

REPORT TO: Cabinet
Cabinet Member (Technical Services)
Cabinet Member (Regeneration)

DATE: 20th May 2010
26th May 2010
9th June 2010

SUBJECT: Funding Opportunities – Progress Report 4

WARDS AFFECTED: All

REPORT OF: Alan Moore, Strategic Director Communities

CONTACT OFFICER: Mo Kundi 3447
Stuart Waldron 4006

**EXEMPT/
CONFIDENTIAL:** No

PURPOSE/SUMMARY:

To inform Members of the progress made with regard to Expressions of Interest submitted for funding, and provide an update of further external funding opportunities.

REASON WHY DECISION REQUIRED:

To comply with standard portfolio reporting procedures and to seek endorsement of the Expressions of Interest submitted to date.

RECOMMENDATION(S):

It is recommended that:-

Cabinet Member for Regeneration:-

- Endorse the submission of Expressions of Interest as shown in Annex A and B of this report,
- Note the current Funding Opportunities available as shown in Annex C of this report

Cabinet Member for Technical Services, and Cabinet :-

- Note the report

KEY DECISION: No

FORWARD PLAN: No

IMPLEMENTATION DATE: Immediately after the call in period

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS:

There are only limited opportunities to secure external funding to deliver Sefton Council projects, particularly under the current European funded North West Operational Plan. Failure to respond to bidding opportunities would either prolong the time taken to deliver these projects, and or in the worse case scenario may not happen at all.

IMPLICATIONS:**Budget/Policy Framework:**

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

<u>CAPITAL EXPENDITURE</u>	2009/ 2010 £	2010/ 2011 £	2011/ 2012 £	2012/ 2013 £
Gross Increase in Capital Expenditure				
Funded by:				
Sefton Capital Resources:-				
Sefton LTP				
Section 106 Money				
Specific Capital Resources:- ERDF RDA				
<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?	N/A			

Legal: N/A

Risk Assessment: N/A

Asset Management: N/A

CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN/VIEWS:-

FD 387 - The Acting Head of Corporate Finance & IS has been consulted and his comments have been incorporated into this report.

Legal,
Technical Services

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

Cabinet Report entitle 'Funding Opportunities Progress Report 3' dated 4th February 2010

1.0 Background

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member (Technical Service), the Cabinet Member (Regeneration) and the Cabinet, at their meetings on 20th January 2010, 27th January 2010, and 4th February 2010 respectively considered a report entitled 'Funding Opportunities – Progress Report 3'. The report provided information on current funding opportunities, and sought Members endorsement on those Expressions of Interest submitted.
- 1.2 This report provides an update on previously submitted Expressions of Interest, seeks endorsement of Expressions of Interest/Concept Forms submitted since then (please see Annex A and B), and provides information on funding opportunities that have arisen since the previous report, (please see Annex C).

2.0 RDA/ERDF Public Realm Projects

- 2.1 Members may recall that Dunningbridge Road Corridor scheme was approved for more detailed design and costing by the RDA. The original cost of the scheme was £1.2 million, of which RDA was going to fund £600,000 from ERDF and £200,000 from its Single Programme budget. The balance of the money coming from Sefton's LTP (£100,000) and Section 106 money (£300,000). However the RDA has now indicated that it will not be prepared to contribute £200,000 from its Single Programme. Unless alternative sources of funds can be secured the scheme may either have to be down sized or abandoned completely. Further discussions are currently taking place, and a separate report on this project will be presented to Members.

3.0 Action Area 4.3 – Development of Sites

- 3.1 Of the three schemes submitted under this Action Area, only SAFE Production is still 'live'. However the success of this project is reliant on the applicant securing a site for its development, which to date has not been possible. It must be recognised that due to time constraints it is unlikely that this project would be implemented.

