

**1<sup>st</sup> April 2014****Agenda Item: 7****REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, CORPORATE STRATEGY****LEADER RURAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME – OPPORTUNITY TO  
SUBMIT APPLICATION****Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise members of the status of the LEADER Preparatory Bids submitted to the Department of the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) to meet the national deadline of the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014.

**Information and advice**

2. At the 11<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Economic Development Committee meeting, Members approved, under Option A, Part C of the Constitution, delegated authority for the Corporate Director, Policy, Planning and Corporate Services, in consultation with the Chair of this Committee, to submit applications to Defra for Preparatory Funding to support and develop bids to the new LEADER Programme. (Item 7 refers).
3. The aim of the funding is to engage and support potential new Local Action Groups<sup>1</sup> (LAGs) representing rural, contiguous wards with a “functional geography”. The funds should enable LAGS to be in a position to submit in depth Local Development Strategies (LDS) to Defra later this year as part of a bid for full LEADER Programme funding 2014-2020.
4. Any new LAGs would sit alongside the North Nottinghamshire LAG (covering rural wards in Bassetlaw and Newark and Sherwood) that received funding under the previous LEADER Programme and has already received Transitional Funding from Defra to help develop its LDS.
5. Following liaison with colleagues in the Districts and at Defra, there was interest in submitting 4 bids that were potentially viable – Defra requested that each “local area” had its own bid. The submitted bids therefore included:
  - I. **Ashfield** - providing population coverage of 19,973 over 4 wards
  - II. **Gedling** – providing population coverage of 16,974 over 4 wards
  - III. **Mansfield** – providing population coverage of 11,999 over 4 wards
  - IV. **Rushcliffe** – providing population coverage of 75,036 over 20 wards

6. The bids were submitted with local “leads” as indicated by the respective district officer advice and the County Council was identified as the Accountable Body for all.
7. Each bid, under Defra advice, was for £5,000 and given time constraints, followed the same framework of activity. There is potential for District cash contributions and in kind support however this is subject to further approval and engagement at District level.
8. All bids were submitted electronically and in hard copy on the 14<sup>th</sup> March 2014. Decision will be taken by a national panel against a funding pot of £1m and decisions will be conveyed to applicants on or around the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2014.
9. Further LEADER deadlines remain to be advised – the formal issuing of the National Delivery Framework by the Minister has been delayed.
10. A copy of the Ashfield application is attached for information – Appendices 1-3 refer.

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

11. The Committee requested further detail of any bids submitted under the LEADER Preparatory funding.

#### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

12. 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**

13. 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: Mandy Ramm, 72685.

#### **Constitutional Comments [SLB 19/03/2014]**

This report is for noting only.

#### **Financial Comments [SEM 21.03.2014]**

The financial implications are set out in the report.

#### **Background Papers**

<http://rdpenetwork.defra.gov.uk/funding-sources/leader-resources>

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

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<sup>i</sup> Or existing groups to amend their geographical coverage.