

# REGENERATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO

## DECISION SCHEDULE



Friday 23 March 2012

at 10.00 am

in Committee Room C, Civic Centre, Hartlepool

The Mayor Stuart Drummond, Cabinet Member responsible for Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills will consider the following items.

**1. KEY DECISIONS**

No items

**2. OTHER ITEMS REQUIRING DECISION**

2.1 Coastal Communities Fund - *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*

**3. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

3.1 Regional Growth Fund Round 3 – *Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*

3.2 Update of National Apprenticeship Week Activities – *Director of Child and Adult Services*

**4. REPORTS FROM OVERVIEW OF SCRUTINY FORUMS**

No items

**REGENERATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO**

Report To Portfolio Holder

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

**Subject:** COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

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## SUMMARY

### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

The purpose of the report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of the Coastal Communities Fund, a new £23.7m Government initiative to support the economic development of coastal communities and to obtain a view from the Portfolio Holder regarding the initial bid submission ideas.

### 2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS

The report provides details of the Coastal Communities Fund including the aims of the scheme, eligibility criteria and bidding timescales.

### 3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER

The Coastal Communities Fund falls within the remit of the Portfolio Holder as it is aimed at supporting the regeneration and economic development of coastal communities.

### 4. TYPE OF DECISION

Non Key.

### 5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE

Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills Portfolio meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012.

## 6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED

The Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills Portfolio Holder is requested to:

- Note the contents of the report.
- The Portfolio Holders views are sought on focussing a bid submission around Seaton Carew Regeneration.

**Report of:** Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)

**Subject:** COASTAL COMMUNITIES FUND

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## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of the report is to inform the Portfolio Holder of the Coastal Communities Fund, a new £23.7m Government initiative to support the economic development of coastal communities and to obtain a view from the Portfolio Holder regarding the initial bid submission ideas.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Government has introduced a new programme called the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) to support economic development projects in coastal locations across the UK.
- 2.2 Grants in excess of £50,000 are available for projects which benefit coastal communities. The fund is equal to 50% of the revenues generated by the Crown Estate's marine assets, totalling £23.7 million in 2012/2013. The UK wide fund will be hosted by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG Fund), and will be delivered on a local level in conjunction with country specific boards. £18.2 million is available for 2012/13 in England.

## 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 The objective of the fund is to *'support the economic development of coastal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs, so that people are better able to respond to the changing economic needs and opportunities of their area'*.
- 3.2 The Programme outlines a common set of outcomes that potential projects must contribute to. It is compulsory that all submissions ultimately demonstrate that coastal communities are better able to use their physical, natural, social, economic and cultural assets to promote sustainable economic growth and jobs. In addition to this projects must also contribute towards one of the following outcomes:
- Coastal communities have a greater capacity to create a sustainable economic future and are better equipped to adapt to change.
  - Partnerships are developed to support economic innovation, enterprise and investment either within a community and / or across a number of coastal communities.

- People have more opportunities for training and skills development, including volunteering.

#### **4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA**

4.1 The fund is open to all seaside towns and coastal communities within a local authority whose boundaries include UK foreshore (or equally those that only include estuarine foreshore). A number of organisations have been outlined as eligible to apply for the CCF including local authorities, charities, voluntary and community sector organisations, social enterprises (including cooperatives and community ownership initiatives), private sector companies, development agencies (in devolved administrations) and Local Enterprise Partnerships (in England only). Applications from cross-sector partnerships are encouraged.

4.2 Project proposals are required to meet a number of specified criteria with those encouraging the highest level of economic growth prioritised. The Fund's criteria is as follows:

- Encourage sustainable economic growth; although a time limit is not specified in which benefits should be achieved, the Fund is keen to promote long term and sustainable benefits as opposed to short term intervention.
- Demonstrate that the proposal fits with the broad economic priorities of the local area; including the relationship with the wider economic vision with outlined support from the private sector and local community.
- Demonstrate that the proposal unlocks a barrier, addresses a need or opportunity.
- Demonstrate (where appropriate), how the project will link to green economic growth.
- Provide clear evidence of how the proposal will facilitate working with key partners.
- Where proposals involve flood and coastal erosion risk management schemes, support from the appropriate agency has been secured (i.e. Environment Agency and Coastal Protection Authority respectively).
- Demonstrate that the project is unlikely to be delivered without CCF support.

4.3 The approach in which the proposal is delivered is flexible and submissions for both large projects or an agglomeration of smaller projects spanning one or more coastal communities will be considered.

#### **5. FUNDING**

5.1 The CCF will consider bids in excess of £50,000, supporting both capital and revenue projects with a clear demonstration of how activity will be sustained once the funding has ceased, the number of jobs created and

how well the project fits with local plans and strategies. Although not essential, the Fund will actively encourage, and look favourably upon projects that utilise match funding.

