

North East Derbyshire District Council

Growth Scrutiny Committee

13 April 2017

NEDDC Partnerships Team Contribution to the Growth Agenda

Report of the Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To inform the Growth Scrutiny Committee of the contribution made to the NEDDC Growth Agenda by the NEDDC Partnerships Team.

1 Report Details

1.1 The Partnerships Team is responsible for the delivery against 6 Targets identified in the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan, each of which having links to the Growth Agenda, either directly or in the associated areas of health and wellbeing, financial inclusion, voluntary group-community engagement and locality working:

- C12: Invest in voluntary and community organisations to assist over 13,000 vulnerable and disadvantaged households year on year.
- C13: Support the growth in membership of the Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union by 230 new North East Derbyshire residents per year.
- G04: Through the Bolsover North East Derbyshire LEADER Approach collectively support the creation of 65 sustainable jobs in the combined programme area by December 2020.
- H01: Review partnership arrangements to enable the development of Healthy Communities Action Plan by March 2016, with delivery milestones by March 2019.
- H12: Support the development and delivery of projects as part of the £1 million 'Grassland Hasmoor...' Big Local scheme by March 2019.
- T12: Develop an action plan to enable the delivery of the Derbyshire Thriving Families initiative by December 2015 and thereafter commence implementation.

1.2 Contributions to the Growth Agenda in 2016/17 include:

1.3 2014-2020 Bolsover-North East Derbyshire (BNED) LEADER Approach

1.4 Since its launch on 16th November 2016 three bids from the NED area have been approved totalling £108,606.08, generating £319,634.10 match funding and creating 5.5 jobs (the grant-to-job ratio is £19,747 per job created). These projects are holiday lodges (Ashover), dairy modernisation (Shirland) and a specialist swimming service with residential facilities (Grassmoor). Seven other Outline Applications are currently being developed, five from within the District (one full bid rejected to date). The current exchange rate level means that the total grant level available is circa £1.4m although this fluctuates with any changes in the rate.

- 1.5 It was confirmed in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement (23/11/2016) that Brexit would have no immediate impact on the LEADER programme, meaning that following an imposed hiatus the promotion of the fund could resume and successful projects could be contracted. A letter from Defra dated 29th March 2017 advised that local programmes *“will be able to enter into funding commitments up to the point that the UK leaves the EU, and that these commitments will be honoured by the UK Government.”* A breadth of marketing commenced in early 2017 and included the following:
- Flyers circulated with 2017/18 National Non-Domestic Rates (Business Rates) letters to every registered business in eligible post code areas (2,641 businesses) and left in local communities
 - The flyers available in 25 communities by the Derbyshire County Council Mobile Library Service
 - A two week radio campaign on Peak FM (six broadcasts a day plus digital display linking to the BNED LEADER website) and live interview on Elastic FM
 - An offer to attend at every eligible Parish/Town Council meeting
 - A programme of visits to twenty-two business/industrial centres across Bolsover and North East Derbyshire, undertaken with the Economic Development Teams and LEP Growth Hub colleagues
 - Attendance at village events, farmers meetings, business networks and internal team meetings (e.g. Planning, Environmental Health and Economic Development)
 - Promoting BNED LEADER on the websites and in magazines of the programme, the Council and external partners (e.g. Chamber of Commerce, LEPs etc).
- 1.6 As only 19 of the 82 eligible NED enquiries received to date have so far submitted Outline Applications, 10 of which were withdrawn, focus is being given to improve the retention rate (complexity of the application process, lack of match funding and planning restrictions are the key issues noted by withdrawn/non-progressed bids). Although some of these issues are outside the control of BNED LEADER, the level of one-to-one development support, application master classes and greater engagement from the LEP Growth Hub Advisors are being developed so that applicants with good project proposals are able to go through the full process.
- 1.7 The BNED LEADER Approach 2007-2013 generated an annual gain 3.19% of business rates against grant awarded (£35,269 per annum business rates generated from 9 businesses granted a total of £1,107,289). It is not possible to forecast the benefit from the current programme as it depends on the projects received, although it is hoped that additional business rates will be generated.
- 1.8 The North East Derbyshire Business Growth Fund (BGF)**
- 1.9 In January 2017 Cabinet extended the BGF to operate until March 2019 following a positive evaluation of outcomes to date; this aligns more with the expected end date of BNED LEADER following Brexit. £66,500 has been ringfenced from the Invest to Save budget to target towards areas ineligible for BNED LEADER funding (Clay Cross, Dronfield and Tupton) for businesses who the Council are confident will achieve significant growth and evidence job creation, increased turnover/expansion or other added value. Grants between £500 and £4,000 can support a range of

capital and revenue activity such as extending and improving premises, websites and signage, business start-up costs and equipment, ICT and machinery.