Applicant	Scheme	Total Cost	Contributions From:-		Current Status
			ERDF	Applicant's Own	
South Sefton Development Trust	To fit out workspace for social enterprise	£100,000	£45,000	£55,000	Unsuccessful
TREND	Start-up workshops	£200,000	£90,000	£110,000	Unsuccessful at concept stage
SAFE Productions Ltd	26 new Start-up Units	£1,000,000	£450,000	£550,000	Unable secure a site

- 3.2 Members may be aware that TREND has gone into receivership and officers are currently examining any financial or legal implications, particularly as the project was funded via Sefton Council with external funding, and there are normally conditions attached to disposal of any assets. A separate report on this matter will be presented to Members.

4.0 Action Areas 3.2 & 4.3 – Land Remediation and Site Servicing

4.1 Members may recall that three Expressions of Interests for Peerles Site, Demolition of Balliol House, and Southport Commerce Park projects was submitted to the RDA. Of the three Expressions of Interests submitted under these action areas, the RDA was only supporting the Demolition of Balliol House scheme. The RDA has recently sent a letter indicating all schemes currently requiring ERDF support have been suspended until such time as the RDA had the opportunity to undertake a full review of the North West Operational Programme.

4.2 Based on informal discussions with RDA officers, it is unlikely that the Demolition of Balliol House project will be successful in attracting any ERDF grant.

Applicant	Scheme	Total Cost	Contributions From:-			Current Status
			RDA/ERDF	Sefton	Others	
Sefton Council	Peerless Site, Bootle	£12,500,000	£12,500,000	-	-	Not supported
Sefton Council	Demolition of Balliol House	£1,415,000	£707,500	£707,500	-	Suspended
Sefton Council	Southport Commerce Park	£2,375,858	£1,101,858	£1,074,000	£200,000	Not supported

5.0 Action Area 1.2

5.1 A very speculative Expression of Interest was submitted on 10th August 2009 as per the RDA's deadline for this Action Area. The aim of this project was to deliver targeted specialist support to rural food producing businesses and supply chains, to service the hospitality sector in Southport. Whilst the RDA liked the bid unfortunately it was not approved as the activities contained in the proposal were only targeted at Sefton, and not sub-regionally. However discussions are taking place with Food NW, whose bid was approved, and they would like to explore the opportunity of including Sefton's proposals in their delivery plan.

6.0 Action Area 1.3

6.1 The Cabinet at its meeting on 17th December 2009 agreed to the submission of a sub-regional project under this action area, for which Sefton Council will be the accountable body, subject to there being no additional financial implications imposed upon the Council especially with regard to management costs. The aim of this 'REECH' project is to directly stimulate the market for low carbon and environmental technologies and renewable energies via their application within existing social and low income housing. The project has now progressed to the Development and Appraisal stage. The deadline for the submission of detailed information is 21st May 2010. A more detailed report will be presented to Members on this project.

7.0 Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010-2012

7.1 The Cabinet at the same meeting on 17th December 2009 also agreed to Sefton Council supporting Formby Parish Council in the development, and submission of

a £500,000 bid under the Low Carbon Communities Challenge 2010-2012 Programme. I regret to report that the bid was not successful.

8.0 The Big Lottery

8.1 The Frank Hornby Trust had engaged consultants to develop a Stage 1 bid for Heritage Lottery Grant. The Trust is seeking some £200,000 for fit out costs for the Frank Hornby Centre at Maghull Leisure Centre, and the Stage 1 bid was submitted at the end of February 2010.

9.0 Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE)

9.1 Through the work being carried out by the Altside Business Village Partnership, a developer has submitted a Planning application for the development of a Marina in Lydiate. In addition the developer has also submitted an application for funding support to the RDPE/Mersey Leader Programme.

10.0 Rural Strategy and an Action Plan for Merseyside

10.1 External Consultants engaged by the sub-regional partners have now completed the development of the Rural Strategy and are in the process of developing individual Action Plans for each of the local authority. Annex B attached shows all the Expressions of Interests submitted under this programme.

