

**Decision Session – Cabinet Member for  
Crime and Stronger Communities**

20 December 2013

Report of the Assistant Director (Communities, Culture & Public Realm)

**Community Led Local Development Bid**

**Summary**

1. This report outlines a bid for Community Led Local Development (CLLD). The Cabinet Member is asked to:
  - a. approve a bid to secure Community Led Local Development (CLLD) status for identified wards / neighbourhoods in the City, thereby attracting up to £1.2 million in European funding
  - b. Agree that City of York Council acts as the accountable body for any funding secured.

**Background**

2. York has traditionally received very little European funding. This is in stark contrast to neighbouring authorities in the Yorkshire and Humber region who have for many years received significant sums of European investment. The new European programme 2014 – 2020, channelled through Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs), offers an opportunity to address this imbalance. Leeds City Region LEP has been allocated €390m from the new European programme 2014 - 2020.
3. The ten themes across which the LEP may spend their ‘European monies’ are as follows:
  - Strengthening Research, Technological Development & Innovation
  - Enhancing access to, and use and quality of, Information and Communication Technologies
  - Enhancing the Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises.
  - Supporting the Shift towards a Low Carbon Economy in All Sectors

- Promoting Climate Change Adaptation, Risk Prevention and Management
  - Protecting the Environment and Promoting Resource Efficiency
  - Promoting Sustainable Transport and Removing Bottlenecks in Key Network Infrastructures
  - Promoting Employment and Supporting Labour Mobility
  - Promoting Social Inclusion and Combating Poverty
  - Investing in Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning
4. In addition to the 10 themes above local authorities in the Leeds City Region have been invited to submit proposals for a Partnership Led Approach to addressing multiple issues at a neighbourhood level (Community Led Local Development Areas or CLLDs).
  5. CLLD status allows neighbourhoods / localities within authority areas to receive a ringfenced tranche of European funding to address multiple projects cutting across the above 10 European themes. A whole town or city cannot receive CLLD status, rather the emphasis is placed upon targeting support where it is needed most. It enables a series of inter-connected, neighbourhood-led interventions over 6 years through one co-ordinated approach. It also confers upon local partnerships an element of delegated commissioning and decision making.

## **The Proposal**

6. It is proposed to submit a bid for York to include the Heworth, Hull Road, Guildhall, and Westfield Wards together with a number of 'local super output areas' within the Acomb, Holgate and Micklegate Wards. This area has been collectively titled the East West Corridor. A map of the selected area is enclosed with background papers.
7. These areas have also been selected due to existing well established partnership working arrangements at a neighbourhood level and their socio-economic status. Communities across the whole of the East-West corridor face a similar set of socio-economic challenges including higher than average levels of unemployment (as high as 30% in some cases) poor adult skill levels, child poverty, low skill levels, poor quality housing and a lower than average business density. There are numerous retail bases and industrial units located within these neighbourhoods, but many of them are suffering from the effects of reduced consumer demand and under-investment.

8. European funded projects require 50% matched funding. It is therefore essential that selected neighbourhoods have an element of matched funding to contribute. The York CLLD (East-West Corridor) contains the Big Local area within it, representing £1 million of 'clean' matched funding. It is also likely that City of York Council will be contributing £200,000 of clean matched funding to the selected areas over a six year period.
9. If successful York would therefore receive a £1.2 million European funding contribution towards a total £2.4 million project. The funding would be spent upon a mixture of co-ordinated social interventions. By bringing together residents, agencies and communities at a local level and harnessing their collective in-depth knowledge and awareness of the local landscape the East-West Corridor initiative will take information, support and advice to both families and individuals who need it most, where they are more likely to access the support and benefit from it.
10. Outputs will include multi agency debt, health, benefit and employment outreach sessions run in venues known to families (Children's Centres, Schools, GP Surgeries) and the use of local volunteer Community Information Champions will be used to promote the support available and its benefits. By using this unique approach, offering positive advice informally in familiar settings, the overarching 'East-West Corridor approach' will reach those families and individuals who can benefit from it the most.
11. The longer-term aim of the East-West Corridor is not only to link people with expert advice around benefits, debt and employment in settings that are comfortable to them, but to promote social networks, thereby strengthening residents connections to other services and opportunities. The different neighbourhoods and communities that make up the East-West Corridor will meet on a regular basis to disseminate learning and best practice. Stimulating local economic growth and connecting hard-to-reach families, communities and individuals with that economic growth will be the other predominant theme within the East-West Corridor approach.