- 1.10 To date five successful applications have been awarded a total of £15,858, generating £15,741.85 match funding and contracted to deliver 7.4FTE jobs, which is a unit cost of £2,143 per job. This is significantly higher value for money than the £25,000 per job rate used by the LEPs and shows the value of lower funding schemes. Successful companies include a civil engineer, training provider, osteopath, fabricator and administrative support business. Due to the size of these applicant businesses, it is unlikely that additional business rates will be generated.
- 1.11 The contracted match funding rate is, at 49.82% of overall costs, significantly higher than the 10% minimum expected in the funding guidelines. This shows the business commitment to invest in their operations and grow within the District should a level of seed-corn funding be available.
- 1.12 It is recognised that the BGF is unlikely to meet initial objectives of raising Business Rate income however, due to the smaller nature of the businesses supported who can often be exempt. Any income generated is likely to be extremely modest (below £1,000 pa) and is effectively a secondary outcome benefit to the Council's investment to business growth, along with securing tenancies at NEDDC-owned premises etc. Recognising the benefits of such secondary outcomes to the Council and wider community will be important within the remaining lifetime of the BGF.

1.13 Manage NEDBD Ltd

- 1.14 North Eastern Derbyshire Business Development (NEDBD) Limited is a company limited by guarantee, established in 1993 to act as the accountable body for funding schemes and strategic projects. It is used as a special purpose vehicle to deliver scheme management which limits the liabilities and costs to the Council and its partners, whilst maintaining a strong influence on local delivery at both strategic and operational levels. Past activity includes the £11.5m CHART Single Regeneration Budget Scheme, its European Action Plan and over £350,000 Public Health Monies. Currently the primary role of NEDBD is as accountable body for the BNED LEADER and Grassland Hasmoor...Big Local Programmes (the latter from 1st April 2017).
- 1.15 The Company consists of the following organisations: Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire County Council, East Midlands Chamber of Commerce and North East Derbyshire District Council. The Partnerships Team undertake the operational duties of the company, such as contract management, processing payments, liaising with funders and account production, the latter of which has generated £2,000 per annum income to the Council since 2014/15.

1.16 Other Direct Growth Activity

- 1.17 Support is given where required to the project development and delivery of growth programmes, including the Health Plans for the Avenue redevelopment, providing statistics for European Social Fund employment activity and developing potential structures for Local Integration Boards. The latter will allow for better engagement with the Sheffield City Region programmes as they progress and develop, as we have done with other programmes (e.g. Talent Match, Ambition).

1.18 Indirect Growth Activity

- 1.19 Sustainable and inclusive Communities are more attractive for inward investors, visitors and prospective residents. To maximise the districts potential to be a place where people want to live, work and prosper the Partnership Team engages with the following activity which indirectly contributes to the Council's Growth Agenda.

1.20 Assisting Vulnerable People through the Voluntary and Community Sector

- 1.21 The Council allocates significant financial investment to the local voluntary sector to provide support and assistance to vulnerable members of the community. Most of the £132,799 annually allocated is primarily to the four main advice agencies (Citizen's Advice NED, Derbyshire Law Centre, Derbyshire Unemployed Worker's Centres and the Trade Union Safety Team), who report increasing numbers of residents requiring advice, particularly around welfare benefits, debt and housing issues: 14,751 interventions were provided to local households in 2014/15, rising to 18,319 in 2015/16.
- 1.22 Four NEDDC Officers, including the Partnership Co-ordinator, attended the Clay Cross event of Derbyshire Money Week, held between 13th and 17th February. Held on 14th at Tesco Car Park, the advice and support offered by the Council was highlighted in tandem with other statutory and voluntary providers. Financial Action & Advice Derbyshire (FAAD) have calculated that over 1500 Derbyshire residents benefited from the events and noted that the Clay Cross event seemed to be the most successful day of their programme.

1.23 Supporting Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire Credit Union (CNEDCU)

- 1.24 The Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator serves as the Council's nominee on the CNEDCU Board, attending monthly Board meetings, working with the Chair to develop the business plan and supporting recruitment and policy development. Promoting CNEDCU as part of Danesmoor Thriving Communities' theme has been an important focus (see section 1.22) as has the establishment of the Junior Savers Scheme in local primary schools, funded by Healthy North East Derbyshire (see section 1.16). At December 2016 CNEDCU had 3,756 members, 1,039 from North East Derbyshire (27.66% of total). Of the 169 new members within the quarter, 58 were from within the District, taking the District total to date (April to December) 189 new members, against an annual target of 230. CNEDCU won Organisation of the Year (income over £100,000) at the 2016 Voluntary Sector Awards held in October.
- 1.25 The Council and Chesterfield Borough Council each contributed £25,000, along with £116,000 from Derbyshire County Council towards the £166,000 capital used to establish the Family Loan Scheme. These loans have allowed many residents to access affordable credit and start a culture of saving for the first time, rather than rely on payday loans. Since the start in 2013 over 7,500 loans have been granted, totalling over £2.081million. Surveyed before Christmas, 92% of members who joined for the Family Loan Scheme are now regular savers within the credit union. However, demand is still high for affordable credit and discussions are currently taking place to extend the loan limit from £500 to £750.

