

South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership

Report to the Board

Date of meeting: 17 December 2007

Agenda Item: 11

DDEP/VIBRANT ECONOMY – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

Issue

The need to put in place arrangements for the endorsement of projects seeking support from Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership's allocation of funds to the South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership.

Background

The Derby & Derbyshire Economic Partnership (DDEP) provides funds to the South Derbyshire Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for the support of economic development projects that contribute to the objectives of both organisations.

South Derbyshire LSP has agreed a three year Investment Plan with DDEP for the period 2007-10. Some £200,000 of DDEP funds will be invested in South Derbyshire each year through the Investment Plan.

A range of projects are already being delivered or are under development, however there remains a significant amount of funding available - some £150,000 of capital and £35,000 of revenue remains unallocated over the period April 2008 to March 2010.

Details

The LSP is currently supporting a range of projects with DDEP funds including the following (some of which are awaiting final approval):

- Access to Work (Derbyshire County Council) – job fairs and transport service linking South Derbyshire to jobs at the Airport.
- Business Navigator (Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire) - supports SMEs in their resource management, particularly in terms of landscaping, security and the environment.
- Extension to Business Navigator (Groundwork Derby & Derbyshire) - feasibility for a recycling scheme for small businesses.
- South Derbyshire Skills (South Derbyshire District Council) - research/feasibility in training/skills needs and provision, including business incubation.

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- Rosliston Business Units (South Derbyshire District Council) - feasibility followed by construction of business units using timber.
- Business Plan (West Street Partnership) - Business Plan for a mixed-use community asset development in the town centre.
- The Conkers Circuit Extension (National Forest Company) - multi-purpose trail linking Conkers, the new Youth Hostel and Swadlincote Town Centre.
- Earnest Hall Way (South Derbyshire District Council) - business premises improvements adjacent to the Morisson's site.

Given the timescales, the process of identifying projects for 2008/09 is already underway and the deadline for submission of Expressions of Interest has been set as 17 December 2007. Typically, there is a minimum grant of £25,000 and a maximum level of DDEP funding of 50% of the total value of the project.

It is proposed that projects will be appraised by the Vibrant Economy Group on the 25 January 2008, in terms of their contribution to LSP and DDEP objectives and their deliverability. This meeting will be open to all interested parties. With respect to LSP priorities, it is proposed that projects will be assessed against the LSP's Community Strategy.

Projects identified as priorities for the coming year will then be invited to submit a full application for DDEP to appraise, with a view to commencing in April 2008.

Recommendations

It is recommended that the Board: -

1. Identifies any priorities beyond those already set out in the Community Strategy 2005-2010 to guide the allocation of DDEP funds in 2008/09.
2. Delegates authority for the appraisal of applications for funding support to the Vibrant Economy Group.

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