

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 8th August 2016

Report Title: Community Led Local Development –European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (CLLD EMFF) – Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) update

Report By: Monica Adams-Acton
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Purpose of Report

To update members about the success of the First Stage Application for CLLD EMFF FLAG funding to continue to support the sustainability of the Hastings fishing fleet and associated activity.

To seek approval for the Council to continue to serve as the lead partner and the accountable body for the programme; and to submit a Local Development Strategy by 5th August on behalf of the FLAG in order to comply with the Stage 2 application process for funding.

Recommendation(s)

That Cabinet:

1. Notes the current position with regard to CLLD EMFF funding and the Hastings FLAG.
2. Gives delegated authority to the Director of Operational Services or their nominee in consultation with the lead member for Regeneration and Culture to finalise and submit the Local Development Strategy (LDS) by the 5th August
3. Approves the continued role of the Council as lead partner in the management and delivery of the FLAG programme subject to confirmation of funding to deliver the LDS.

Reasons for Recommendations

The report gives an update on the CLLD EMFF FLAG funding, and the draft proposed areas of activity within the LDS. The deadline for submission of the LDS is 5th August. If it is approved by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO), who is the UK Managing Authority for the UK FLAG programme, it is anticipated that implementation of the programme would commence in the first quarter of 2017.

Introduction

1. Fisheries areas across the EU are facing significant challenges. The continuous decline in income and employment in the fishing sector has underlined the need for innovative responses that are both sustainable and inclusive.
2. The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) provide funding for Community Led Local Development (CLLD) in fisheries and aquaculture areas. The funding is managed by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in England. It is a tool that enables local fisheries communities to address these challenges at a grass-roots level using the knowledge of local stakeholders to tackle local issues.
3. The EMFF will fund Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) to deliver fisheries focused CLLD. This will be done through a Local Development Strategy (LDS) designed by each of the FLAGs. Key focuses of FLAGs under EMFF will be supporting fishing communities to adapt to the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and supporting sustainable economic growth.
4. In March 2016, on behalf of the FLAG and following extensive consultation with the existing FLAG Board, the Council (acting as lead partner) submitted and expression of interest to secure a second round of FLAG funding.
5. At the end of April, we received confirmation from the MMO that the Stage 1 application had been successful. Six FLAGs have been selected from 13 expressions of interest to progress to Stage 2 of which 3 are **existing** FLAGs and 3 are new FLAGs
 - **Cornwall**
 - Dorset and East Devon
 - **Hastings**
 - **Holderness**
 - North of Tyne
 - North Thames

EMFF Policy Priorities

6. The EMFF Operational Programme has been developed by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and approved by the European Commission. This document is the overarching strategy for the EMFF in the UK and set out the priorities and indicators for the scheme in the UK, and the priorities for funding.
7. The primary policy priorities for delivery of the EMFF through CLLD are
 - **Implementing the reformed common fisheries policy**
 - **Economic growth linked to coastal deprivation and the marine and fisheries sector**

Stage 2 – Local Development Strategy (LDS)

8. The Council in partnership with the FLAG Board is developing the LDS. This must reflect a maximum of a 3 year delivery plan from the launch of the FLAG programme, which must be no later than the 31st March 2017, with all FLAG activity including the submission of final claims no later than the 31st March 2020.
9. Up to £800,000 EMFF funding has been provisionally allocated by the MMO to deliver the Hastings LDS; the LDS must highlight any expected leveraged funding as well where identified.
10. The LDS has to be submitted by 5th August 2016. Key areas it must address are:
 1. **The extent which the local area will be effected by the reformed Common Fisheries Policy and how the LDS will mitigate these issues**
 2. **How sustainable economic growth can be developed and enhanced at the local level**
 3. **Ways in which the EMFF funding can be used to leverage other investment into the area**
 4. **The capacity and capability of the group to deliver the LDS**
11. Up to 25% of the funding allocation can be spent on M & A and Animation costs. In addition, as an existing FLAG £10,000 has been allocated in support of the LDS preparatory work and may be claimed once the LDS has been submitted.

Timetable

12. The following timetable has been provided by the MMO and may be subject to change.
 - LDS submitted 5th August
 - Advised of go ahead by mid-October
 - Projects to start no later than 31st March 2017 and finish (including all claims) by 31st March 2020
13. **Hastings FLAG themes:**
 - The LDS is written in a broad manner so that these indicative actions can be developed further. However the aim is to have fewer than 10 projects across the programme

Thematic area	Indicative funded activities
Creating a sustainable fleet and supply chain:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ecommerce Platform for fish market • New ice maker

<p>by Working directly with industry and individuals to overcome the obstacles standing in the way of capitalising on economic growth, safeguarding and creating new jobs and sustaining industry.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity building (apprentices and mentoring) • Investing in existing, or developing new, certificates recognising the sustainability of fishing techniques
<p>Protecting the Environment and informing the fleet through scientific research and modernisation:</p> <p>By: Working with researchers and specialist practitioners to better inform the fleet to mitigate changing environmental impacts, policy reforms and changing work practices</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation of PV arrays with the aim to reduce energy costs • Employ a PHD student to review impacts of CPF reform and help identify diversification opportunities • Buy in expertise to review business practices/or advise the fleet onshore businesses of efficiencies in business operations
<p>Developing the identity of The Place, through educational, economic and brand development</p> <p>By: Taking a holistic approach to the locality's economy, working with partners to educate and inform end users, developing a locality specific and shared, sustainable economy.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Employing an educational business developer to work across the Stade businesses, and with the accommodation sector in the town creating packages of activities. Role to become self-sustaining within 3 years. • Hold 1 festival in year two – encompassing the whole of the seafront • Develop the Hastings fish brand and associated merchandise to open further national and international wholesale and retail markets.

Policy Implications

14. **Equalities and Community Cohesiveness** – the LDS seeks to continue to establish links with the fishing fleet and associated business e.g. fish mongers and smoker and eating local fish for marginalised communities where health inequalities are more prevalent. The LDS seeks to help sustain the fishing community, itself a fragile community.

15. **Environmental Issues** – the fishing fleet catches fish in a sustainable way and provides a valuable source of local food to the local community, local businesses and wider afield. The fleet operates with a very low carbon footprint, the LDS activities e.g. MSC certification and replacement of the Ice machine will help to support the fleet to operate in this way.
16. **Economic/Financial Implications** – the previous FLAG funding and other EU funded research programmes e.g. GIFS has demonstrated further, the role the fishing fleet plays in the life of the town and its unique sense of identity. Continuing to support the fleet and wider industry to be on a more sustainable footing will have benefit to the cultural, community and economic life of the town.
17. The programme is expected to be cost neutral to the Council. Up to 25% of the allocated funding can be used for M & A and animation costs, which will support the delivery of the programme
- £10,000 to aid development of the Local Development Strategy (LDS)
 - £800,000 over a maximum of 3 years to deliver the LDS and associated projects
 - Between 80 and 100% funded
 - Up to 25% of the total budget can be spent on M&A and animation
18. **Organisational Consequences** – the FLAG funding will allow for the recruitment of a support officer, and the M & A budgetary allowance will enable costs associated with fulfilling the Lead Partner responsibilities for the programme to be claimed.

Wards Affected

All

Policy Implications

Please identify if this report contains any implications for the following:

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	X
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	
Risk Management	
Environmental Issues	X
Economic/Financial Implications	X
Human Rights Act	
Organisational Consequences	X
Local People's Views	
Anti-Poverty	

Additional Information

Marine Management Organisation FLAG funding

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/successful-emff-flags-in-england-proceed-to-next-stage-of-selection>

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