically with sustainability objectives in mind rather than simply looking at the present status of a wide range of different parameters some of which are related to sustainability but most are not. It will be achieved whilst maintaining continuous improvement of quality of life along the coastline both for current and for future generations by enabling coastal communities to manage and use their resources efficiently.
- 5) The expected results are:

- Informed local/regional authorities, relevant stakeholders and general public,
 - A coherent, sustainable policy driven management tool
 - Partners with increased knowledge of sustainability through exchange of experience
 - A set of criteria agreed and implementable at local and regional partner authority level
 - Contribution to the implementation of the renewed EU Sustainable Development Strategy and related policies e.g. ICZM, Water Framework Directive (WFD), Maritime Policy and others at local and regional level
 - A major international coastal conference organised by Sefton to be held in the region in 2012, raising the profile of Sefton's role as a leading coastal local authority
- 6) The project is planned to run for 3 years (2010-12). It involves exchange visits and relevant workshops organised by the different partners to develop and assess the specific sustainability criteria. Also web-based communications will be developed as part of the project and include on completion of the project a sustainability improvement Guide for Authorities, an Implementation Guide for Authorities, a report on the Exchange of Experience and a report on the partner assessments of the sustainability criteria all of which will be packaged with all details of the SUSTAIN project in a special DVD dissemination package including a final project report.
- 7) Greater use will be made of teleconferences as part of this project and the communication component of the project will disseminate information from the workshops and exchange visits. Project costs are therefore limited to workshop organisation, travel costs on exchanges, and dissemination of information.
- 8) Sefton is a member of the North West Coastal Forum (NWCF), hosted by the 4NW the Regional Leaders Forum, and as the NWCF is not recognised as a 'legal entity' by the Secretariat under Interreg regulations. Sefton will act as the participating partner, but will subcontract work direct to the NWCF to ensure the regional input necessary.
- 9) The total cost of participation has been estimated at around €122,432 (approximately £111,302) over the three years of the project 2009-12. The intervention rate is 75%; the maximum local funding required is therefore £27,826. This is made up of in-kind (mainly staff time) from the NWCF and the Council. The NWCF have had authority to continue its participation.
- 10) No additional resources are required. NWCF costs will be paid by Sefton against invoices, and claims will then be submitted by Sefton to the project lead partner. These arrangements are the same as for the

earlier Interreg IIC project. An audit fee has been built into the project costs to account for local financial monitoring requirements.

- 11) The budget estimate is based on Sefton holding the final meeting. This would involve an international conference of around 150 delegates, in 2012, expected to be Southport, which would showcase the SUSTAIN project results. Sefton and the North West Coastal Forum will participate in all visits and exchanges. We have been invited to lead Component 2, communications.
- 12) There are 6 partners from the earlier CoPraNet project and 7 new partners. The partnership includes 3 new Member States, listed below.

Baltic

- Baltic Energy Forum, Denmark

Black Sea

- Union of Bulgarian Black Sea Local Authorities, Bulgaria

N Atlantic seaboard

- EUCC - The Coastal and Marine Union, Netherlands (*lead partner and lead Component 1: Management & Co-ordination*)
- Sefton Metropolitan Borough Council, UK (*lead Component 2: Communication & Dissemination*)
- Coastal and Marine Resources Centre, University College Cork, Ireland
- Down District Council, UK

S Atlantic seaboard

- Canary Institute of Marine Science – Canary Islands Regional Govt., Spain
- Regional Commission for the development of the Lisbon Region and Tejo Valley, Portugal (*lead Component 3: Exchange of experiences dedicated to the identification and analysis of good practices*)

Mediterranean

- Samothraki Municipality, Greece
- Kouklia Community Council, Cyprus
- Regional Development Centre Koper, Slovenia
- Teramo Province, Italy
- Marine Observatory / Public Association of 'Communes' of the Littoral of Maures, France

Recommendations:

- i) The Cabinet Member is asked to note that the Interreg IVC proposal called 'SUSTAIN' has now been approved and is scheduled to commence in January 2010.