

**8 November 2016**

**ITEM: 7**

**Planning, Transport and Regeneration Overview and Scrutiny Committee**

**Tilbury Community Led Local Development**

**Wards and communities affected:**

Tilbury St Chads

Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park

**Key Decision:**

Key

**Accountable Head of Service,** Andrew Millard Head of Planning & Growth

**Accountable Director:** Steve Cox, Corporate Director of Environment & Place

**This report is Public**

**Executive Summary**

Community Led Local Development (CLLD) is a new intervention using European Funding which works with targeted communities to develop a bottom-up approach to tackle long-standing and complex issues around employment, skills & business growth.

In November 2015 the Council submitted an Expression of Interest to develop a CLLD programme targeting Tilbury. The CLLD programme focuses on the 20% most deprived areas of the country. The two Tilbury wards: Tilbury St Chads, Tilbury Riverside & Thurrock Park were identified as having amongst the highest levels of deprivation in the borough, whilst at the same time providing a contiguous area that included significant and emerging employment opportunities through the expansion of Tilbury Port.

The expression of interest was approved and a small amount of funding was made available to support development of a delivery strategy. In March 2016 cabinet gave 'in principle' approval that a CLLD strategy be developed and from April until August the Council and partners worked together to develop the documents required. The final strategy was submitted in August 2016 and is now being considered by the Local Enterprise Partnership and by the Government authorities responsible for managing the programme.

This report provides an update on progress made since the last report to Cabinet, outlines the priorities identified in the CLLD strategy and seeks to gather views on the proposal for the Council to act as the Accountable Body for the final-stage applications for funding and to manage the programme alongside others already underway.

## **1. Recommendation(s)**

- 1.1 Members of Overview and Scrutiny Committee are requested to give views on the priorities identified within the CLLD strategy, and on the principle that The Council takes on the role of the Accountable Body in the full applications to the EU funding streams.**

## **2. Introduction and Background**

- 2.1 Community Led Local Development (CLLD) was launched to engage communities in identifying and developing solutions to long-standing and complex issues around employment, skills & business growth. It brings together the European Social Fund and European Regional Development Fund in a new and innovative way. A total of £10m is available to the South East Local Enterprise Partnership (SE LEP) area for the CLLD programme and three Local Authorities have submitted proposals to participate - Thurrock, Shepway and Hastings. These are among 19 proposals submitted nationally.
- 2.2 The Council submitted an expression of interest to the programme in November 2015 which focussed on developing a programme in Tilbury. The expression of interest was approved by the funding authority and triggered the release of a small amount of funding from the programme to enable a partnership to develop a strategy for implementation.
- 2.3 After the expression of interest was approved Cabinet gave 'in principle' approval to the CLLD programme being developed in March 2016. Since then and utilising the €24,000 external funding secured, the Regeneration Team has led the development and submission of a CLLD Strategy and programme for Tilbury. This was completed in August 2016 and submitted to the Local Enterprise Partnership and the two managing authorities for the programme. It has subsequently been endorsed by the Local Enterprise Partnership.
- 2.4 If the Strategy is approved the Council will be invited to submit individual ESF and ERDF bids by end December 2016, for a delivery programme that will commence April 2017 and run for up to 5 years.

## **3. Issues, Options and Analysis of Options**

- 3.1 The full Strategy seeks to build on the 'Vision for Tilbury' developed and approved by Cabinet in 2013. Taking the Vision for Tilbury as a baseline the strategy then uses data about the area to build a profile of the local economy, the labour force and the physical, social and economic context within which implementation would take place. The data is used to inform a SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis and the findings, together with priorities for local intervention, were tested through consultation with the local community and the Local Action Group.

- 3.2 Consultation on the content of the strategy was an essential part of the programme. The Local Action Group (LAG), comprising of key stakeholders across the Community, Private and Public sectors in Tilbury was developed in line with the guidance for the programme, to oversee drafting of the strategy and to manage consultation. The group met on a regular basis to review progress, question and to develop ideas and priorities to be included. Given the amount of consultation that has taken place in Tilbury in recent years the Local Action Group decided that the best approach to engaging local residents in a meaningful way would be through a 'peer to peer' survey undertaken by local voluntary sector organisations to engage Tilbury residents.
- 3.3 The Vision for Tilbury and SWOT analysis, together with the results of the consultation with the local community and Local Action Group, were used to develop the priorities identified in the CLLD strategy, which focus activity into 5 strategic actions:
- Supporting local people to access local jobs
  - Tackling the barriers facing people furthest from the labour market
  - Stimulating local businesses, SME's, micro-enterprises and social enterprises
  - Improving local infrastructure for residents and businesses
  - Encouraging local civic action, pride and volunteering as routes into work.

