

Local Sustainable Transport Fund

Background

- A new Fund for local sustainable transport has recently been announced by the Coalition Government. The Borough Council is developing a bid to the Fund, to be submitted by 18th April 2011, and needs the support of businesses, the community and other key stakeholders.
- The Fund will support sustainable transport proposals that encourage economic growth and reduce carbon emissions. It also provides the opportunity to take an integrated approach to meeting local challenges whilst delivering additional wider social, environmental, health and safety benefits for the local community. The onus is with the Borough Council, working in partnership, to identify the right solutions to meet the economic, social and environmental challenges faced in our Borough.
- Solutions will be geared to tackling the problems of congestion and improving the reliability and predictability of journey times and access to employment, which can cost businesses millions of pounds each year. Short trips of less than five miles cause peak hour delays and in many cases could be made by walking, cycling or public transport. They should at the same time bring about a sustainable change to patterns of travel behaviour and so deliver a reduction in carbon and other harmful emissions.
- The Council is keen to build on the success of the "Cycle Southend" and "Move Easy" initiatives that combine investment in infrastructure with incentives to change travel behaviour. For example, new cycle parking at schools, businesses and stations encourages cycle use for short trips, whilst workplace travel plans can support businesses in expanding and growing without adding to congestion.
- Southend has nine rail stations and a good bus network. By working with the bus and train operators we can promote and encourage greater use of public transport. New ticketing arrangements, travel information and real-time displays all help in encouraging a more sustainable transport choice.
- As a 'Plugged in Place' Southend will be at the forefront of encouraging the uptake of electric vehicles for trips in and out of the Borough by car.

Policy Objectives

The policy objectives must demonstrate that bids:

- support the local economy and facilitate economic development - reducing congestion, improving reliability and predictability of journey times, and enhancing access to employment and other essential services
- reduce carbon emissions - increasing the volume and proportion of journeys made by low carbon modes

Bid Evaluation

Bids will be treated favourably where they meet some or all of the following further objectives:

- deliver wider social and economic benefits (e.g. accessibility and social inclusion) for the community
- improve safety
- bring about improvements to air quality and increased compliance with air quality standards, and wider environmental benefits such as noise reduction
- actively promotes increased levels of physical activity and the health benefits this can be expected to deliver
- have the support of a range of community interests and incorporate plans for partnership working in the design and delivery of solutions with external bodies, which could include the private sector, community and voluntary sector organisations and transport operators.

On the deliverability and value for money side of things, the following criteria must also be met:

- represent good value for money and deliver additional benefits over and above those already planned in LTPs and/or funded from alternative sources
- financially sustainable with benefits enduring beyond the Fund period without further DfT support, with plans, where appropriate, for any guaranteed local authority and/or external funding support
- incorporate a credible delivery plan with realistic milestones for progressing the different elements to completion on time and within budget
- affordable in relation to the overall funding available and the Government's wish to maximise the number of bids it can support
- include a commitment to make a local contribution towards the overall costs. This might include formula grant, section 106, funding from a health body, European funding, lottery funding, transport operators or civil society or the private sector

The proposed elements of the Southend "package"

The diagram shows the key elements and desired outcomes of the proposed bid, subject to refinement prior to bid submission date. The elements in summary are:-

- Active Citizens;
- Travel Smart;
- Interlinking Southend;
- Plugged in Places; and,
- Joined Up Information Systems (JUIS)

These add value and support to the LTP3 schemes by taking elements forward more rapidly and ensuring that they are supported by complimentary measures.

Currently, it is envisaged that the Bid may be up to £4.8m over four years with co-funding of up to £3.5m coming from LTP3, EU potential projects, Network Rail, Sustrans, and Developer Contributions.

Southend Borough Council - LSTF Logic Map