11.0 Low Carbon Rural Challenge Fund

11.1 The Regional Development Agency has recently requested Expression of Interest for projects that would support the delivery of renewable energy projects in rural areas across the North West of England. The bidding round is only open to Social Enterprises, Charities, groups of businesses and micro enterprises. It is likely that there will only be one bid from the Merseyside region, and officers are currently in discussions with Mersey Forest, who would be eligible to apply, to consider a project based in Melling.

Annex A

Financial Details of Expressions of Interest Submitted.

Expressions of Interest Submitted to date	Fund Type	Total Project Cost £	ERDF/RDA Funding Sought £	Other External Funding Source £	Contribution from Sefton			Comments
					LTP Budget £	Capital Programme £	Others £	
Dunningsbridge Road Corridor	Public Realm (ERDF/RDA)	1,200,000	600,000 (ERDF) 200,000 (RDA)				400,000	Waiting for RDA decision, early indications are that the Agency has withdrawn its Single Programme allocation of £200,000, and unless Sefton is able to find this from its resources the scheme is unlikely to go ahead.
REECH Project	ERDF	£22,800,000	£11,400,000	£11,400,000				Development and Appraisal forms to be submitted at end of May
Demolition of Balliol House and (Connley House)	Demolition and remediation works	£1,415,000	£707,500 (ERDF)			£707,500		Waiting for RDA decision, but early indications are this is now unlikely to be successful
Frank Hornby Trust	Big Lottery - Heritage Grant	£175,000 - £200,000	-	£175,000 - £200,000 (Big Lottery)	-	-	£5,000 (WNF)	1st Stage bid submitted
Arts in Empty	Arts Council	£30,000						Bid submitted

Spaces	England								
Lydiate Canal Marina	Rural Development Programme for England	Over £2 million	-	£200,000 (RDPE)	-	-	Private Sector	This is a private sector lead project, but is being supported by Lydiate Parish Council, Maghull Town Council, and Altside BVP because of economic regeneration benefits that it will bring to the area.	
Another Place, Sefton Coast	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£50k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Ainsdale on Sea Heritage Centre	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£470k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Sefton Coast Partnership Officer and support	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£40k (per annum)	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Brown Hare Project (Habitat Management)	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£8k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted	
Sefton Coast Access Improvements	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£500k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the	

								EOI submitted
Seftons Rural Heritage	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£300k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Melling House/Barns and Outbuildings, Melling	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£100k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Kings Gardens	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	?	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£7.5k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Another Place, Sefton Coast	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£50k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Ainsdale on Sea Heritage Centre	Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan	£470k	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
Sefton Coast Partnership	Merseyside Rural Economy	£40k (per annum)	-	RDA/RDPE				Scheme will be worked out in more detail once

Officer and support	and Action Plan							RDA is able to provide some feedback on the EOI submitted
---------------------	-----------------	--	--	--	--	--	--	---

Expressions of Interests Submitted Under the Merseyside Rural Economy and Action Plan

Name of Project	Summary	Contact	What is the Funding for?	Total Cost
Another Place, Sefton Coast	A project to provide activities, information and interpretation for the Another Place Artwork on Crosby Beach. This will help to contribute to the Local Economy and enhance the visitor experience.	Will Moody, Planning 0151 934 3608	The funding will be for a website, interpretation board, activities, an annual event, and a booklet/leaflet for all of the above.	£50k
Ainsdale on Sea Heritage Centre	This visitor centre for the Sefton Coast would provide information and interpretation including the history of the coast, landscape, aviation, shipwrecks, Lifeboats etc. There will also be a café and a 'coastal museum'.	Dave McAleavy, Coast and Countryside 0151 934 2961	The Funding will be to implement an interpretation plan for the Heritage Centre and to help to develop and install technology.	£470k
Sefton Coast Partnership Officer and support	There is currently no dedicated officer working for the Sefton Coast Partnership. This funding would be for an Officer post, along with admin support. The role of this post would be to identify and deliver projects, facilitate networking, represent and publicise the partnership, seek funding opportunities, and service the Partnership Board and Sub-Groups.	Will Moody, Planning 0151 934 3608	Annual salary plus admin support.	£40k (per annum)