12. A number of 'flagship' economic sites and schemes are located within the East-West Corridor. Unlocking the potential of the York Central Development site is a primary aim of the City, which could lead to significant job creation and increased GDP within the local community.
13. A priority of the East-West Corridor approach will be to ensure a broad range of targeted local recruitment and training opportunities generated through both the site construction phase and end user phase of the development, and any other development sites located within the corridor boundaries. It will also be concerned with targeted training and support to connect people to other jobs and opportunities across the City, a key priority within the York Skills Strategy.
14. The deadline for outline CLLD submissions is 20th December 2013, with a further two stages of assessment required thereafter. If successful it is likely that the project start date would be January 2015.
15. The overall funding pot must be managed by a combination of partners at a neighbourhood level – a Local Area Action Group (LAG). Public sector representation must comprise no more than 49% of the LAG.
16. In addition, each CLLD area requires an accountable body to oversee general compliance with European regulations. It is proposed that City of York Council fulfils this role, charging a management fee from the overall funding pot for so doing. Additional up front European resources (on top of the £1.2 million) might also be available to support the accountable body.

### **Consultation**

17. Residents managing the Big Local monies have been consulted with extensively and have agreed in principle to match their funding with European monies. Other representatives from the West of the City have also been consulted with.

### **Options / Analysis**

18. The options associated with this report are either to do nothing or to submit a bid.

If we do not submit a bid the risk is that issues in the relevant areas remain unaddressed, or are addressed in a more piecemeal manner with limited funding and resources being made available. The CLLD bid on the other hand, has the potential to lead to a better resourced and co-ordinated approach to neighbourhood based interventions within the target communities over the forthcoming six years.

### **Council Plan**

19. The proposals are in line with a number of CYC's Corporate Priorities / Council Plan including Creating Jobs and Growing the Economy, Getting York Moving, Building Stronger Communities and Protecting Vulnerable People.

### **Implications**

20. **Financial:** European monies are traditionally paid in quarterly instalments in arrears meaning the CYC must up-front fund elements of the project; but will be able to claim back all of these monies on a rolling basis. CYC will also be able to claim an element of management fees / contribution to overheads through its role as accountable body.
21. Human Resources (HR) as part of its accountable body role CYC is likely to employ a specific staff member to fulfil / oversee the duties associated with being an accountable body.
22. There are no additional equalities, legal, crime and disorder, information technology, property or other implications arising from the report.

### **Risk Management**

23. The major risk associated with CLLD initiatives is that individual schemes within the overall programme do not meet European eligibility criteria or do not meet predicted outputs and targets. Both these risks should be neutralised through the allocation of a skilled officer to fulfil the Council's accountable body role.

### **Recommendations**

24. The Cabinet Member is asked to:
  - a. approve a bid to secure Community Led Local Development (CLLD) status for identified wards / neighbourhoods in the City, thereby attracting up to £1.2 million in European funding

- b. Agree that City of York Council acts as the accountable body for any funding secured.

Reason: To bring about an improvement in the overall quality of life of these communities through targeted interventions and investment.

**Annex:** York CLLD submission and map

### Contact Details

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	<b>Report Approved</b>	✓	<b>Date</b>	20 December 2013
<b>Specialist Implications Officer(s)</b>				
<b>Wards Affected:</b> Acomb, Heworth, Holgate, Guildhall, Hull Road, Westfield, Micklegate				<b>All</b>
<b>For further information please contact the author of the report</b>				