

Report to: Cabinet

Date of Meeting: 8th August 2016

Report Title: Connecting Hastings and Rother Together – Community Led Local Development (CHART CLLD)

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Publication Exemption

Not for publication. This report contains exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972

Purpose of Report

1. To brief members on the submission of the Local Development Strategy (LDS) due for Submission on the 31st August 2016

Recommendation(s)

None – for information only

Reasons for Recommendations

Delegated Authority was given to proceed with the multi-stage CLLD application of the CHART bid at the 2nd November 2015 Cabinet.

Introduction

Background:

1. The CLLD programme provides an opportunity to secure funding for measures to link people in deprived communities to jobs, skills development and entrepreneurial activity. Based on the 2010 IMD results (on which CLLD is based) Hastings is the 20th most deprived town in the UK. Across Bexhill and Hastings, 24 wards are within the 20% most deprived in the UK. However there are areas of opportunity and business growth, and CLLD funding could help ensure that people in the most deprived communities are linked to these opportunities.
2. For further detail on the programme and background please refer to the 2nd November 2015 Cabinet report and appendices.

Development of a local strategy

3. HBC were successful in the EOI submitted on the 24th November 2015. HBC committed £20,000 of match funding (staff time) to enable draw down of £20,000 of ERDF and ESF funds.
4. HBC were invited to develop an LDS at the end of March, with a deadline of submission of the 31st August. This report outlines the process of working up the strategy and the indicative thematic areas and activities.
5. At this stage we are not asked to submit a full financial breakdown (purely a broad financial plan), therefore the fiscal risks are not identified in this report.
6. The guidance advise that at this stage we need to submit/confirm the following:
 - a) The submission of a LDS with the following details as a minimum:
 - the definition of the area and population covered by the strategy;
 - an analysis of the development needs and potential of the area, including an analysis of strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats;
 - a description of the strategy and its objectives, a description of the integrated and innovative features of the strategy and a hierarchy of objectives, including measurable targets for outputs or results;
 - a description of the community involvement process in the development of the strategy;
 - an action plan demonstrating how objectives are translated into actions;

- a description of the management and monitoring arrangements of the strategy, demonstrating the capacity of the local action group to implement the strategy and a description of specific arrangements for evaluation;
- the financial plan for the strategy, including the planned allocation from each of the ESI Funds concerned.

b) a summary of the proposed local action group:

- the proposed legal status of the Local Action Group
- details of the membership of the Local Action Group and the groups they represent
- any plans to change the Local Action Group as work progresses
- the roles of partner organisations in the Local Action Group
 - a summary of the role of the Local Action Group members
 - how the Local Action Group will make decisions e.g. which projects to fund
 - how conflicts of interest will be managed
 - a copy of the Terms of Reference of the Local Action Group

c) Identification of the Accountable Body

d) Sufficient public sector match to create critical mass

Process and timescales

7. The LDS will be assessed competitively nationally; however we are only able to bid for monies within the SE LEP Budget.
8. If successful, we will be invited to apply for stage 2 – this requires 2 separate but related applications, and the submission timeline opens in October and closes on the 31st December 2016
9. At this 2nd stage we will need to provide a detailed financial plan, with commitment of match and we will be assessed on the ability of the accountable body to manage the programme.
10. If successful at stage 2 we will be invited to establish a formal Local Action Group and deliver the CHART CLLD programme in this area. This should be by the 31st March 2017.

CLLD CHART Details

11. The strategy is still in development and will not be finalised until the end of August.
12. Location: The CHART area covers the following four localities across Hastings and Bexhill:
 - Hastings Castle, Central St Leonards and Gensing
 - Baird, Ore and Tressell
 - Hollington and Wishing Tree
 - Central Bexhill and Sidley

Match

13. The programme stipulates that the CLLD programme must attract 50% match. €2.1M of match within each CLLD area must come from the public sector.

Within the SE LEP area the budget for CLLD is £10M. Though not overtly stated it is clear there is the wish from SELEP that all 3 CLLD areas (Hastings, Thurrock and Folkestone) are funded if their LDS's are strong. It is also implied that if all three areas combined request is more than £10M SELEP will not wish to prioritise or chose between the 3 areas; therefore the three CLLD areas are working towards a £3.3M target of EU funding draw down each.

14. HBC officers have identified £3.3M match to enable 3.3M EU funding drawdown. However we have the opportunity to identify further match. Officers are in discussion with Thurrock and Folkestone CLLD areas regarding the possibility of CHART being able to leverage more EU funding, if they do not identify £3.3M match.
15. Match has been identified from the following organisations:
 - Rother District Council
 - Sussex Coast College Hastings
 - Hastings and Rother Clinical Commissioning Group
 - AmicusHorizon
 - Orbit Housing
 - SME contribution through a probably grants programme run by HBC
 - Smaller community organisations.

16. Thematic areas/Goals

Thematic areas/Goals
<p>Enterprise support - To contribute to the integration, effectiveness and sustainability of the support system for employment and business support in the Chart area To support the creation and maintenance of local enterprises which offer jobs and</p>

opportunities to local people

To help create a favourable environment for new and existing enterprises with the best job creation and growth potential to thrive in the Hastings, St Leonards and Bexhill economic area

Routes to employment - To provide new and improved routes towards and into paid occupations for people in the CHART area who at present are least able to progress

Community Support: To harness and strengthen the assets of local communities in the CHART area to support local people towards work; to create and maintain local enterprises; to strengthen community self-reliance, resilience and pride

Innovation and continual evaluation: -To experiment with new approaches and models with the best potential to overcome entrenched and persistent social disadvantage and economic decline, drawing on the experience and ideas of local people, our peers elsewhere and the best of global experience

17. Work packages and indicative actions

Work packages relating to more than 1 goal	Indicative actions (dependent on LAG approval)
Employability Support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paid work and voluntary experience • Individual mentoring and support • Potential development of Own Grown and Talent match 25Yr + and business brokerage • Skills development in enterprise and business
Enterprise and Business Support (inclusive of Social enterprises)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capital equipment grants • Mentoring voucher scheme • CLLD guarantor for loans from start-up loan company for those individuals with low credit ratings • Support for all aspects of business growth, through the journey or pre start up, start up and growth
Assets	Purchase/investment in physical assets for employability activities
Capacity Building	Support existing infrastructure to enable participant navigation

Wards Affected

- Hastings Castle,
- Central St Leonards
- Gensing
- Baird
- Ore

- Tressell
- Hollington
- Wishing Tree

BREXIT Implications

18. The vote to leave the EU does put the 5 years EU funding elements of CLLD at risk. We have been advised to spend early and wisely. Officers are in regular contact with the Managing Authorities and will endeavour to identify national funding streams to deliver the full 5 year strategy, but obviously this cannot be guaranteed at this stage.
19. We are being funded to develop a 5 year strategy and if we do not develop the strategy there is a risk that we would be unable to draw down the £20,000 grant that has been earmarked for this. Therefore, we are continuing to develop a full 5-year strategy although EU funding beyond the first couple of years is uncertain at this stage. Any actual programme delivery will be tailored to match the funding available. Match partners are committed to a 5 year programme and support this approach.

Policy Implications

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

Equalities and Community Cohesiveness	Yes
Crime and Fear of Crime (Section 17)	No
Risk Management	No
Environmental Issues	No
Economic/Financial Implications	Yes
Human Rights Act	No
Organisational Consequences	Yes
Local People's Views	Yes
Anti-Poverty	No

Additional Information

Please see cabinet report from 2nd November 2015

Officer to Contact

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