

**Agenda Item No.4 (a)**

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**MEETING OF CABINET MEMBER - STRATEGIC POLICY, ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT AND BUDGET**

**15 December 2015**

Report of the Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment

**D2N2 TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME – MATCH FUNDING**

(1) **Purpose of Report** To seek the Cabinet Member's approval for £72,452 match funding contribution towards the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Technical Assistance Programme. The funding contribution is subject to a full application for support via the D2N2 European Structural and Investment Fund (ESIF).

(2) **Information and Analysis** Technical Assistance (TA) is funding drawn down from the European Commission to support the administration of ESIF. It is match funded by contributions from applicants and partners and used to ensure that the activities which fall within the scope of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund (ESF) programmes are managed, monitored and evaluated in line with European Union (EU) Regulations.

For the current ESIF programme, Government has declared that any TA applications must be submitted via Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs). Following the submission of an outline D2N2 LEP wide proposal, two full applications have now been submitted for consideration for support from ERDF and ESF. The proposals have been developed by officers from D2N2 LEP, the four top tier local authorities (Derbyshire County Council, Derby City Council, Nottingham City Council and Nottinghamshire County Council) and representatives from the Low Carbon sector with Derby City Council as lead applicant and accountable body. As with all ESIF projects, there is a 50% match funding requirement.

**The Project**

The project will deliver a D2N2 wide TA programme involving a range of key delivery partners to increase the understanding of and engagement with the ESIF programme.

The project proposes a three tier "hub and spoke" delivery model with core TA hub services being delivered by the D2N2 LEP with geographic and sector

specialist organisations (local authorities/Low Carbon sector) providing bespoke 'spoke' services to applicants to the ESIF programme. Potential applicants to the ESIF programme will be supported through each tier of the TA service, dependent upon their specific requirements.

To summarise, the three tier model will provide the following services:

- Tier 1 – Generic Information including website, events and support materials.
- Tier 2 – Interactive support for potential applicants, including dedicated hotline and email, social media support, training events and initial diagnostic evaluation.
- Tier 3 – Bespoke project advice delivered at local level to support applicants through the project development and application process with particular focus in supporting the proposed D2N2 Community Programme.

This model will promote ESIF opportunities and ensure a pipeline of compliant projects is supported to successfully deliver the targets identified in the D2N2 ESIF Strategy and Operational Programme.

Officers have been working collaboratively with Derby City Council on shaping the proposed delivery of the Tier 3 service to ensure project applicants have the necessary support to maximise ESIF investment into the D2 (Derby and Derbyshire) area. The proposed match funding (together with match from Derby City Council) will support 50% of the costs of two External Funding officers for a three year period (one focusing on ERDF and one focusing on ESF) working across the City and the County. The proposed resource will be externally facing, working in partnership across the D2 area and particularly focused on supporting the capacity of target groups to access EU funding, most notably at community level, but also via target growth sectors.

Subject to approval, the project will be evaluated against outputs, spend and compliance requirements at quarterly meetings of the D2N2 TA Steering Group and reported directly to the D2N2 Programme Board.

**(3) Financial Considerations** The indicative profile of the proposed match funding contribution is £72,452 (split equally between ERDF and ESF) across the three financial years of the project, commencing in April 2016. This equates to a contribution from Derbyshire County Council of £24,151 per annum. Subject to approval, the match funding will be provided from the Economy and Regeneration budget.

**(4) Human Resources Considerations** The total cost of employing two officers over a three year period is in the region of £260,000 with 50% of this cost funded through ESIF TA, with the match funding required from the

City and County Council. At this stage, employment details for both proposed posts remain open to discussion with Derby City Council, although it is proposed, at this stage, that both councils employ one post each. However, this will be subject to further negotiation should the project be approved and a separate report will be submitted, if necessary.

### **Other Considerations**

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

(5) **Key Decision** No.

(6) **Call-In** Is it required that call-in be waived in respect of the decisions proposed in the report? No.

(7) **Background Papers** Held on file by the Economic Regeneration Service within the Economy, Transport and Environment Department. Officer contact details – Frank Horsley, extension 38348.

(8) **OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATIONS** That the Cabinet Member:

- 8.1 Approves a total funding contribution of £72,452 (£24,151 per annum) over three years, commencing in financial year 2016-17, to be met from the existing Economy and Regeneration budget towards the D2N2 (Derby, Derbyshire, Nottingham and Nottinghamshire) Technical Assistance Programme, subject to approval.
- 8.2 Notes that further discussions with regard to proposed staffing will be undertaken and a separate report submitted for approval, if necessary.

**Mike Ashworth**  
**Strategic Director – Economy, Transport and Environment**