

**3<sup>rd</sup> November 2015****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE****EUROPEAN STRUCTURAL AND INVESTMENT FUND (ESIF) SUPPORT  
FOR TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE BID****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval for the allocation of staff time as match funding for the 3 year D2N2 European Structural and Investment Funding (ESIF) Technical Assistance proposal.
2. To seek approval for additional cash match funding of £10,000 over 3 years to support the ESIF Technical Assistance programme.
3. To seek delegated authority for the Corporate Director, Place to sign a letter of support to confirm the match funding.
4. To seek delegated authority for the Corporate Director, Place to sign a Partnership Agreement on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.

**Background**

3. Committee will be aware that there are two additional reports for November Economic Development Committee which relate to ESIF funding. These reports are for the D2N2 Growth Hub and associated employment and skills projects (Employ Local and Youth Engagement).
4. The D2N2 ESIF programme includes provision for Technical Assistance (TA). The purpose of Technical Assistance is to help ensure that projects funded by ESF and ERDF are designed, delivered, monitored and evaluated in compliance with European Commission and national funding regulations. From a local perspective, Technical Assistance has a key role in ensuring the delivery of the ESIF strategy across D2N2.

**Technical Assistance proposal**

5. In order to ensure that the ESIF strategy is delivered and brings the maximum added value to the D2N2 area, the LEP is seeking to establish a Technical Assistance programme. The purpose of the programme is to support applicants and potential applicants who are interested in accessing ESIF funds.

6. A consortium of partners is working with the LEP to establish the TA programme; the partners are D2N2, Nottinghamshire County Council, Nottingham City Council, Derby City Council (Accountable Body), Derbyshire County Council, East Midlands Further Education Council (EMFEC) and the Low Carbon Hub.
7. D2N2 are intending to provide initial information and advice to applicants via their website and responding to initial telephone enquiries. D2N2 envisage that the local authority and other delivery partners will provide more intensive support to applicants in areas such as:
  - Strategic project advice e.g. alignment to ESIF strategy and core delivery principles.
  - Advice on principles including project and applicant eligibility
  - Partnership development including facilitation to assist local partners to bring forward projects that are of impact and scale.
  - Capacity building including supporting applicants who are making project applications.
8. As ESIF composes of different strands of activity, it is a requirement for the LEP to submit two distinct TA applications, one for European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and one for European Social Fund (ESF). This means that for applicants wishing to join the LEP bid, there has to be clear delineation between resources and identified match funding across these two funds.
9. In order to provide an integrated TA support role across D2N2, Nottinghamshire County Council has submitted a proposal for ERDF TA from 2016 – 2018 [calendar years] inclusive. Support for potential ESF project development will be delivered by other consortium partners.
10. The economic development team has a vacancy for half a Band C economic development officer post and is seeking approval to match this post to ERDF funding. If approved, it would mean that ERDF would contribute 50% of the staff costs and Nottinghamshire County Council would contribute the other 50% from the current staffing budget to make 1 FTE post.
11. In order to deliver the TA service, an operational budget would also be required, it is estimated that these costs would amount to £20,000 over 3 years. Half of this amount would be met by ERDF and the other half by Nottinghamshire County Council.
12. The total cost of the Nottinghamshire proposal over 3 years would be £187,288. Of this total, £93,644 would be met by ERDF and the remaining £93,644 by Nottinghamshire County Council. As noted above [paragraph 10], the bulk of this contribution (£83,644) will be met from the existing staffing budget.
13. Draft partner proposals for the three year programme were submitted to the LEP and Derby City Council [accountable body] on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September. The final deadline for the integrated consortium application is November 5<sup>th</sup> 2015.

14. As part of the application process, partners are required to submit formal letters to confirm their match funding commitment.
15. As part of the application process, Derby City Council have stated that it is their intention to request that a Partnership Agreement is signed between all parties to confirm the working arrangements and partner responsibilities. Derby City Council have requested that the Partnership Agreement is signed prior to the commencement of delivery.

### **Reason(s) for Recommendations**

16. Support for the ERDF Technical Assistance project is requested to deliver the D2N2 ESIF strategy and bring the best economic value to Nottinghamshire businesses. The allocation of the 0.5 FTE as match funding would create 1 FTE post therefore bringing additional resources into the county council's economic development service.
17. In order to deliver the Technical Assistance service, an operational budget will be required. A total budget of £20,000 over the 3 year period is a realistic amount and 50% of this cost will be recovered from ERDF.
18. It is a requirement of the bidding process that a letter of support confirming the match funding accompanies the bid. The deadline for the bid submission is November 5<sup>th</sup>.
19. Derby City Council (lead partner) have requested that a signed Partnership Agreement is in place prior to the commencement of delivery, an indicative date for signing this agreement is early December 2015.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described within the body of the report.

### **Finance implications**

The costs as set out above will be met from the existing Economic Development Committee budget over the financial years 2016-17, 2017-18 and 2018-19. Note that European funding programmes operate on a calendar year cycle, hence the project will end in Dec 2018 but there will be a requirement for budgetary provision in 2018-19.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

20. It is recommended that Economic Development Committee:
  - a. Approves the allocation of staff time for the 0.5 FTE Band C post as match funding for the D2N2 TA project, this will be for a three year period and

- enable the recruitment of 1 FTE post, specialising in European Regional Development Fund project development;
- b. Approves the allocation of a budget of £10,000 over the 3 year period as an operational budget to support the delivery of the TA programme. This will be matched by the ERDF TA programme creating a total operational budget of £20,000;
  - c. Approves delegated authority for the Corporate Director, Place to sign a letter of match funding support which is submitted with the partners' funding submission (deadline November 5<sup>th</sup>).
  - d. Approves delegated authority for the Corporate Director, Place to sign a Partnership Agreement prior to the commencement of delivery activities.

**Tim Gregory**  
**Corporate Director, Place**

**For any enquiries about this report please contact:**

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**Constitutional Comments [SLB 21/10/2015]**

Economic Development Committee is the appropriate body to consider the content of this report.

**Financial Comments [SES 21/10/2015]**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

**Background Papers**

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All