1.26 Healthy North East Derbyshire (HNED) Partnership

- 1.27 The Partnerships Team oversees the 2015-2019 Health and Wellbeing Strategy through the Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership and district Locality Public Health Plan. An annual budget of £94,113 for three years (2015-17) has been provided by Derbyshire County Council which the Partnership allocates to a range of initiatives, some of which have indirect benefit to Growth. A 10% cut in the 2017/18 budget is anticipated, whilst the longer term availability of this funding is currently unclear due to the restructuring of the DCC Public Health department.
- 1.28 The development of the CNEDCU Junior Savers scheme (JSS) in local primary/junior schools adds to the Growth Agenda. By December 2016 the JSS was operating in six North East Derbyshire Schools (Arkwright, Calow, Tupton, Grassmoor, North Wingfield and Temple Normanton) and had 289 savers. Efforts to extend the scheme to other NED schools are currently under way.

1.29 Grassland Hasmoor... Big Local

- 1.30 The Partnerships Team led the development of £1m+ Grassland Hasmoor...Big Local Partnership, which was approved by the Local Trust in early 2015. The Lottery funding is for local people to make the area “a better place to live” over the next 10 years and can be spent on a broad range of projects and activities to make this happen. Current Growth Agenda activities include the development of green and open spaces, additional Law Centre and DUWC sessions in Hasland (accessible to Grassmoor residents) and a small grant fund for new-start social businesses (STAR People).
- 1.31 A North Wingfield resident, initially recruited via the Council-led Talent Match initiative, is now the Support Worker, whilst a Danesmoor resident is the Administrator. It was confirmed on 24th February that North Eastern Derbyshire Business Developments (NEDBD) Ltd, a company managed by the Partnerships Team in collaboration with other Councils, will become the Local Trusted Organisation for Grassland Hasmoor...Big Local from 1st April 2017. The staff have accepted the opportunity to transfer to the NEDDC Partnerships Team on that date.

1.32 Danesmoor Thriving Communities and North Wingfield 2020

- 1.33 The Partnership Team remains engaged with the Danesmoor Thriving Communities (previously known as Thriving Families) initiative, which aims to better co-ordinate services which support residents in more deprived communities, with a secondary aim of reducing service duplication, costs and making best use of local authority assets (such as land and buildings). The Senior Community Employment Advisor is working with DCC to develop a 'job wall' at the Adult Education Centre to advertise vacancies locally, whilst the Partnership Co-ordinator has been supporting “Credit in Control” project, which seeks to improve awareness and access to CNEDCU facilities. This includes training front-line staff to be able to signpost to the credit union, developing a Junior Savers Scheme at Sharley Park School and distributing £25 to 50 Danesmoor residents who open credit union accounts after resources were obtained from the national Illegal Money Lending Team.

- 1.34 During the past year the Team has also been central to the development of the new North Wingfield 2020 programme and steering group, which has produced an action plan that includes village regeneration as part of its wider focus.

1.35 Support to the Armed Forces Community

- 1.36 This is a growing area of activity due to the Council's commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant. In addition to a dedicated section on the Council website where charitable financial support packages are advertised for disadvantaged veterans and their dependants (e.g. via RBL and SSAFA), discussions are progressing to promote the Defence Discount Service to local businesses to enable the Armed Forces Community to receive a discount on purchases made; Leisure are currently investigating whether this could be used to provide a discount to their services. A leaflet has also been enclosed with the District Council Tax letters to every household which will promote the support available to this hard-to-identify/hard-to-reach group (to date 36 responses have been received). A training package for front-line services to advise the Armed Forces Community on a range of issues, including financial inclusion, will soon be available on NEDi.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 The Partnerships Team aims to play a key role in delivering the Council's Growth Agenda. This contribution will be through:
- management of funding programmes which directly facilitate economic growth and job creation;
 - and community-based and individual-focused interventions which help to improve the physical infrastructure of local communities and remove barriers which hinder the ability of residents to become fully engaged within the local economy.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

- 3.1 The Partnerships Team works with other departments to engage with partners, businesses and communities across the District to identify their needs, aspirations and any barriers to economic growth and participation.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

- 4.1 Each contributory activity has been assessed in line with standard NEDDC policy. Delivery arrangements are regularly reviewed to ensure targets and outputs are achieved in the most effective way possible.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

- 5.1.1 Adherence is maintained to NEDDC's Financial Regulations and Joint Risk Management and Partnerships Strategy, as well as external financial controls agreed through Service Level Agreement (such as with the Rural Payments Agency for the BNED LEADER Programme).

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

- 5.2.1 Adherence is maintained to Service Level Agreements and NEDDC's Legal and Data Protection Policies.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

- 5.3.1 Evaluation of workload implications upon the Partnership Team is undertaken in regular individual, team and Service Planning reviews. Engagement with other departments required to assist in delivery is maintained to ensure targets are achieved and to identify other activities and services delivered.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the report is noted.

7 Decision Information

Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is an executive decision which results in income or expenditure to the Council of £50,000 or more or which has a significant impact on two or more District wards)	No
Is the decision subject to Call-In? (Only Key Decisions are subject to Call-In)	No
District Wards Affected	All
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	See section 1.1

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
NA	NA
Background Papers (These are unpublished works which have been relied on to a material extent when preparing the report. They must be listed in the section below. If the report is going to Cabinet (NEDDC) or Executive (BDC) you must provide copies of the background papers)	
NA	
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