

REGENERATION, LIVEABILITY AND HOUSING PORTFOLIO

DECISION RECORD

13 September 2006

Present:

The Mayor, Stuart Drummond.

Officers: Antony Steinberg, Economic Development Manager
David Cosgrove, Principal Democratic Services Officer

29. Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) Round 2 *(Assistant Director (Planning and Economic Development))*

Type of decision

Non-key.

Purpose of report

To seek approval of Hartlepool's bid for the second round of LEGI funding to be submitted by the application deadline of 14 September 2006.

Issue(s) for consideration by Portfolio Holder

The Treasury Department has issued a green paper entitled Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) aimed at stimulating enterprise and inward investment within the Neighbourhood Renewal Areas. The national level aim of LEGI is "To release the productivity and economic potential of our most deprived local areas and their inhabitants through enterprise and investment – thereby boosting local incomes and employment opportunities". The resource provided by LEGI will be targeted at in-depth interventions in a determined number of local authority areas with both a need (measured by level of deprivation) and potential (business potential indicated by market failures). Therefore local authorities that are designated NRF areas will be eligible for LEGI support. Hartlepool submitted a bid in the first round which proved unsuccessful and is now preparing to submit a bid into the second round of LEGI with a deadline for submission on the 14 September 2006.

LEGI will initially provide £50m in 2006/7 rising to £150m by 2008/9 subject to future spending reviews. The indication is that up to thirty applications in

total may be approved however it is a competitive process and resources will not be spread thinly and it is not anticipated that all eligible areas will be successful. At this stage it is estimated that Hartlepool's bid will total around £7.42m over a three year period, however this figure will be revised in light of all the potential funding bids we receive.

The LEGI application, submitted as Appendix 1 to the report, would need to be submitted to Government Office by the 14 September 2006. The bid had been developed in full consultation with key partners, stakeholders and service users. The process had also involved substantial evidence gathering primarily undertaken by the Woodholmes group a private consultancy business, ERS who have facilitated project development particularly with the voluntary/community sector and the Tourism and Planning Consultancy who assisted the Council in developing the successful Tall Ships bid.

Decision

That the LEGI bid submitted as Appendix 1 to the report be approved, subject to any further detailed amendments necessary prior to its submission to Government Office.

J A BROWN

CHIEF SOLICITOR

PUBLICATION DATE: 15 September 2006