Further detail of the strategic actions is provided at appendix 9.1.

- 3.4 Programme outputs proposed over the life of the CLLD programme in Tilbury include the engagement of over 1,000 participants, with over half of them moving into education or training on leaving. Around 400 currently unemployed residents would move into employment. In addition the programme will provide support to around 75 local businesses.
- 3.5 The proposed programme has an overall value of £6.6m of which half will have to be found through match funding (further information about the proposed budget is provided at appendix 9.2). The strategy proposes that delivery organisations submitting proposals will be required to identify match funding from their own resources or from a third party (with their agreement). This will form part of the assessment criteria for projects before they are approved. In addition any aligned activity within the broader Tilbury programme will be carefully mapped and match funding captured where possible with the additional benefit of ensuring that investment achieves synergy and delivers the best possible outputs and impact.
- 3.6 The programme budget includes an allocation of up to 20% for management and administration. Elements include communication and engagement, publicity and marketing, record keeping and monitoring. Through the strategy the Local Action Group were required to identify an Accountable Body who would take responsibility for the administration and management of the

programme. At the time of developing the strategy no other local organisations in Tilbury were able to take on this position and so the Council has proposed to be Accountable Body and manage the programme alongside other EU funded programmes already underway including the 'Locase' low carbon business support programme and 'On Track Thurrock' Youth Employment Initiative programme targeting unemployed young people.

- 3.7 The management and administration of the programme will require additional staffing to sit alongside the Tilbury Programme Manager. Some existing staff time can be used as match funding to draw down European funding to support additional staff and other costs. In addition projects funded through the programme will have to contribute towards match funding for project administration. In this way any additional cost to the Council can be managed and mitigated against.
- 3.8 Since the decision for the UK to leave the EU there is a possibility that the funding could be cut short. Possible scenarios include the CLLD programme being terminated, or the timeframe for project delivery being reduced from 5 years to 3 years or less. The Government are expected to issue further guidance through the Autumn Statement. To manage these risks the proposed programme and budget were profiled with the potential of a shorter programme in mind. In any eventuality there will be further guidance issued before the next stage in the process – the development of bids for funding.
- 3.9 Whilst there is no guarantee that Thurrock will be successful at the final stage, there is potentially £3.3m of funding still available which through a bespoke and targeted programme will tackle recognised and long-standing social regeneration needs in Tilbury.

#### **4. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 4.1 CLLD represents a significant financial opportunity which will be of huge benefit to Tilbury. The strategy identifies how the £3.3m of European Union investment (total project of £6.6m) would be used in a tailored programme over a period of up to 5 years, to tackle tough, complex, inter-related and long-term social issues in Tilbury.
- 4.2 Without this intervention, the Council and its partners, stakeholders and other delivery organisations will not have the resources to deliver the programme that this community needs to raise the aspirations in the area and help it fulfil its potential within broader regeneration plans and ambitions as one of Thurrock's growth hubs.

#### **5. Consultation (including Overview and Scrutiny, if applicable)**

5.1 The CLLD strategy has been consulted with the Tilbury Community and key stakeholders spanning the Community, Private and Public sectors through the Tilbury Local Action Group.

## **6. Impact on corporate policies, priorities, performance and community impact**

6.1 The strategy will support all the corporate policies and priorities.

6.2 The CLLD programme will have a particular impact on the two Tilbury Wards which continue to include areas among the 20% most deprived in the country.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1 Financial**

Implications verified by: **Carl Tomlinson**  
**Finance Manager**

This report builds on Decision 01104369 endorsed at Cabinet 9 March 2016, now providing a detailed update on one of the funding streams included in this suite of EU funding opportunities.

EU funding has greatly bolstered the resources available to support economic development activity in the past. Given the reduction in Revenue Support Grant and other funding streams, efforts should continue to maximise the amount of external funding obtained to stimulate growth and participation in Thurrock's five economic growth hubs, supporting the achievement of objectives defined within the Thurrock Corporate Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy.

The UK vote on 23<sup>rd</sup> June to leave the EU does cause uncertainty and risk, particularly in respect of EU funding such as the CLLD programme. Implications are currently difficult to quantify pending further direction from Central Government.

This report outlines the approach that will be taken in respect of the CLLD programme to identify and confirm match funding as part of the final stage applications which will be developed in December 2016.

