

North East Derbyshire District Council

Growth Scrutiny Committee

12th January 2016

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 Partnership Team is part of the Growth Directorate, reporting to the Chief Executive. It is responsible for engaging with NEDDC services and public, private and voluntary-community sector partners to develop and embed initiatives which reflect national, regional and local policy, customer/partner service demands and opportunities to improve local services. This is predominantly in the areas of economic growth, health and wellbeing, financial inclusion, voluntary group-community engagement and locality working. The Team is responsible for the delivery against 6 Targets identified in the 2015-2019 Corporate Plan:

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

1.2 The Team consists of six members of staff (4.9 Full Time Equivalent), three of who are restricted to work on specific activities:

- Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator, permanent position, 1.0FTE
- Partnership Support Officer, permanent position, 0.6 FTE (plus fixed term 0.2FTE supporting BNED LEADER until 2021)
- Partnership Development Officer, permanent position, 0.6 FTE
- Community Development Worker, fixed term post to March 2017 dedicated to Healthy North East Derbyshire, 1.0FTE
- BNED LEADER Programme Officer, fixed term until March 2021, 1.0FTE

- BNED LEADER Monitoring & Support Officer, fixed term until March 2019, 0.5 FTE
- 1.3 The Partnerships Team has seven priority areas of focus identified in its Service Plan which all relate in some way to the delivery of the Council's Growth agenda. Wherever possible, new tasks which arise are added to one of these areas. Recent contributions to the agenda are identified below:
- 1.4 Support Locality Working and develop new initiatives**
- 1.5 The Partnerships Team maintains an overview of key local statistics such as the Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) which has helped develop an understanding of local challenges affecting communities, including those related to the growth agenda. Statistics include employment rates, average wages, qualifications and frequency of benefits claimed. An 'asset mapping' exercise has been undertaken for every ward, so that there is an understanding of the local facilities, services and groups who can be worked with in an area to address these challenges. The 2015 IMD data was published in November 2015 and this is currently being analysed.
- 1.6 The Partnerships Team led the development of £1m+ Grassland Hasmoor...Big Local Partnership and Big Local Plan between 2012 and 2014, 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, which helps the area to become more attractive to developers and relocating businesses. Discussions to date include the extension of advice services in the village, development of Barnes Park and a contribution to the footpath network which links to the Avenue development. A small grant fund for new-start social businesses (STAR People) has also been established for the area. A North Wingfield resident currently supports the programme as an employee through the Council-led Talent Match initiative.
- 1.7 £19,058.41 was generated as NEDDC income for the support provided, with £12,000 towards staffing costs, £6,097 to the Print and Design Department and the rest on ICT and miscellaneous costs. Going forward, £800 sponsorship of a NEDDC roundabout has been agreed (rising to £1,000 in future years) and contributions to Leisure's Village Games are being considered shortly. The Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator remains a board advisor for Big Local and links opportunities to other NEDDC and Rykneld Homes departments as appropriate.
- 1.8 The Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator works closely with the Joint Executive Director for Transformation and Derbyshire County Council to develop the Council's contribution to the Thriving Communities pilot in Danesmoor, 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 initial intention for the County Council-led project was to have a plan in place by September 2014, although this has been delayed whilst the project focused on Cotmanhay in Erewash Borough: It is now expected that progress will develop in early 2016.

1.9 Co-ordinate the Healthy North East Derbyshire Approach

- 1.10 Cabinet approved the 2015-2019 Health and Wellbeing Strategy on 2nd September 2015, which the Partnership Team oversee on behalf of the Council. The Strategy identifies the Council's contribution to the local health and wellbeing approach and links to the new Healthy North East Derbyshire Partnership and district Locality Public Health Plan. An annual budget of £94,113 for three years has been provided by Derbyshire County Council which the Partnership has allocated to a range of initiatives, some of which have direct benefit to the Growth Agenda. The Council will receive at least £111,000 over this period to deliver a range of projects which address the following issues: worklessness, homelessness, community development and affordable warmth/fuel poverty, with the potential for further funds as future projects are commissioned.
- 1.11 The Strategic Partnership Co-ordinator has been representing the Council at the discussions relating to the 21st Century Care initiative led by the Clinical Commissioning Group focused on Dronfield, Eckington and Killamarsh. The consultation relates to how to best determine where to locate community hubs which provide a range of acute, rehabilitation and bedded care services. There are possible opportunities from using NEDDC buildings and developing shared services which may generate income streams or cost savings and these will be discussed at the new Strategic Health Group for the Council, Bolsover District Council and the key local health- and social-care providers.

1.12 Oversee the NEDDC Financial Inclusion Framework

- 1.13 The Partnerships Team leads on the engagement with the countywide anti-poverty approach and support to the Chesterfield & North East Derbyshire Credit Union (CNEDCU), including refreshing their Business Plan and internal HR policies. In September 2015 the CNEDCU expanded its business premises, allowing for greater office space to conduct its business, particularly with the Junior Savers Scheme which is progressing well within local primary/junior schools (Arkwright, Calow, North Wingfield, Temple Normanton and Tupton).
- 1.14 Internal financial operations have been improved with new software and hardware, whilst advice and guidance has been provided on the development of the CNEDCU website, which now allows for loan requests to be processed online. At November 2015 there are 3,055 members of which 1,795 are active, 451 being Junior Members. The Council and Chesterfield Borough Council each contributed £25,000, along with £166,000 from Derbyshire County Council towards the £216,000 capital used to establish the Family Loan Scheme. The 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 4,300 loans have been granted, totalling £1.26million.

