



REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR, PLACE

RIVER TRENT PARTNERSHIP UPDATE AND SUPPORT FOR THE SUBMISSION OF AN EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) TO 'PARTNERSHIPS FOR PEOPLE AND PLACE' PROJECT

Purpose of the Report

1. This report seeks to provide Members with background information on the River Trent Partnership; and seeks support for the submission of an Expression of Interest by the Environment Agency to the MHCLG 'Partnerships for People and Place' project.

Information

2. Nottinghamshire County Council is exploring with the Environment Agency and other regional partners, the potential to form a new catchment wide partnership that will deliver both economic and environmental gains known as the River Trent Partnership (See Annex A). The Partnership will focus on pooling resources to take better advantage of funding opportunities, in particular those arising from the Government's National Infrastructure Strategy.
3. On 25th November 2020, the Chancellor set out Spending Review 2020 and published a National Infrastructure Strategy. He also announced plans for a new infrastructure bank to catalyse private investment in projects across the UK. In total the Spending Review will deliver £27bn devoted to transport, energy and digital communications infrastructure in 2021-22. The Treasury has also updated its Green Book guidance on investment decisions to include taking into account wider policy objectives such as levelling up the UK and achieving net zero and up to 250,000 UK green jobs. The National Infrastructure Strategy will allocate funds from an interdepartmental budget.
4. The Environment Agency have approached Nottinghamshire County Council with a view that the authority would have a key leadership role in the formation and co-ordination of the River Trent Partnership (RTP). This work aligns closely with County aims to deliver a green recovery in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic and will help the Council strive towards an ambitious future that will unlock the full economic potential of the catchment area.
5. Local authorities and LEPs have been contacted to gather information to build a vision and baseline for the RTP. This work involves analysing the partners strategic priorities, understanding the type of projects that are planned and confirming baseline metrics of the economic value to be harnessed through environmental interventions across the catchment. Terms of reference for the partnership are currently being developed. This

will put the partnership in a strong position to approach the Environment Agency for funding towards further business case development and to identify priority projects across the catchment.

6. The River Trent Partnership seeks to learn from the recent success of the River Severn Partnership which was able to secure millions of pounds of funding from DEFRA and the Environment Agency, based on demonstrating the economic benefits of alternative flood defence interventions. The River Trent Partnership vision will aim to go further than flood defence potential in order to access other areas of budget within the National Infrastructure Strategy.
7. One source of funding for the partnership is the MHCLG 'Partnerships for People and Place' project. This project is focused on 'place-based' initiatives which are defined, informed and delivered locally through collaboration to develop inclusive and flexible local solutions. The learning from this can then be applied to any other place facing similar issues. This project has the backing of the Treasury-funded Shared Outcomes Fund to analyse the interventions and impacts of 'place-based' policies in up to 15 pilot places in England. Results from the pilot projects will be shared across all government departments to shape the national Levelling Up policy.
8. The Environment Agency on behalf of the partners in the River Trent Partnership are seeking to submit an expression of interest to the 'Partnerships for People and Place' project in June. The Shared Outcomes Fund will help the partnership achieve strategic alignment across local delivery partners and will ensure that communities across the pan-regional catchment area will be supported to have the same levels of accessibility to quality services. MHCLG will use the expression of interest process to identify potential pilot places for funding in July.

Other Options Considered

9. To not work at this catchment wide scale will make it difficult to enable new outcomes and access funding opportunities which can only be unlocked through this partnership. This is an opportunity for the County Council to shape regional agendas which would be lost if the County Council did not take a lead role.

Reason for Recommendation

10. In order for the Committee to provide support for a bid for funds to support place based initiatives under the RTP.

Statutory and Policy Implications

11. Data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

12. There are no financial implications currently arising as a result of this report.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Economic Development and Asset Management Committee:

- 1) Support an expression of interest submission to the 'Partnerships for People and Place' project by the Environment Agency.

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Constitutional Comment (EP 07/06/2021)

13. The Economic Development and Asset Management Committee is the appropriate body to consider this report.

Financial Comment (RWK 02/06/2021)

14. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from the report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- [National Infrastructure Strategy](#)

Electoral Divisions and Members Affected

- All.