

WISBECH COMMUNITY LED LOCAL DEVELOPMENT FUND

To: **General Purposes Committee**

Meeting Date: **25th October 2016**

From: **Executive Director, Customer Service and Transformation**

Electoral division(s): **All**

Forward Plan ref: **N/A** *Key decision:* **No**

Purpose: **To give an overview of the Wisbech Community Led Local Development (CLLD) fund and ask for the General Purposes Committee's agreement for the County Council to make a financial contribution to the management and administration costs. This will enable Cambridgeshire ACRE to bid into the fund as the Accountable Body for a Wisbech Programme.**

Recommendation: **In order for the bid to proceed to the final stage, at which there is a high chance of success, we need to confirm the County Council's contribution.**

It is recommended that the committee agree the proposal for the County Council to give a commitment to contribute £21,400 per annum for five years to the management and administration costs of the programme.

<i>Officer contact:</i>	
Name:	Wendy Lansdown
Post:	Community Engagement Manager
Email:	Wendy.Lansdown@Cambridgeshire.gov.uk
Tel:	01223 699683

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Cambridgeshire ACRE are leading a CLLD bid for EU funding to support people to move towards/into work in Wisbech. At a recent planning meeting a LEP colleague described this programme as having potential to be 'the community strand of Wisbech 2020'.
- 1.2 The Stage 1 development bid for the Wisbech CLLD programme was approved by the Department for Work & Pensions (DWP) in February this year. Since then, working with partners, Cambridgeshire ACRE has been leading the development of a Local Development Strategy for the area.

2. THE PRPOSAL

- 2.1 The proposal is for a £2.1m programme which would lever in £1.05m European Social Fund investment. Cambridgeshire ACRE are asking the County Council for £107,000 contribution over five years (£21,400 per annum) as a cash contribution to the management and administration costs of the programme.
- 2.2 As the work to develop the Local Development Strategy has progressed, it has become very evident how the CLLD approach would help the Wisbech community. There is a growing level of inequality, diversity and complexity within the town and it is become increasingly difficult to deal with persistent deprivation and economic issues through standard policies. Place-based approaches, like CLLD, build on a community's social, environmental and economic strengths and make best use of local assets. Wisbech CLLD offers a longer-term approach that builds sustainability and community capacity to manage funding, decision-making and strategy.
- 2.3 In the event that the programme is established, the funding from the EU will sit with a Local Action Group, this has already been formed and includes representatives from councils, school, voluntary, business sector etc. This group will receive bids to run projects in Wisbech. Each bidder will need to have 50% match committed with 'public sector funds' as defined by the DWP. The definition of this includes funds from county, district and town councils, health, schools, colleges plus a range of trusts and foundations, including the Big Lottery. We know that the Big Lottery struggle to stimulate strong bids from the Wisbech area so are likely to be amenable to a sizeable strategic bid.
- 2.4 Until the programme launches and the bids come in, it is not possible to know which the matched funds will be. ACRE did a scoping exercise and felt confident that the match will be identifiable.
- 2.5 Importantly, CCC would not be seen as a default funder under any circumstances. With Cambridgeshire ACRE as the Accountable Body all of the risk will sit with them. The £21,400pa would be the County Council contribution for Cambridgeshire ACRE to lead the programme. If at any point the programme was not reaching its goals then it would be closed by the DWP. If for example, there had been £500k of project funding agreed up until that point, those projects would continue to be delivered, but the programme would be closed to new bids and ACRE would no longer claim the contributions from us for management and administration from that point forward.

- 2.6 It will mean that County Council colleagues and external partners who we fund to deliver activity in Wisbech can submit a bid in to the Local Action Group to extend their work. All projects will need to have a focus on supporting people towards the workplace, however this will be defined in a very broad sense including developing skills, community cohesion and tackling transport to work issues. In the end, the decisions on what is funded will be made based on the strategy document that the Local Action Group have agreed. Contact [Wendy Lansdown](#) if you would like a copy of the strategy. DWP will hold Cambridgeshire ACRE to account based on the outcomes set out within this – which Cambridgeshire ACRE have been realistic in setting.
- 2.7 The Treasury have recently confirmed that this programme will go ahead in full following Brexit.
- 2.8 The County Council have an established relationship with ACRE over many years, as a trusted delivery partner for a broad range of work in our communities.

3. ALIGNMENT WITH CORPORATE PRIORITIES

3.1 Developing the local economy for the benefit of all

The Council is committed to “narrowing the gap” in inequalities experienced across Cambridgeshire, and Wisbech is one of the county’s communities that faces the most significant levels of deprivation. In response the Council has led the development of the Wisbech 2020 Vision (www.wisbech2020vision.co.uk) with other local partners. The key aims of the Vision align strongly with the Council’s Corporate Priorities, and this CLLD initiative has been established as part of the wider work towards achieving the 2020 Vision.

3.2 Helping people live healthy and independent lives

See paragraph 3.1

3.3 Supporting and protecting vulnerable people

See paragraph 3.1

4. SIGNIFICANT IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Resource Implications

The resource requirements for this Council are set out in paragraph 2.1, which also sets out how the £107,000 requested from this Council is integral to the unlocking of the overall investment package of £2.1m.

4.2 Statutory, Risk and Legal Implications

No significant implications.

4.3 Equality and Diversity Implications

This initiative is specifically aimed at improving equality and reducing deprivation in Wisbech, one of Cambridgeshire's most deprived communities. Specific schemes that are funded through this work should be assessed as to their particular impact on improving equality and diversity in the community.

4.4 Engagement and Consultation Implications

No significant implications.

4.5 Localism and Local Member Involvement

No significant implications.

4.6 Public Health Implications

No significant implications.

Implications	Officer Clearance
Have the resource implications been cleared by Finance?	Yes Sarah Heywood
Has the impact on Statutory, Legal and Risk implications been cleared by LGSS Law?	N/A
Are there any Equality and Diversity implications?	Yes as outlined in 4.3 Dan Thorp
Have any engagement and communication implications been cleared by Communications?	N/A
Are there any Localism and Local Member involvement issues?	N/A
Have any Public Health implications been cleared by Public Health	N/A

Source Documents	Location
None	None