

# WIRRAL COUNCIL

## CABINET

13 JUNE 2013

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND 2013/14 PROGRAMME</b>
<b>WARD/S AFFECTED:</b>	<b>ALL</b>
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	<b>STRATEGIC DIRECTOR FOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT</b>
<b>RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:</b>	<b>COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH STREETSCENE AND TRANSPORT SERVICES</b>
<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	<b>YES</b>

### 1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Members approve the 'Key Component' and 'Major Bid' programmes of the 2013/14 Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF). £1,084,860 of 'major' funding and £235,000 of 'key component' funding has been allocated to Wirral for 2013/14.
- 1.2 The LSTF aims to assist the Council to support Wirral residents to access employment opportunities, as well as encouraging the use of sustainable transport and contributing to reducing carbon emissions in the Borough. The LSTF delivery area is shown in Appendix One.

### 2.0 BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1. On the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2011 the Department for Transport (DfT), as part of the Local Transport White Paper, issued guidance regarding the creation of a £560 million LSTF. The purpose of this fund was to help build local economies and address climate change. The fund, both revenue and capital was available over four financial years from 2011/12 to 2014/15.
- 2.2. On the 5<sup>th</sup> July 2011 Merseytravel, on behalf of the Merseyside Transport Partnership (MTP) were successful with a £4.877m Key Component bid and Wirral was awarded £810,000 for delivery of projects in East Wirral. In December 2011, the MTP submitted a Major Bid of £22 million. In July 2012 Merseytravel were informed that the Major Bid was successful and were awarded £19.99 million. Of this, Wirral was awarded £3.2 million.

### 3.0. 2013/14 PROGRAMME – CAPITAL

#### 3.1. Key Component Funding

3.1.1. £100,000 of LSTF 'key component' capital has been awarded to Wirral for 2013/14 and the programme has been identified as follows:

<b>KEY COMPONENT</b>	<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Capital £'000</b>
Working with Employers	Infrastructure grants for employers	10
Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Woodchurch Road/Singleton Avenue, Birkenhead	90
	<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>

### 3.2. Major Bid Funding

3.2.1. £676k of LSTF 'major bid' capital funding has been allocated to Wirral for 2013/14 and is distributed across the various programmes as follows:

<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>Capital £'000</b>
Walking and Cycling Infrastructure	416
Visitor Economy – Walking and Cycling	104
Highway Network Improvements	156
<b>Total</b>	<b>676</b>

3.2.2. The following table illustrates a breakdown of the individual schemes in each of the individual programmes:

<b>'Major' Programme</b>	<b>Scheme Name</b>	<b>Cost £'000</b>
Walking & Cycling Infrastructure (£416k)	Bidston Link	80
	Levers Causeway	110
	Seacombe Ferry/Birkenhead Road	160
	A41 Eastham – M53 (advance design costs)	10
	A41 Croft Retail (advance design costs)	10
	Torr Road/Woodyear Road	46
Visitor Economy (£104k)	New Brighton Marine Lake Cycle Link	50
	Pasture Road Link – Leasowe Lighthouse	54
Highway Network Improvements (£156k)	A41 Caldbeck Road	156
	<b>Total</b>	<b>676</b>

## 4.0 2013/14 PROGRAMME – REVENUE

### 4.1. Key Component Funding

4.1.1. £135,000 of 'key component' revenue funding has been awarded to Wirral for 2013/14 as follows:

<b>KEY COMPONENT</b>	<b>Revenue £'000</b>
Working with Employers	40
Travel Solutions	95
<b>Total</b>	<b>135</b>

4.1.2. The 'Working with Employers' programme will continue to be delivered as per the 2012/13 programme. The programme aims to raise awareness of sustainable travel choices, identify travel related concerns and issues for local businesses and initiate programmes with employers to address these concerns.

4.1.3. The 'Travel Solutions' programme will also continue to be delivered as per the 2012/13 programme and aims to lower barriers that people face and to support them to access employment and training. The project will continue to offer information, advice and guidance on different travel options available and offers solutions including personalised journey planning; travel cards; cycle to work, scooter commuter and travel training. The project provides a streamlined service to identify and assist with the travel needs of people, as well as operating travel workshops in the community.

