

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

REGENERATION CABINET MEMBER

REGIONAL GROWTH FUND – ROUND 4

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 To inform the Cabinet Member of the bidding process for Round 4 of the Regional Growth Fund.
- 1.2 To seek approval to investigate potential bids and submit applications if viable propositions identified.

2 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 The Regional Growth Fund (RGF) is a £2.6 billion fund operating across England from 2011 to 2016. It supports projects and programmes that lever private sector investment to create economic growth and sustainable employment. The first 3 rounds allocated £2.4 billion which will lever in over £13 billion of private sector investment and create and/or safeguard over 500,000 jobs. Round 4 is now open for applications with an allocation of £350m.
- 2.2 The closing date for applications is 20th March 2013, and there is a workshop opportunity in February to discuss expressions of interest direct with the Department of Business Innovation and Skills (BIS).
- 2.3 Applications can be made by private sector organisations individually, in partnership with other private or public organisations, either as a project or programme. Public sector organisations can bid but only as part of a programme/consortia bid with a private sector lead.
- 2.4 The criteria and objectives for round 4 remain the same as in previous rounds. It will provide direct support for private sector investments and private-public partnerships, lever in private sector investment and create new jobs. Bids must:
 - create additional sustainable private sector growth
 - rebalance the economy in those areas currently dependent on the public sector
 - not otherwise go ahead without support from the Regional Growth Fund
 - offer value for money
 - be State Aid compliant
- 2.5 The Council, in conjunction with the Tata Taskforce, was successful in securing Regional Growth Funds in Round 2 and is currently delivering this as

a grants programme. At the request of the BIS/DCLG (Department for Communities and Local Government) the Council has provided advice to other successful bidders on our experience of establishing and delivering this programme.

- 2.6 The Humber LEP was successful in Round 3 securing £30m for a “Growing the Humber” programme including specific activity for the South Humber Bank relating to the renewable sector.
- 2.7 There are a number of potential opportunities for a round 4 bid to be submitted from North Lincolnshire. The following are options that are currently being considered:
 - Business Support Package for the BDUK Programme
 - Airport Related Activity
 - Kimberly Clark Site
 - South Humber Gateway Site
 - UTC Delivery
- 2.8 Expressions of interest will need to be produced for these potential bids to enable discussion and receive feedback at the BIS workshops being held in February.
- 2.9 No private sector company has approached the Council regarding an individual bid for funds. However, the Council would provide appropriate support dependent on the specific bid put forward.

3 OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Option One – For the Council to co-ordinate discussions with the private sector in relation to the above potential projects and develop expressions of interest for dialogue at the BIS workshop.
- 3.2 Option Two – To not work up any potential bids for Regional Growth Fund Round 4.

4 ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 Option one would enable the area to extend the opportunities for the private sector to benefit from Regional Growth Fund until the end of March 2016. The projects suggested are realistic for a bid to be developed working in partnership with the private sector. By securing growth funds the Council will meet its priority to attract business investment and grow employment opportunities for all ages.
- 4.2 Option Two will not realise any additional funding for private sector growth in North Lincolnshire and will not encourage additional business investment and job creation in the area.

4.3 Option One is the preferred option.

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

- 5.1 Financial – There are no financial implications to develop expressions of interest and work up bid documents for Regional Growth Fund Round 4.
- 5.2 Staffing – There are no additional staffing implications as this work will be undertaken through staff on the existing establishment.
- 5.3 Property & IT – There will be no implications for property or IT in relation to submitting proposals for funding through RGF Round 4.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

- 6.1 An Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

- 7.1 There are no outcomes of consultation to report.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 That the Council actively progresses expressions of interest for the following projects and attends the BIS workshop in February:
 - Business Support Package for the BDUK Programme
 - Airport Related Activity
 - Kimberly Clark Site
 - South Humber Gateway Site
 - UTC Delivery
- 8.2 That a further report be submitted to the March meeting should a full bid be progressed under Round 4.

DIRECTOR OF PLACES

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - None