

# **REGENERATION, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SKILLS PORTFOLIO**

## **DECISION RECORD**

**23 MARCH 2012**

The meeting commenced at 10.00 a.m. in the Civic Centre, Hartlepool

### **Present:**

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond, (Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Economic Development and Skills)

Officers: Damien Wilson, Assistant Director, Regeneration and Planning  
Mick Emerson, Principal Economic Development Officer (Business)  
Rob Smith, Senior Regeneration Officer  
Julie MacSween, NVQ Manager  
David Cosgrove, Democratic Services Team

### **14. Coastal Communities Fund** (*Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning)*)

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

#### **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.

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Senior Regeneration Officer reported that the Government had introduced a new programme called the Coastal Communities Fund (CCF) to support economic development projects in coastal locations across the UK. Grants in excess of £50,000 are available for projects which benefit coastal communities. The fund was 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 would be hosted by the Big Lottery Fund (BIG Fund), and would be delivered on a local level in conjunction with country specific boards. £18.2 million was available for 2012/13 in England.

The report went on to outline the eligibility criteria and timetable for bids to the fund. It was proposed that the key focus of Hartlepool's bid to the Coastal Communities Fund could be the Seaton ward based around the

economic growth proposals contained within the Seaton Carew masterplan. The strength of this approach was based upon the established partnership working with a private sector development partner, the advanced stage of the masterplan proposals together with potential job creation and training opportunities that would be created. Work was also being undertaken to identify partnership opportunities and support from the voluntary and community sectors to further strengthen the bid.

The Assistant Director commented that through joint funding it was hoped that a quite sizeable project could be submitted for funding.

#### **Decision**

That the report be noted and that approval be given to the development of a bid submission around Seaton Carew Regeneration masterplan.

### **15. Regional Growth Fund Round 3** *(Assistant Director (Regeneration and Planning))*

#### **Type of decision**

Non-key.

#### **Purpose of report**

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

#### **Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The Principal Economic Development Officer (Business) reported that the Government, as part of its attempt to stimulate the economy, had introduced a competitive bidding process for RGF which aimed to stimulate private sector investment and job creation thereby creating economic growth. The fund was particularly focused on areas that are dependent on public sector jobs and investment. The report set out the eligibility criteria and indicated that Round 3 of RGF was now open and applications had to be submitted by 12 noon 13<sup>th</sup> June 2012.

Hartlepool Borough Council and Tees Valley Unlimited would 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.

The Business, Innovation and Skills Department was organising roadshows to promote Round 3 and the north east event will take place in Gateshead on the 22nd March 2012. In addition TVU and the five local authorities in the Tees Valley will be organising promotional activities to generate interest in potential bidders.

The Assistant Director indicated that it was hoped that 'sizeable' applications would come forward for Round 3, though there was the

potential now for strategic infrastructure schemes to qualify for funding.

**Decision**

That the report be noted and further reports be submitted as appropriate.

**16. Update of National Apprenticeship Week Activities**

*(Director of Child and Adult Services)*

**Type of decision**

Non-key.

**Purpose of report**

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

**Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder**

The NVQ Manager reported that during February 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.

Throughout the week staff from the Adult Education Service had been 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.

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. 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.

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. From the fifty-seven individuals who expressed an interest in taking up an apprenticeship, to date thirteen had 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.

The Mayor welcomed the report as being very encouraging. The Mayor questioned if there were any difficulties in bringing local employers on

board. The NVQ Manager indicated that some employers had approached staff during the week in the shopping centre interested in taking apprentices on. Staff had been encouraged by the companies that had come forward.

**Decision**

That the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at 10.10 a.m.

**P J DEVLIN**

**CHIEF SOLICITOR**

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