

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

**REGENERATION AND HEALTH AND
STRATEGIC PROJECTS CABINET MEMBER**

COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To update the Cabinet Member on progress with delivering Community Led Local Development (CLLD) in North Lincolnshire.
- 1.2 To confirm approval of the stage 1 application for European Structural Investment Funds.
- 1.3 To seek approval to establish a post of CLLD Project Officer using secured European Structural Investment Funds.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 CLLD was developed as a multi-fund approach to bottom-up community development as part of the 2014-2020 European Union Structural and Investment Funds (ESIF) Growth Programme for England. The principles of this programme are:
 - Bottom-up, focused on sub regional areas
 - Strategies developed and led by Local Action Groups
 - Integrated/multi sectoral area based strategies
 - Innovative and driven by local need and potential
- 2.2 Under CLLD, local people take the initiative in forming a local partnership (a Local Action Group) to design and implement an integrated development strategy. For this, the partnership receives long-term funding. They then decide how it is spent.
- 2.3 CLLD programmes can include both ESIF and ERDF eligible activity with the specific objectives of:
 - ERDF Specific Objective: To build capacity within communities as a foundation for economic growth in deprived communities.

- ESIF Specific Objective: To deliver additional localised support to people in particularly deprived areas, so that they move towards or into employment.

2.4 Key issues to be addressed through ERDF CLLD include:

- Information failures at a local level which restrict small and medium enterprise competitiveness and deter new small and medium enterprise formation.
- Poor quality local/small scale infrastructure
- Lack of amenities, community capacity/social capital and low levels of enterprise.
- Poor linkages between areas of deprivation and areas of high economic growth and job opportunities

2.5 ESIF CLLD activity will tackle a broad range of issues that present barriers to labour market participation. These might include caring responsibilities; debt; digital inclusion; health, mental health and well-being problems.

2.6 All CLLD activity must address specific locally identified needs in support of growth at community level. This should focus on interventions that add value to local strategies which cannot adequately be met through mainstream ESIF provision and are more tailored to local area characteristics and need.

2.7 In order to be eligible for CLLD funding, the Local Action Group (LAG) area should have a population of between 10,000-150,000 residents in the 20% most deprived output areas according to the 2010 IMD. Each LAG must have a minimum funding allocation of 3m euros (£2.25m) including ESIF and public sector match.

2.8 Officers submitted a Stage 1 preparatory bid in November 2015 for £40,000 total cost (roughly £26,000 ESIF plus £14,000 match) per Local Action Group to deliver the following outputs within six months:

- A functioning LAG
- A draft CLLD Strategy
- Identification of a proposed Accountable Body

2.9 The DWP as Managing Authority for this fund confirmed on 12 February 2016 that our bid for funding was successful. Critically, they have set out a requirement for completion of Stage 1 activity and submission of outputs by 31 August 2016.

2.10 Stage 1 activity will inform the bid for the Stage 2 activity which if successful would secure a five year CLLD programme for North Lincolnshire.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 The recommendation is to accept the offer of European funding, appoint a CLLD Project Officer and progress the stage 1 preparatory works.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 As a result of the bottom-up, capacity building approach of CLLD as an integral part of the ESIF programme, CLLD funding has the potential to support individuals and businesses in our most deprived communities where mainstream ESIF-funded programmes might have limited impact/benefit. CLLD is able to complement and add-value to these mainstream programmes, and ensure that local solutions are tailored to meet the needs of local communities.
- 4.2. CLLD also affords the opportunity to develop smaller scale, more flexible projects that might otherwise fall well below the £500,000 minimum ESIF expenditure threshold.
- 4.2. In addition, CLLD provides opportunities for the local voluntary and community sector to participate in delivery in a meaningful way. In these most deprived communities, it is often the voluntary and community sector which has the specialist knowledge and resources necessary to tackle the social inclusion agenda effectively.
- 4.3. A job description and employee specification was drafted for the post of CLLD Project Officer (see Appendix 1). The post was subject to job evaluation yielding a grade 8.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 During the preparatory stage of the process, resource implications will be minimal as the majority of the costs for the proposed CLLD Officer will be covered through the project. Line management and additional support will be claimed as match funding.
- 5.2 The total budget for the project is £40,000. This is split as follows: £5,000 NLC cash match (from PR5444), £6,884 NLC officer time match, East Riding of Yorkshire Council £1,540 match, £576 VANL match, EDRF £14,000 and ESF £12,000.
- 5.3 The total cost of employing the CLLD Project Officer on a grade 8 for 6 months is £20,069.
- 5.3 Some financial support will be required to prepare and submit the funding claims.
- 5.4 If the Local Development Strategy is approved to proceed to Stage 2, it is anticipated that the council will be identified as the Accountable Body

and will be required to contribute to the management of the programme with Finance, Audit and Line management support.

5.5 At Stage 2 implementation stage, 25% of the proposed LAG budget can be allocated to management and administration costs, therefore reducing the resource implications significantly.

6. OUTCOMES OF INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT (IF APPLICABLE)

6.1 Officers will prepare a full integrated impact assessment as part of the Local Development Strategy.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION AND CONFLICTS OF INTERESTS DECLARED

7.1 The Community Investment Partnership were involved in the preparation of the stage 1 bid and were fully supportive of the principles of CLLD.

7.2 Voluntary Action North Lincolnshire will work with the Council to complete further consultation and inform the priorities of the Local Development Strategy.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To accept the offer of European funding.

8.2 To approve the creation of a six month fixed term CLLD Project Officer post (grade 8).

8.2 To provide regular updates to the Cabinet Member on progress with the Local Development Strategy and Local Action Group.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report

None