

**CITY OF NOTTINGHAM AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE ECONOMIC
PROSPERITY COMMITTEE – 25 JULY 2014**

Subject:	LEADER rural development programmes 2014 -20		
Presenting authority / representative):	Matt Lockley, Economic Development, Nottinghamshire County Council		
Report author and contact details:	Matt Lockley & Mandy Ramm ☎ 0115 977 2446 Matthew.lockley@nottscc.gov.uk ; mandy.ramm@nottscc.gov.uk		
Key Decision: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Subject to call-in <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No		
Value of decision: up to £4.3 million	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Revenue <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Capital		
Authorities affected: Ashfield, Bassetlaw, Gedling, Mansfield, Newark and Sherwood, Rushcliffe, Nottinghamshire	Date of consultation with relevant authorities: ongoing		
Summary of issues (including benefits to citizens/constituent authorities):			
<p>a) As part of the European Commission's approach to funding rural development through the Common Agricultural Policy, up to £138 million is to be made available in England in the period 2014-20 to support LEADER programmes.</p> <p>b) LEADER ['Liaison Entre Actions de Développement de l'Économie Rurale' or 'links between the rural economy and development actions'] aims to support economic growth and job creation in rural communities. Programmes are expected to be cross-sector but with a focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. The promotion of increased farming and forestry productivity b. Support for micro and small businesses and farm diversification c. Support for rural tourism d. Provision of rural services, including broadband and e. Support for cultural and heritage activity <p>c) In Nottinghamshire, two LEADER programmes are being developed for the 2014-20 programme period. There will be significant competition nationally, with up to 86 programmes being developed.</p> <p>d) Preparatory funding of approximately £60,000 has been secured to support the development of the two Nottinghamshire programmes. Final bids in the form of 'Local Development Strategies' have to be submitted to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) by the 5th September, with successful programmes expected to go live in January 2015.</p> <p>e) N2 Economic Prosperity Committee support for the two programmes is requested.</p>			
Exempt information: None.			
Recommendation(s):			
The Economic Prosperity Committee agrees to:			
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) support the submission of two LEADER Local Development Strategies for North and South Nottinghamshire; b) receive a further update on the outcome of the submissions and development of project pipelines in the autumn of 2014. 			

1 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 This report is brought to the N2 Economic Prosperity Committee alongside other items on EU funds that affect the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire area.
- 1.2 Whilst not a formal requirement of Defra, the Economic Prosperity Committee's support for the submissions and for subsequent programme development will be an important factor in their success.

2 BACKGROUND (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

- 2.1 In the 2007-2013 EU programme period, Nottinghamshire benefited from one LEADER programme covering rural parts of Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood districts. Bassetlaw District Council acted as the accountable body. Total EU investment through this programme was £1.4 million which secured over £1.2 million match funding and delivered 94 new jobs, 48 sustained jobs and an additional 28,000 visitors to the area.
- 2.2 In February 2014, Defra invited local areas to bid for 'preparatory' funding to begin to develop LEADER strategies for the 2014-20 period. This invitation was not restricted to existing LEADER areas and indeed Defra stated that it would be keen to see enhanced coverage across England. It was announced that up to £138 million would be available for LEADER programmes from 2014-20.
- 2.3 In Nottinghamshire, preparatory funding was secured to explore potential LEADER programmes in the existing programme area, plus in the 'new' areas of Ashfield, Gedling, Mansfield and Rushcliffe. Bassetlaw District Council is the accountable body for the preparatory funds for North Nottinghamshire and Nottinghamshire County Council is the accountable body for the funds in South Nottinghamshire.
- 2.4 The preparatory funding is to enable local areas to support consultancy to develop cohesive geographic areas, create a shadow Local Action Group (the formal decision-making body for LEADER funds), secure appropriate local engagement and identify priority needs and solutions within a framework issued by Defra. This work will culminate in the drafting of Local Development Strategies (LDS) which will form the 'bids' to Defra, due in by 5th September 2014.
- 2.5 Two potential programme areas are being developed. The first builds on the existing North Nottinghamshire programme, but is extended to include rural parts of Mansfield. The second is an entirely new programme area, and covers eligible rural parts of Gedling and Rushcliffe, including the market town of Bingham and larger settlements such as Keyworth, Cotgrave, Ravenshead and Burton Joyce. Consideration is being given as to whether the small eligible rural part of Ashfield can be built in to either programme. Programme

areas can have maximum population coverage of 150,000, hence the need for two separate programmes in Nottinghamshire.

- 2.6 The LEADER proposals are being developed alongside the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy which will also form part of the wider EU funding investment in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Due care is being applied to ensure that there is no overlap between the rural and urban designations and that the two programmes can work alongside each other effectively.
- 2.7 If successful, the North Nottinghamshire programme can expect to receive funding of between £1.77 million and £2.4 million. The South Nottinghamshire programme will have a value between £1.47 million and £1.92 million. The allocations are based on population coverage and issues such as GVA and sparsity of population. Additional funds targeted at rural development through the D2N2 LEP's European Agricultural Fund for Rural Development (EAFRD) programme will complement LEADER activity.
- 2.8 Accountable body issues for the two proposed programmes are to be confirmed. Nottinghamshire County Council has agreed in principle to act as the accountable body should both bids be successful, as Defra is keen to see economies of scale and efficiencies realised through programme management.

3 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 Do nothing option – not considered. Defra encouraged applications from existing and new areas in an attempt to secure wider LEADER coverage for the 2014-20 programme period.

4 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY/VAT)

- 4.1 If both programmes are successful, investment of between £3.2 million and £4.3 million from LEADER will be secured. With the required match funding, this will result in total investment between £6 million and £9 million.

5 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

- 5.1 Not applicable.

6 SOCIAL VALUE CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 Not applicable.

7 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

Has the equality impact been assessed?

- (a) not needed (report does not contain proposals for new or changing policies, services or functions, financial decisions or



decisions about implementation of policies development outside the Council)

- (b) No
- (c) Yes – Equality Impact Assessment attached

Due regard should be given to the equality implications identified in any attached EIA.

8 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS RELIED UPON IN WRITING THIS REPORT (NOT INCLUDING PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS OR CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION)

- LEADER 2014-20 guidance issued by Defra
- Letters from Defra outlining possible allocations for North and South Nottinghamshire programmes

9 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN THIS REPORT

- NA

10 OTHER COLLEAGUES WHO HAVE PROVIDED INPUT

Robert Wilkinson, Bassetlaw District Council
Jim Burley, North Nottinghamshire LEADER