5.2 The CCF has outlined a number of project areas that would be suitable for support encompassing:

- Supporting skills and training initiatives to improve local job prospects and encourage additional new businesses.
- Maintaining and developing specialised tourism infrastructure (including new green tourism opportunities).
- Managing and adapting to flood and coastal erosion risk and managing pollution risks (where this supports local economic development).
- Supporting social enterprises to bring new economic opportunities and jobs to coastal towns, and maximising the use of local assets.
- Offering apprenticeships to school leavers incorporating key skills and technical certificate.
- Creating new workspaces to support and encourage the growth of local economies.
- Building community capacity to promote enterprise and economic regeneration.
- Supporting small scale and sustainable transport improvements.
- Offshore activity (if clearly contributing to the economic growth of the coastal communities).

## 6. TIMESCALES

6.1 An early funding round, with a deadline of the 25<sup>th</sup> March, is available for revenue projects with a maximum £10,000 available for essential capital equipment. Projects with capital works are not eligible for the early funding round. It is not proposed to bid for this round.

6.2 The deadline for the first phase of the main funding round is the 27<sup>th</sup> April 2012. If successful a more detailed application will be invited in late May 2012. It is anticipated that grant approvals will be issued in December 2012.

## 7. SCOPE OF BID

7.1 At this stage it is anticipated that the key focus of Hartlepool's bid to the Coastal Communities Fund could be focussed on the Seaton ward based around the economic growth proposals contained within the Seaton Carew masterplan.

7.2 The strength of this approach is based upon the established partnership working with a private sector development partner, the advanced stage of

the masterplan proposals together with the potential job creation and training opportunities that will be created.

- 7.3 In order to further strengthen the bid this approach would also require additional support and partnership working with the private sector, economic forum and voluntary and community sectors. Initial discussions have begun to take place with a view to exploring ideas further that could complement an overall bid.
- 7.4 The masterplan is aimed at enhancing Seaton Carew's visitor appeal through significant improvements to The Front whilst supporting the renewal of sea defences at the resort. Wider objectives within Seaton Carew and the surrounding area could also be considered if links to the CCF criteria can be established.

## 8. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 8.1 The Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills Portfolio Holder is requested to:
- Note the contents of the report.
  - The Portfolio Holders views are sought on focussing a bid submission around Seaton Carew Regeneration.

## 9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 9.1 Further information on the CCF is available for viewing online at:

<http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/coastalfundprospectus>

[http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog\\_coastal\\_communities\\_helpnotes.pdf](http://www.biglotteryfund.org.uk/prog_coastal_communities_helpnotes.pdf)

## 10. CONTACT OFFICER

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**REGENERATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO**

Report To Portfolio Holder

23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012



**Report of:** Assistant Director [Regeneration and Planning]

**Subject:** REGIONAL GROWTH FUND ROUND 3

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**SUMMARY**

**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To provide information on Round 3 of the Regional Growth Fund [RGF] Programme.

**2. SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

Information relating to Round 3 of the Regional Growth Fund.

**3. RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

RGF falls within the Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills Portfolio.

**4. TYPE OF DECISION**

Non Key.

**5. DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills Portfolio 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2012

**6. DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

That the report is noted for information. Further reports will be submitted for consideration.



**Report of:** Assistant Director [Regeneration and Planning]

**Subject:** REGIONAL GROWTH FUND ROUND 3

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**1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1.1 To provide information on Round 3 of the Regional Growth Fund [RGF] Programme.

**2. BACKGROUND**

2.1 The Government as part of its attempt to stimulate the economy has introduced a competitive bidding process for RGF which aims to stimulate private sector investment and job creation thereby creating economic growth. The fund is particularly focused on areas that are dependent on public sector jobs and investment.

2.2 The criteria for RGF includes the following keys points.

- Grant limit of 15% of eligible project costs.
- Minimum grant requirement of £1m.
- Eligible projects costs include capital expenditure although some elements of revenue spend can be supported.
- State aid and procurement compliant.
- Additionality – demonstrate market failure / demonstrate that project would not go ahead without RGF.
- Value for money – economic impacts against grant request
- Due diligence – successful applicant pays for due diligence

2.3 Hartlepool was particularly successful in Round 2 with the following businesses awarded grant support;

- PD Ports – Offshore wind
- Heerema - Offshore wind
- Huntsman – chemicals
- Able UK- Offshore energy
- J&B - Energy production

- 2.4 Hartlepool achieved around 55% of the Tees Valley grant awards and these projects will deliver over £220m private sector investment, drawdown £26m of grant and create/safeguard up to 3,218 direct and indirect jobs within Hartlepool and the surround Tees Valley area.