### **7.2 Legal**

Implications verified by: **Vivien Williams**

**Planning & Regeneration Solicitor**

This report refers to a report on European Funding opportunities approved by Cabinet on 9th March 2016.

The report sets out the details of a programme of activities aimed at helping people in Tilbury access jobs and support businesses to grow. The European Funding has to be matched with UK funds and delivery organisations will be required to provide the match funding as part of their applications.

Taking on responsibility for managing the funding will have implications in terms of staff and other resources at the council, however funding will be available through the programme to offset these costs. The Council is already managing other similar EU funded programmes and management of this programme would sit alongside these.

**7.3 Diversity and Equality**

Implications verified by: **Natalie Warren**

**Community Development and Equalities Manager**

CLLD provides a unique opportunity to reverse historic examples of inequality through supporting residents into work. As a community led programme, the initial strategy has been developed in consultation with key community stakeholders. The strategy commits the Local Action Group to developing an equality and diversity statement to underpin its engagement with residents and partners as the strategy is implemented.

**7.4 Other implications** (where significant) – i.e. Staff, Health, Sustainability, Crime and Disorder)

None

**8. Background papers used in preparing the report** (including their location on the Council's website or identification whether any are exempt or protected by copyright):

<b>Document</b>	<b>Source / location</b>
Vision for Tilbury	Cabinet December 2013, item 11, Decision 01104253
Tilbury Community Led Local Development (CLLD) Strategy 30.08.16	<a href="http://www.thurrock.gov.uk/tilbury-growth">www.thurrock.gov.uk/tilbury-growth</a>

## **9. Appendices to the report**

Appendix 1 - Further detail of proposed actions within the CLLD Strategy  
Appendix 2 - Detail of programme budget.

### **Report Author:**

Matthew Brown

Regeneration Programme Manager (Tilbury)

Regeneration & Assets

## Appendix 1

### 9.1 Further detail of proposed actions within the CLLD Strategy:

Strategic Action or theme		Examples of potential delivery elements
A	Supporting local people to access local jobs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Employment readiness and skills support delivered in Tilbury aimed at individuals facing specific barriers to employment or training.</li> <li>• Training and support delivered in Tilbury for people who are currently in work but are looking to develop their skills and progress.</li> <li>• Further promotion of and outreach through existing services.</li> </ul>
B	Tackling the barriers facing people furthest from the labour market	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bespoke training, mentoring and work readiness activity delivered in Tilbury to support individuals who face multiple and complex barriers to employment or training; and building local capacity to deliver personal advocacy and local service brokerage to address physical and mental health, social care, substance abuse, chaotic lifestyle issues as barriers into work.</li> <li>• Further promotion of and outreach through existing services.</li> </ul>
C	Stimulate local businesses, SMEs, micro-enterprises and social enterprises	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new business advice and support programme and associated small start-up grants scheme.</li> <li>• Dedicated provision of education, training, advice and support, delivered in Tilbury, to existing businesses around digital, tendering and procurement, business planning, low carbon, marketing and other business needs. We will also create a small grants scheme for business growth.</li> <li>• A shopfront improvement scheme to match-fund the capital costs of physical improvements to the condition and display of local shopfronts.</li> </ul>
D	Improving local infrastructure for residents and businesses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A new fit-for-purpose cycling hub, including renovation of a building, stock and equipment purchase, business infrastructure and the delivery of training to local people.</li> </ul>
E	Encouraging local civic action, pride and volunteering as routes into work	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A programme of outreach and capacity building to enable residents to volunteer and take other forms of civic action that will enable them to gain job-relevant skills and experience.</li> </ul>



## Appendix 2

### 9.2 Detail of programme budget:

<b>9.2.1. Expenditure</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
	(£,000)	(£,000)	(£,000)	(£,000)	(£,000)
Project delivery	320	1,840	1,840	1,280	5,280
Management and administration	80	460	460	320	1,320
<b>Total expenditure</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>

<b>9.2.2 Funding</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>2018</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>Total</b>
	(£,000)	(£,000)	(£,000)	(£,000)	(£,000)
ESF	80	750	750	500	2,080
ERDF	120	400	400	300	1,220
<i>ESIF total</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>3,300</i>
Public sector funding	200	1,150	1,150	800	3,300
Private sector funding	0	0	0	0	0
<i>Total match funding</i>	<i>200</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>1,150</i>	<i>800</i>	<i>3,300</i>
<b>Funding total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>2,300</b>	<b>1,600</b>	<b>6,600</b>