<p>Brown Hare Project (Habitat Management)</p>	<p>A project to improve our understanding of brown hare populations within Greater Manchester, North Merseyside and South Lancashire. It will also help to inform Local Biodiversity Action Plans by providing baseline data for which to set targets. The project will also help to give advice and best practice to farmers.</p>	<p>Paul Corner, MEAS, 0151 934 2809</p>	<p>The project could either be a stand alone project, or as part of the larger Brown Hare Project. It will help to create demonstration projects for Habitat Management best practice to feed into Local and Regional BAP targets and Agri-environmental schemes.</p>	<p>£8k</p>
<p>Sefton Coast Access Improvements</p>	<p>Access improvements to the paths and Birdleways along the Sefton Coast</p>	<p>Will Moody, Planning 0151 934 3608</p>	<p>Upgrade 4km of the Sefton Coast Path, create 2km of new footway/bridle way, upgrade the cycle link between Hightown and Formby, and improve linkages between Marshside and the RSPB centre for walking and cycling.</p>	<p>£500k</p>
<p>Seftons Rural Heritage</p>	<p>A project to repair, reinstate and consolidate Seftons historic structures including stocks, crosses, St Helens Well, St Catherine's Chapel and Lydiate Hall. This could then form an interpretation/heritage trail for Sefton, which could improve Tourism for Sefton. Web based technology could also be used, and schools could be involved with the work.</p>	<p>Daniel Byron Planning 0151 934 3584</p>	<p>Firstly repair work, then working on the interpretation.</p>	<p>£300k</p>

Melling House/Barns and Outbuildings, Melling	A project to repair the Listed Buildings in Melling to make them usable and sustainable for farming purposes. This also saves the need to construct new buildings in the green belt/rural area.	Daniel Byron Planning 0151 934 3584	Repair work	£100k
Kings Gardens	A project to restore Kings Gardens through restoring and refurbishing the Gardens, and upgrading the infrastructure to support events and attractions.	Andrew Hall Planning 0151 934 3604	The funding will match other funding for the project from HLF and Sefton Council.	?
Liverpool City Region Ecological Framework	A project to produce an interactive mapping tool, which will form part of the public consultation for the Ecological Framework for the Liverpool City Region. This mapping tool will be used by landowners, planners, conservation organisations, developers and LA's to help to target habitat creation, protect existing habitats and strengthen wildlife corridors and networks.	Paul Corner, MEAS, 0151 934 2809	The funding will develop the interactive mapping tool and produce a user guide.	£7.5k

CURRENT FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Funding Name	Funding Body	Amount Available	Deadline for EOI Submission	Date by which project must start	Date by which project must finish	Key Criteria
Rural Development Programme	National/European Grant	Total Budget for the sub-region £2m	On going	ASAP		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A range Interventions, including Farm diversification, Rural tourism, supporting rural economy, access etc.
Heritage Grants	Big Lottery	£50,000 to over £5m	Any time	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To conserve and enhance nation's diverse heritage • To encourage more people to be involved in their heritage
Future Jobs Fund	Dept. for Works and Pensions	£1.0 billion	Any time	N/A	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To create 150,000 new jobs • Looking for Partnership bids • Must be linked to locally agreed work and skills strategies

