

Bolsover District Council

Executive

14th April 2014

Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

Report of the Monitoring Officer

This report is public

Purpose of the Report

- To deal with outstanding issues resulting from the expiry of the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) partnership agreement between Bolsover District Council, Ashfield District Council and Mansfield District Council.

1 Report Details

- 1.1 On 12th June 2006 the Executive approved a proposal to establish the LEGI partnership and Alliance for Enterprise structure to deal with ERDF grant funding. This structure included a Board on which Councillor Tomlinson and David Eccles were nominated as representing BDC.
- 1.2 On 21st June 2007 the Council entered into the LEGI partnership with Ashfield District Council, as accountable body, and Mansfield District Council.
- 1.3 The LEGI objectives were to “encourage an entrepreneurial ethos, particularly among the young; to support pre-start and existing businesses; and to connect the target communities with new job opportunities resulting from inward investment or indigenous growth, to be delivered through local area agreements for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire”.
- 1.4 Under the agreement "*all assets and funds for the Partnership will vest in and belong to the Accountable Body in respect of the Partnership firstly in respect of any liability of the Partnership and then be held for and on behalf of the Local Authority Partners. Any such assets and funds shall be used by the Accountable Body for the purposes of the Partnership only and shall not be used by the Accountable Body for any other purpose save with the agreement of the Board*".
- 1.5 The Partnership agreement expired on 31st March 2013 however there are still outstanding matters that need to resolving.

1.6 LEGI Surplus Funds

Ashfield District Council are still holding approximately £3,721 of ERDF funding and at the final meeting of the LEGI board it was proposed that this money be transferred to LEGI's successor organisation, LEO (Derby & Nottingham), for use in accordance with the original grant objectives. As the partnership agreement has expired there is no authority for Ashfield to transfer the money in this way and they must now seek approval from both Bolsover and Mansfield to comply with the final wishes of the LEGI board.

2 Conclusions and Reasons for Recommendation

2.1 In conclusion Members need to decide

Whether the Council approve the surplus funding held by Ashfield District Council under the old LEGI regime is paid to LEO (Derby and Nottingham).

Members are also asked to consider giving the Chief Executive Officer delegated authority to deal with any other issues that occur relating to the former LEGI partnership.

3 Consultation and Equality Impact

3.1 The Chief Executive Officer and Deputy Leader have been consulted in relation to this report.

4 Alternative Options and Reasons for Rejection

4.1 None.

5 Implications

5.1 Finance and Risk Implications

As contained in the report.

5.2 Legal Implications including Data Protection

As contained in the report.

5.3 Human Resources Implications

None.

6 Recommendations

6.1 To approve the payment of any residual LEGI monies held by Ashfield District Council to LEO (Derby and Nottingham);

6.2 To authorise the Chief Executive Officer to take any further decision in relation the former LEG1 in consultation with the Leader or Deputy Leader of the Council

7 Decision Information

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)	Yes
District Wards Affected	None.
Links to Corporate Plan priorities or Policy Framework	None.

8 Document Information

Appendix No	Title
	None.
Background Papers None	
None.	
Report Author	Contact Number
Jim Fieldsend, Senior Principal Solicitor	01246 242472