

3 June 2014**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY****CONSULTATION RESPONSE SUBMITTED UNDER URGENCY
PROCEDURE:
DRAFT ERDF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME FOR ENGLAND****Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise members of a response submitted under the urgency procedure to a Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation on the draft European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) Operational Programme for England 2014-20.

Information and advice

2. On 1st May, DCLG issued a consultation draft of the ERDF Operational Programme for England 2014-20. The deadline for responses was 28th May 2014
3. The consultation response time was very short because the development of the ERDF programme has already been the subject of extensive consultation. An initial consultation was commenced on the future of the European Structural Funds in April 2012, to which the County Council responded. Roadshows were held throughout the country in late 2012. Officers of the County Council and the D2N2 Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) attended these events.
4. In 2013, strategy documents outlining the use of EU funds were requested to be developed by the 39 Local Enterprise Partnerships who would have responsibility at a local level for implementing the funds. The County Council has been involved in the development of the D2N2 and Sheffield City Region European Strategic Investment Fund documents through its LEP engagement arrangements.
5. The National Operational Programme sits above the 39 local strategies for the use of EU funds as developed by the individual LEPs and covers the whole of England.
6. The European Regional Development Fund is a European Structural Fund. It provides finance to meet the costs of economic development activities, such as support for enterprises, development of land and property, ICT and innovation activities.

7. A response has been prepared and submitted by the deadline. A copy of the response is attached (appendix A). It was signed off through the provisions for urgent decisions by the Chief Executive (Option C, Part C of the Constitution – decision by the Chief Executive) due to the submission deadlines being outside of the Committee cycle.

Reason(s) for Recommendations

8. Decisions taken through the urgency procedures are required to be reported to the next available Committee meeting.

Statutory and Policy Implications

9. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described in the report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. It is recommended that Committee notes this report.

Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris

For any enquiries about this report please contact: Matt Lockley, 72446

Constitutional Comments

As the report is for noting only, constitutional comments are not required.

Financial Comments [NR 21.05.2014]

There are no financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers

Nottinghamshire County Council's Response Form to the BIS Consultation on Partnership Agreement: Delivery of Structural Funds, Rural Development Funds and Maritime and Fisheries Funds in England: April 2012

DCLG ERDF Operational Programme 2014 -20 Technical Annex, May 2014,
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307987/ERDF_OP_Consultation_Technical_Annex_2014-20.pdf

DCLG European Regional Development Fund England Operational Programme 2014 to 2020 Consultation document, May 2014
https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/307985/ERDF_OP_Summary_2014-2020.pdf

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All