1.15 Co-ordinate voluntary-community sector grant funding

- 1.16 As well as a £4,000 annual budget for Older People's/Luncheon Clubs, the Partnerships Team manages the Council's £132,799 voluntary sector groups budget. Because of historical reductions in the budget which has reduced flexibility on receiving bids, the Council has adopted a commissioning approach which supports key advice agencies and voluntary sector infrastructure bodies.
- 1.17 Activity is monitored on an annual basis; in 2014/15 14,564 households were supported by the 6 main funded vol-com groups, an increase from 13,181 households in 2013/14, demonstrating that there are an increasing proportion of residents requiring advice services. Presentations to Council and Cabinet from summer 2015 noted that much of this support related to debt and money advice and addressing issues arising out of Welfare Reform changes and provided assistance for many residents in maintaining household financial sustainability, which provides a greater platform from which they can engage in the local economy.

1.18 Deliver the BNED LEADER Approach 2014-2020

- 1.19 The Partnerships Team includes the Bolsover North East Derbyshire (BNED) LEADER Team who administrate the BNED LEADER Programme, which must focus on the development of businesses and economic growth within rural areas. The £2.4m 2007-2013 BNED LEADER Approach was nationally recognised as the best performing programme in the country, allocating £1,904,092.34 to 32 projects across the two districts (16.5 in North East Derbyshire), which directly created 75 jobs, supported/created 30 businesses and supported 54 tourism events which attracted over 70,000 visitors to the area.
- 1.20 The programme achieved a social return on investment ratio of 16.91:1 (£16.91 of added value for each LEADER £1 spent) and generated in excess of £4.5m additional private sector investment into the area. LEADER support has helped to increase the National Non-Domestic Rates (NNDR) which can be claimed by the Council (subject to review by the Valuations Office). The latest figures from the Revenues Section advise that the NNDR increase for LEADER supported projects is £92,000 per annum. (with a further £20,425 per annum in Bolsover District).
- 1.21 Following a successful application to Defra/the Rural Payments Agency (RPA) in early 2015, the funding agreement for €1,713,000 to run a 2014-2020 programme was received on 14th September 2015. The target is to create a further 75 jobs in at least 59 new projects, focusing on micro and small businesses, farm and forestry productivity, tourism, cultural and heritage activity and rural services.
- 1.22 The national launch of the programme was delayed to 14th October 2015, and by extension the launch of BNED LEADER approach to 16th November (the original intention was a March 2015 start). 39 businesses (26 from the NEDDC area) have written to the Programme to note their interest in the funding and seek advice on their eligibility from the delivery team to see whether it would be appropriate to submit an application; 5 Outline Applications have so far been received, all from North East Derbyshire. It is expected that any successful projects are likely to commence in Spring 2016.

1.23 North East Derbyshire Business Growth Fund

- 1.24 In March 2015 Cabinet approved the establishment of the North East Derbyshire Business Growth Fund, a grant scheme of £40,000 funded from the Invest to Save Budget to be piloted over 24 months for areas ineligible for BNED LEADER funding, namely Clay Cross, Dronfield and Tupton. The fund can support a range of capital and revenue activity such as extending and improving premises, employing an Apprentice (but not core staff costs), websites and signage, business start-up costs and equipment, ICT and machinery.
- 1.25 Launched alongside the BNED LEADER programme on 16th November 2015, the Partnerships Team will work closely with the Economic Development Unit to deliver the programme which has a focus on job creation and growth, targeted to businesses in which the Council were confident would achieve growth. Grants between £500 and £4,000 will be made to applicants who can evidence job creation, increased turnover/expansion or other added value. An aspiration of the Council is that the grant will help business expansion to the point where additional National Non-Domestic Rates can be generated, which, following national policy changes, can be retained at a larger proportion by the Council. Since the launch there have been 8 initial enquiries made, with 3 development meetings held.

1.26 Manage NEDBD Ltd

- 1.27 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, over £350,000 Public Health Monies and the Grassland Hasmoor...Big Local scheme. Currently the primary role of NEDBD is as accountable body for the BNED LEADER Programme.
- 1.28 The Company consists of the following organisations, each naming a director: Bolsover District Council, Chesterfield Borough Council, Derbyshire & Nottinghamshire Chamber of Commerce, Derbyshire County Council 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 producing the accounts, the latter of which has generated an annual income to the Council of £2,000 per annum since 2014/15.

1.29 Other Activity

- 1.30 The Partnerships Team manages the allocation of the NEDDC Shaping the Future monies to develop locality working and address local issues across the district. Previous activity includes Credit Union development, the Max your Money Campaigns and the Volunteer Centre Outreach project (2013-2015).

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 structural programmes which directly facilitate job creation, business growth and generation of national Non-Domestic Rates income;
 - and community-based and individual-focused interventions which help to 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, particularly the Economic Development Unit and Strategic Housing, to regularly engage with businesses, partners and communities across the District to identify their needs, aspirations and any barriers to their growth.

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

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

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

5.3 Human Resources Implications

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 (e.g. with Economic Development Unit who assist with project appraisals) is maintained to ensure targets are achieved.

6 Recommendations

- 6.1 That the report is noted.

7 Decision Information

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| Is the decision a Key Decision? (A Key Decision is one 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 |
| District Wards Affected | All |
| Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework | See section 1.1 |

8 Document Information

| Appendix No | Title |
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| 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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