Access To Nature	Big Lottery	Total Budget £25m, and grants available between £50,000, and £500,000	Stage 1 closes 1 st February 2010, and stage 2 closes 4 th May 2010	N/A	N/A	Access to Nature aims to encourage more people to enjoy the outdoors, particularly those who face social exclusion or those that currently have little or no contact with the natural environment - perhaps because they lack the confidence to get out and enjoy natural places or have few opportunities to do so.
Arts in Empty Spaces	Arts Council England	Total Budget £500,000	Starts from 1 st April 2010	N/A	N/A	Priority given to those local authorities in receipt of Empty Shops Revival Fund, which Sefton is.
Contaminated Land Capital Projects Programme 2010/11	DEFRA	Yet to be determined		April 2010	March 2011.	fund intrusive investigation projects on land, which is potentially contaminated, and remediation projects on sites, which are contaminated. Money paid under the Programme is for capital expenditure. The Programme exists to help authorities carry out duties under contaminated land legislation (Part 2A of the Environmental Protection Act 1990).
Foundation	NWDA	Max grant £50k per project	On going	On going		Grants towards energy efficiency measures, renewable energy projects. Community engagement important – priority given to schemes which reduce fuel poverty

Aqua Fund	Advanced Demand Side Management	Overall budget: £500m	On going	On going		Provision of consultancy advice on water management, with tailored packages of new water management systems, in order to reduce water usage and bills
INTERREG IVB (Atlantic Area)	Welsh Assembly (Lead body) for west of UK	Not specified	Call for proposals not yet announced for 2010	Not available yet		4 transnational priorities:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Promote transnational entrepreneurship and innovation networks •Protect, secure and enhance marine coastal environment •Improve accessibility and external links •Promote transnational synergies in sustainable urban and regional development
Community Sustainable Energy Programme	Big Lottery	Max grant: £50k	Applications close at the end of October 2010	Not specified		Funding for sustainable energy projects within local communities, and involving local communities. Applications invited from community groups, Schools, Parish Councils.
Awards For All	Big Lottery	£300-£10,000	On going	On going, but the grant must be spent within one year		A wide range of activities can be funded which benefit a local community. These can include exhibitions if local interest, awareness raising of issues of particular interest, a small community event etc. Available to not for profit organisations and Parish Councils.

Reaching Communities	Big Lottery	£10,000-£150,000	On going	Not specified		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ●people having better chances in life, including being able to get better access to training and development to improve their life skills ●strong communities, with more active citizens, working together to tackle their problems ●improved rural and urban environments, which communities are better able to access and enjoy ●healthier and more active people and communities.
----------------------	-------------	------------------	----------	---------------	--	---

E.ON Sustainable Energy Fund	E.ON	£20,000	Any time	N/A	N/A	<p>Grants of up to £20,000 to community groups and not for profit for:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> the purchase and installation of one or more renewable energy technologies (e.g. wind, solar thermal, PV, wood etc) <input type="checkbox"/> the renovation of existing facilities to incorporate micro-generation technology (e.g. the reinstatement of a watermill and the purchase of a turbine to produce hydro-electricity) <input type="checkbox"/> an energy efficiency makeover for building that could demonstrate significant energy savings and also behavioral change amongst users <input type="checkbox"/> the use of new or innovative technology to deliver either energy savings or micro-generation capacity. <p>To be eligible for support from the Sustainable Energy Fund, organisations must benefit specific groups namely: Education, vulnerable people; and people in fuel poverty.</p>
------------------------------	------	---------	----------	-----	-----	--

European Commission and European Investment Bank launch European Local Energy Assistance (ELENA) facility	European Local Energy Assistance Grant (UK)	€15 million grant aid	Any time			<p>The European Commission and the European Investment Bank (EIB), the bank of the EU Member States, have launched a grant aid initiative to help local and regional authorities make investments in energy efficiency and renewable energy.</p> <p>The ELENA facility aims at helping cities and regions implement viable investment projects in the areas of energy efficiency; renewable energy sources and sustainable urban transport</p>
Rural Carbon Challenge Fund	Rural Development Programme for England (RDA)	£4 million	Two staged competition Stage 1 – 1 st June Stage 2 – 31 st August 2010	31 st December 2010	31 st March 2013	<p>To support the delivery of renewable energy projects in rural areas across the North West of England.</p> <p>Open to Social enterprises, Charities, groups of businesses and micro enterprises.</p> <p>Exploring potential opportunities with Mersey Forest.</p>