### 3. PROPOSALS

- 3.1 Round 3 of RGF is now officially opened and applications have to be submitted by 12 noon 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012. Hartlepool Borough Council and Tees Valley Unlimited will offer support to the businesses and organisations to complete applications, providing a range of expertise including key local economic statistics , grant ratios including cost per jobs, stock answers for the more generic questions and linkages into the LEP to ensure endorsement from Tees Valley.
- 3.2 The Business, Innovation and Skills Department is organising roadshows to promote Round 3 and the north east event will take place in Gateshead on the 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2012. In addition TVU and the 5 local authorities in the Tees Valley will be organising promotional activities to generate interest in potential bidders.
- 3.2 RGF can support programme bids. Programme bids are generally centred on broad business support initiatives covering a wide geographic area. Additional criteria exists for programme bids as noted below;
- A clear over arching investment strategy for the Tees Valley.
  - A collaborative approach to deliver a set of related activities.
  - Clear Governance arrangements and capability clearly demonstrated.
  - Risk management and exit strategy.
  - Programme bid administrative costs will not be funded by RGF.
  - Demonstrate sustainability of jobs and growth post RGF funding.
- 3.3 Round 2 programme bids across the Tees Valley were not successful however opportunities will be re evaluated and bids progressed as appropriate.
- 3.4 At the present time officers are exploring opportunities for infrastructure investment projects that will unlock economic growth and create job opportunities. In terms of Hartlepool's infrastructure requirements the main area of interest will be centred around highways improvements to ensure the delivery of future business and housing investment projects.

Discussions are taking place on a Tees Valley Wide basis to provide a strategic approach to unlocking economic growth through infrastructure investment and the intention at this stage is to submit a Tees Valley package bid.

#### **4. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 4.1 That the report is noted for information. Further reports will be submitted for consideration.

#### **5. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 RGF offers an opportunity to promote private sector job creation and investment and at the same time the programme may offer the opportunity to undertake infrastructure investment that will promote economic growth.

#### **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 6.1 The Regional Growth Fund guidance and application forms can be accessed at the following web link;

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/RGF>

or by contacting Antony Steinberg, details in section 7.

#### **7. CONTACT OFFICER**

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**REGENERATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO**

Report to Portfolio Holder  
23rd March 2012



**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** UPDATE OF NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK ACTIVITIES

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**SUMMARY**

**1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT**

To update the portfolio holder on the successful activities during the recent National Apprenticeship week.

**2.0 SUMMARY OF CONTENTS**

The report describes the activities carried out during the apprenticeship week and gives an outline of the outcomes achieved.

**3.0 RELEVANCE TO PORTFOLIO MEMBER**

The report relates directly to the provision for Adult Education.

**4.0 TYPE OF DECISION**

Non-key.

**5.0 DECISION MAKING ROUTE**

Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills Portfolio, 23rd March 2012.

**6.0 DECISION(S) REQUIRED**

To note the report.

**Report of:** Director of Child and Adult Services

**Subject:** UPDATE OF NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP  
WEEK ACTIVITIES

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## **1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To inform the portfolio holder of the successful activities delivered during the recent National Apprenticeship week

## **2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 During February 6<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> the Adult Education service arranged a number of activities as part of the National Apprenticeship week campaign. These activities were designed to celebrate the achievements of apprentices and to encourage the take up of apprentices by employers and unemployed adults.
- 2.2 Throughout the week staff from the Adult Education service were available in Middleton Grange Shopping Centre to provide Advice and Guidance to anyone thinking of taking up an apprenticeship. This resulted in 57 people showing an interest in becoming an apprentice
- 2.3 On Monday the 6<sup>th</sup> February, a presentation took place at the Hartlepool Maritime Experience. The Mayor made presentations to all those Council staff who had achieved their apprenticeship qualifications in the last year with Adult Education. An award was also presented to the Apprentice of the Year who has excelled in her achievements and in helping other to achieve. A full list of the winners with photographs was published in the Hartlepool Mail on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.
- 2.4 On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February, Summerhill hosted the first Tees Valley Apprenticeship challenge. Teams of five apprentices from each of the Tees Valley Local authorities competed in a number of activities relating to key skills. The team from Middlesbrough won the challenge and will host the event next year, Hartlepool came second. The event was a great success and there were many comments about how enjoyable it had been. The event photographs were published in the Northern Echo on the 8<sup>th</sup> February and in the Hartlepool Mail on the 10<sup>th</sup> February.
- 2.5 On Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February, the service hosted an employer's breakfast at the Maritime Experience. This was designed to increase the

involvement of employers in recruiting apprentices. The National Apprenticeship service gave a presentation on the benefits of apprentices to employers and staff from Adult Education were on hand to advise employers about how to recruit apprentices.

- 2.6 Throughout the week there was also coverage in the local press. On Wednesday, an existing apprentice and her employer were interviewed on Radio Hartlepool along with staff from the service talking about their experiences of the apprenticeship programme. There was also an article in the Hartlepool Mail on Wednesday 8th February who followed one of the apprentices for a 'day in her life'. There was also other coverage in the Northern Echo and the Hartlepool Mail covering the other activities of the week.

### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 This activities were fully funded from the Adult Education budget. The service is fully funded by the Skills Funding Agency so there are no financial implications.

### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The programme of activities for the week was very successful at raising awareness of the opportunities for the apprenticeship programme. Fifty seven individuals expressed an interest in taking up an apprenticeship and to date thirteen of these have been interviewed to see if they are suitable for the vacancies. As a result of the employers' breakfast, vacancies have been identified for seven apprentices and these will be matched to the applicants. It is hoped that more vacancies will be confirmed shortly and these can be matched to the existing waiting list of applicants.

### **5. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1 It is recommended that the Portfolio Holder note this report

**CONTACT OFFICER:** Maggie Heaps, Learning and Skills Manager