

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET

13 MARCH 2014

SUBJECT:	LOCAL SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT FUND 2014/15 PROGRAMME
WARD/S AFFECTED:	ALL
REPORT OF:	KEVIN ADDERLEY, STRATEGIC DIRECTOR REGENERATION AND ENVIRONMENT
RESPONSIBLE PORTFOLIO HOLDER:	COUNCILLOR HARRY SMITH HIGHWAYS AND TRANSPORTATION
KEY DECISION?	YES

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to request Members approve the 'Key Component' and 'Major' programmes of the 2014/15 Local Sustainable Transport Fund (LSTF).
- 1.2 This report also seeks authority from Cabinet to accept and commit £215,000 of additional 'Major' revenue funding which has recently been secured from Merseytravel to expand the existing successful projects.
- 1.3 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 schemes and projects identified in this report may also help to tackle the negative impacts caused by road casualties and traffic congestion on the economy.

2.0 BACKGROUND AND PROGRESS TO DATE

- 2.1 On the 19th 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 2011/12 to 2014/15.
- 2.2. On the 5th 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. 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.
- 2.3. The LSTF 'Major' funding was accepted by Cabinet on the 18th October 2012 (Minute 112), and 'Key Component' funding was accepted on the 24th November 2011 (Minute 204).
- 2.4. In January 2014 the LSTF Board approved an application the Council had submitted for an additional £215,000 of revenue funding. This funding was made available from a Merseyside wide contingency fund which had been reserved centrally during the initial

years of LSTF however had not been required for other projects to date. The LSTF Board had approved the allocation of a proportion of the contingency fund to increase the delivery of existing, successful projects. A small contingency fund is still being reserved across the partnership and there may be further opportunities to bid for small amounts of additional funding during 2014/15.

2.5. Wirral Council is delivering a number of projects using the LSTF funding:

Key Component

- Travel Solutions
- Working with Employers
- Sustainable Transport Infrastructure

Major

- Community Travel Hub
- Business Travel Support
- Walking and Cycling Infrastructure
- Visitor Economy - Walking and Cycling
- Highway Network Improvements
- Maxi Taxi

3.0 2014/15 PROGRAMME - CAPITAL

3.1 Key Component

3.1.1 £100,000 of LSTF 'Key Component' capital has been awarded to Wirral for 2014/15 and the programme has been identified as follows:

KEY COMPONENT	Scheme Name	Capital (£k)
Working with Employers	Infrastructure grants for employers	10
Sustainable Transport Infrastructure	Continuation of 2013/14 schemes	41
	A41 corridor improvement scheme	49
	Total	100

3.2 Major

3.2.1 £675,000 of LSTF 'Major' capital funding has been allocated to Wirral for 2014/15 and is distributed across the various programmes as follows:

MAJOR	Capital (£k)
Walking and Cycling Infrastructure	415
Visitor Economy - Walking and Cycling	104
Highway Network Improvements	156
Total	675

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

'Major' Programme	Scheme Name	Cost (£k)
Walking & Cycling Infrastructure (£415k)	Continuation of 2013/14 schemes	182
	The Fender: off-road shared footpath/cyclepath	200
	A41 corridor improvement scheme	33
Visitor Economy (£104k)	A41 corridor improvement scheme	104
Highway Network Improvements (£156k)	Continuation of 2013/14 schemes	13
	A41 corridor improvement scheme	143
	Total	675

4.0 2014/15 PROGRAMME – REVENUE

4.1 Key Component

4.1.1 £130,000 of 'Key Component' revenue funding has been awarded to Wirral for 2014/15, as follows;

KEY COMPONENT	Revenue (£k)
Working with Employers	40
Travel Solutions	90
Total	130

4.1.2 The 'Working with Employers' programme will continue to be delivered as per the 2013/14 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 2013/14 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 individuals, as well as operating travel workshops in the community.

4.2 Major

4.2.1 £368,060 of 'Major' revenue funding had originally been allocated to Wirral for 2014/15. An additional £215,000 has recently been secured. The 2014/15 programme will total £583,030 which is distributed across the various programmes as follows;

MAJOR	Revenue (£k)
Walking and Cycling – Promotion	11
Business Travel Support	178
Community Travel Hub	361
Maxi Taxi	33
Total	583

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 (listed in 4.1.1) to deliver one overall employers programme. 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 engage with employees to deliver a road safety and eco driving message to adults. The programme will support two Business Travel Support posts to deliver and develop the project and will also support two 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 during 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' (listed in 4.1.1) 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 to work with Sustrans to continue to support a second 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 as well as free cycle training and cycling opportunities.
- 4.2.7 The 'Maxi Taxi' project is to be continued 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. 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 the in house project management as well as through the Merseytravel project management reporting structures which include a 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 DfT. As such 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 Business Travel Support and Community Travel Hub packages.

9.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: FINANCIAL; IT; STAFFING; AND ASSETS

9.1 The project (£775,000 capital and £713,000 revenue) 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.

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.

9.4 The DfT have indicated that they would like to see these projects be sustainable in the long term and, as such, during the life of the project, Officers will continue to work with partners in the private sector, and with third sector organisations to identify options and further funding opportunities for on-going delivery post March 2015.

9.5 The MTP are currently developing an application to the DfT for additional revenue funding for 2015/16 from the DfT which is due to be submitted by the end of March 2014. Successful bidders will be notified in July 2014. Officers are working with colleagues across the MTP to secure funding for Wirral to continue delivery of existing successful schemes.

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.

10.4 There are some capital schemes that require legal processes to be followed including the consideration of any concerns and objections to scheme implementation.

11.0 EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

11.1 An equalities impact assessment has previously been undertaken for the LSTF project – please refer to Cabinet 18th October 2012.

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 acceptance of £215,000 of additional revenue funding from Merseytravel for 2014/15.
- (2) Approve the delivery of the 2014/15 Local Sustainable Transport Fund Capital programme as set out in Section 3 of this report.
- (3) Approve the delivery of the 2014/15 Local Sustainable Transport Fund Revenue programme as set out in Section 4 of this report.
- (4) Delegate authority to the Head of Environment and Regulation in conjunction with the Cabinet Member – Highways and Transportation and Party Spokespersons, to make necessary adjustments to the priorities within the programme should the need arise due to financial conditions or other factors.
- (5) Delegate authority to the Head of Environment and Regulation in conjunction with the Cabinet Member – Highways and Transportation to accept any additional funding that may be made available for 2014/15 as a result any re-profiling that may take place across the Merseyside programme, and approve allocation across the programmes as appropriate.

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 2014/15 is the final year of the three year Major LSTF programme and Merseytravel have indicated that any unspent allocations cannot be carried forward. £775,000 of capital and £713,000 of revenue has been allocated to Wirral for 2014/15, 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

None

REFERENCE MATERIAL

None

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date
Cabinet – Local Sustainable Transport Fund 2013/14 Programme	13th June 2013
Cabinet – Purchase of Public Transport Tickets	24th January 2013
Cabinet – Acceptance of Major Bid Funding	18th October 2012
Cabinet –2011/12 Progress Report and 2012/13 Programme	12th April 2012
Cabinet – Acceptance of Key Component Funding	24th November 2011