

**6 May 2014****Agenda Item: xx****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY****CONSULTATION RESPONSE: DRAFT ESF OPERATIONAL PROGRAMME  
FOR ENGLAND****Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval to respond to a DWP consultation on the draft European Social Fund Operational Programme for England 2014-20.

**Information and advice**

2. On 14<sup>th</sup> April, the Department for Work and Pensions issued a consultation draft of the European Social Fund Operational Programme for England 2014-20. The deadline for responses is 9<sup>th</sup> May 2014
3. The consultation response time is very short and that is because the development of the European Social Fund 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 LEP attended these events.
4. Following the initial consultations, 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 SCR EU SIF 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. It has been drawn up to take account of the feedback of the previous consultations, described in paragraph 3 above, and the content of the 39 individual draft LEP EU SIF documents. As a result, and because it covers the whole of England, the document is fairly generic in nature.
6. The European Social Fund is a European Structural Fund. It provides finance to meet the costs of labour market initiatives, such as employment and training type activity.
7. A consultation response has been prepared and is attached for your approval (appendix A)

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

8. Responses to consultations are required to be approved by Committee.

## **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 approves the draft response.

## **Report of the Group Manager, Corporate Strategy, Celia Morris**

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

## **Constitutional Comments [NAB 25.04.14]**

Economic Development Committee has authority to approve the recommendation set out in this report by virtue of its terms of reference.

## **Financial Comments [SEM 25/04/14]**

There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this 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

European Social Fund Operational Programme 2014-20: Public Consultation, April 2014

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/302578/esf-programme-2014-2020-consultation.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/302578/esf-programme-2014-2020-consultation.pdf)

Department for Work and Pensions Consultation Principles, April 2014

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/302579/consultation-principles-foi-feedback.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/302579/consultation-principles-foi-feedback.pdf)

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

All