

**NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL**

**CORPORATE SERVICES CABINET MEMBER**

**APPOINTMENT OF POSTS TO MANAGE THE RURAL DEVELOPMENT  
PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND - LEADER PROGRAMME**

**1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT**

- 1.1 To approve the establishment of two temporary posts to develop and manage the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) LEADER Programme.

**2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 2.1 Previous LEADER funding was part of the European Union (EU) structural funding programme. The funding from 2007-2013 is now part of the EU's rural development programme, named the European Fund for Agriculture and Rural Development (EAFRD). The English programme to deliver the EAFRD is the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE).
- 2.2 The RDPE has four elements to it called "Axis"
- Axis 1 – Improving the competitiveness of the farming and forestry sectors
  - Axis 2 – Improving the environment and the countryside
  - Axis 3 – Rural quality of life and diversification of the rural economy
  - Axis 4 – The LEADER approach
- 2.3 The LEADER approach is to deliver a grass-roots regeneration programme by identifying local issues and opportunities and tackling these from within the local communities. This will be delivered through Local Action Groups (LAG) made up of representatives from rural partners and local communities.
- 2.4 Yorkshire Forward, the Regional Development Agency, is co-ordinating the socio-economic elements of the RDPE across Yorkshire and the Humber which includes the LEADER programme.
- 2.5 North Lincolnshire Council, working with North East Lincolnshire Council and rural partners, submitted a Local Development Strategy to Yorkshire Forward for funds from the LEADER programme for the rural areas across both North and North East Lincolnshire. This was successful.

- 2.6 A total of £2.4m has been secured over five years and will operate until 31 December 2013. This includes up to 20% of the allocation for administration of the programme. A contract from Yorkshire Forward has been received for this.
- 2.7 Two posts are required to ensure the programme is compliance with the EU's grant conditions: an RDPE LEADER Programme Co-ordinator and an RDPE LEADER Support Officer.

### **3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION**

- 3.1 The options for consideration are:

Option 1 – To appoint two full-time posts to manage and administer the programme on temporary contracts until December 2013.

Option 2 – To do nothing.

### **4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS**

- 4.1 Option 1 is the preferred option and will ensure that the programme is delivered across the Northern Lincolnshire sub-region effectively and efficiently.
- 4.2 Information from Yorkshire Forward and the experience of previous LEADER funded programmes in the sub-region have indicated that dedicated managerial and administrative support for the programme is required to ensure compliance with grant conditions and successful delivery of the outputs.
- 4.3 Two posts are required to ensure compliance with European Union grant operational guidance which indicates separate roles are required for financial probity.
- 4.4 The posts will be 100% funded from the LEADER programme and costs will be within the 20% administration allocation of the overall grant monies.
- 4.5 Option 2 is not viable as existing resources cannot deliver the requirements of the contract offer.

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

- 5.1 Financial

The anticipated grades for the posts are Grade 10 (£34,976-£37,555) for the Co-ordinator and Grade 6 (£18,217-£21,244) for the Support Officer. The salaries and associated on-costs (including potential redundancy payments) will be funded 100% by the LEADER Programme funding. The posts can be advertised once established as the contract and offer letter have been received.

## 5.2 Staffing

The Co-ordinator post will report directly to the Head of Spatial Planning, Strategic Housing and Area Renaissance and the Support Officer will be line managed by the Co-ordinator. The implications for monitoring and evaluation of the programme by the Programme Office Team within the External Funding Unit can be accommodated within existing resources.

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

### 6.1 Diversity

The post will be advertised and recruited to through the council's recruitment policy.

## 7. **OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION**

7.1 A copy of the report has been sent to the Branch Secretary of Unison and to the full-time officials of the GMB and the TGWU. Detailed liaison has taken place with the RDPE LEADER Local Action Group regarding the level of posts and this was supported and formally recorded at its meeting.

## 8. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

8.1. That Corporate Services Cabinet Member approves the proposal to create the posts of RDPE LEADER Co-ordinator and RDPE LEADER Support Officer on temporary contracts until 31 December 2013.

HEAD OF STRATEGIC REGENERATION, HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT

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**Background Papers used in the preparation of this report**  
Northern Lincolnshire Rural Local Development Strategy