## **4.2. Major Bid Funding**

4.2.1. £409k of 'major' revenue funding has been allocated to Wirral for 2013/14, and is distributed across the various programmes as follows:

<b>MAJOR</b>	<b>Revenue £'000</b>
Walking and Cycling – General Promotion	6
Walking and Cycling – Promotion of Visitor Economy	6
Business Travel Support	99
Community Travel Hub	165
Bike It+	50
Bike & Go	50
Maxi Taxi	33
<b>Total</b>	<b>409</b>

4.2.2 Revenue funding is provided for both general promotional activities to support walking and cycling to employment, and for the promotion of walking and cycling to access visitor attractions.

4.2.3 The major funding for 'Business Travel Support' is combined with the funding secured for the key component 'Working with Employers' project to deliver one overall programme for employers. This funding is used to raise awareness of sustainable travel choices and identify travel related concerns and issues for local businesses and initiate programmes with employers to address these concerns. The programme will also support two Business Travel Support posts to deliver and develop the project, and will also support Road Safety Officers to work with businesses to target employers.

4.2.4 The Business Travel Support funding will also be used to support the New Brighton Shuttle Bus for 2013/14 and 2014/15. The bus will run at weekends and on bank holidays during the summer to alleviate congestion in the area.

- 4.2.5 The funding for the 'Community Travel Hub' is combined with the funding secured for the key component 'Travel Solutions' to deliver one overall programme for employers. The funding is used to provide staff for the Hub and for the provision of travel solutions.
- 4.2.6 Revenue funding will also be used for the development of the existing 'Bike It+' project (which is a separate Merseyside Local Sustainable Transport Fund project already being delivered by Sustrans). It is proposed to work with Sustrans to provide an additional Bike It+ Officer to be based in Wirral. The Bike it+ scheme works along side pupils and their parents to offer sustainable and active travel solutions and provides free cycle training and cycling opportunities.
- 4.2.7 Revenue funding will also be used to support the development of the 'Bike & Go' scheme which is being developed at Bidston Station. The project requires a £50k contribution in 2013/14 only, and would be used to support the implementation of a bike hire scheme at the stations.
- 4.2.8 The 'Maxi Taxi' project is to be delivered in conjunction with Merseytravel and will provide a flexible taxi project to assist residents of East Wirral to access employment opportunities where no other public transport alternative exists, or where shift patterns make access difficult for those without a car.

## **5.0. RELEVANT RISKS**

- 5.1. The principal risks for the Council are attached to the failure to continue to deliver all or part of the project and therefore not satisfy the requirements of the funding agreement with Merseytravel. In theory this may result in the Council not being able to make a valid claim for the full allocation of the grant from Merseytravel.
- 5.2. This risk will be minimal due to in house project management as well as through the Merseytravel project management reporting structures which include monthly reporting, quarterly steering groups and project boards. This would allow any issues to be identified and managed at an early stage.

## **6.0. OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

- 6.1. There are no other options to consider as the funding has been allocated to Wirral based on a successful bid by the MTP to the Department for Transport (DfT). In order to claim the funding from Merseytravel, as the accountable body to the DfT, the programme must be delivered in accordance with the bid.

## **7.0. CONSULTATION**

- 7.1. No specific consultation is required for the programme as a whole. This project has been developed with the MTP and stakeholders were consulted during the development of the bid. As individual capital infrastructure projects are being developed consultation will be undertaken.

## **8.0 IMPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH GROUPS**

- 8.1. The DfT is keen that the LSTF provides benefits for community and voluntary organisations through the delivery of the programme. The project offers opportunities for the voluntary and community to benefit from the funding available through support

packages that are offered under the Working with Employers and Travel Solutions packages.

## **9.0. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS**

- 9.1. The project will be fully funded through LSTF and there will be no additional financial implications for the Council. The Council will submit quarterly claims to Merseytravel for expenditure incurred to that date.
- 9.2. The project is delivered using existing staff resources in the Regeneration and Environment Directorate, as well as through the creation of seven new fixed term posts which have been, or will shortly be filled using redeployees and internal staff.
- 9.3. Infrastructure schemes will be implemented as part of the LSTF programme and will become a quantified Council highway asset and as such, will be subject to ongoing maintenance within existing resources. £39.5k of the LSTF grant for Wirral has been allocated by the DfT for maintenance although clarification is still being sought from the DfT by Merseytravel as regard to how this will be allocated and it is envisaged that it will be added to the annual capital allocation.
- 9.4. Additional IT equipment has been required to support the delivery of the project but the cost of this has been met from within the allocated funding.
- 9.5. The DfT have indicated that they would like to see that these projects are sustainable in the long term and, as such, during the life of the project. Officers will work with partners in the private sector, and with third sector organisations to identify options for on-going delivery post March 2015.

## **10.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 10.1 In order to receive the funding Wirral Council have previously signed up to two separate legal funding agreements with Merseytravel. Merseytravel, as the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) are the accountable body for the project with the DfT.
- 10.2 The purpose of the funding agreement is to ensure that all the terms and conditions of the grant are met and will ensure that Merseytravel authorise the financial claims that Districts make regarding the project.
- 10.3 In order for Merseytravel to accept the funding they have signed a legal agreement with the DfT under Section 31 of the Local Government Act 2003.

## **11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 11.1. An equalities impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the LSTF project – please follow link to <http://www.wirral.gov.uk/my-services/community-and-living/equality-diversity-cohesion/equality-impact-assessments/eias-2010/technical-services-0>

## **12.0 CARBON REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 12.1 The development of walking and cycling infrastructure, and the promotion of walking and cycling as active and sustainable modes will contribute towards a reduction in single occupancy car trips and a reduction in carbon emissions. Encouraging and

supporting the use of public transport through the 'Working with Employers' and 'Travel Solutions' elements of the package will also assist in reducing carbon emissions.

### **13.0. PLANNING AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

13.1 Any applications by employers for facilities such as bike shelters or storage would be subject to the normal planning permission process.

### **14.0. RECOMMENDATIONS**

14.1. Cabinet is requested to:

(1) Approve the delivery of the 2013/14 LSTF Capital programme as set out in Section 3 of this report.

(2) Approve the delivery of the 2013/14 LSTF Revenue programme as set out in Section 4 of this report.

(3) Delegate authority to the Head of Environment and Regulation in conjunction with the Cabinet Member for Streetscene and Transport Services and Party Spokespersons to make necessary adjustments to the priorities within the programme should the need arise due to financial conditions or other factors.

### **15.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S**

15.1. Cabinet is aware of the significant reductions in funding for transport through the Local Transport Plan settlements in recent years. The funding available through LSTF provides the opportunity to deliver additional projects and schemes in Wirral which will assist in the removal of transport as a barrier for people seeking employment, as well as supporting and delivering projects which will secure carbon reduction.

15.2. 2013/14 is the second year of the three year major LSTF programme and Merseytravel have indicated that any unspent allocations cannot be carried forward into the final year of the programme. £1,084,860 of 'major' funding and £235,000 of 'key component' funding has been allocated to Wirral for 2013/14, and the Strategic Director of Regeneration and Environment seeks approval to spend this funding on the identified programmes within the current financial year.

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### **APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – LSTF Delivery area in Wirral

### **REFERENCE MATERIAL**

None

**SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)**

<b>Council Meeting</b>	<b>Date</b>
<b>Cabinet – Purchase of Public Transport Tickets</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> January 2013</b>
<b>Cabinet – Acceptance of Major Bid Funding</b>	<b>18<sup>th</sup> October 2012</b>
<b>Cabinet –2011/12 Progress Report and 2012/13 Programme</b>	<b>12<sup>th</sup> April 2012</b>
<b>Cabinet – Acceptance of Key Component Funding</b>	<b>24<sup>th</sup> November 2012</b>