

To: Members of the Special Sub-Group

Councillors Humphreys, Phillips, Smith, M Stanley and Sweet

For the information of the other Members of the Council

SPECIAL SUB-GROUP

21 APRIL 2015

The Special Sub-Group will meet in the Committee Room, The Council House, South Street, Atherstone on Tuesday 21 April 2015 at **5.00 pm**.

AGENDA

PART I - PUBLIC BUSINESS

- 1 Evacuation Procedure.**
- 2 Apologies for Absence / Members away on official Council business.**
- 3 Disclosable Pecuniary and Non-Pecuniary Interests**
- 4 Public Participation**

Up to twenty minutes will be set aside for members of the public to ask questions or to put their views to elected Members. Participants are restricted to five minutes each. If you wish to speak at the meeting please contact David Harris on 01827 719222 or email democraticservices@northwarks.gov.uk.

**PART A – ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION AND DECISION
(WHITE PAPERS)**

- 5 **Local Enterprise Partnership Funding** – Report of the Chief Executive

Summary:

The purpose of this report is to enable the Sub-Group to consider a request for funding from Coventry and Warwickshire LEP for 2015/16.

The Contact Officer for this report is Jerry Hutchinson (719200).

**PART C – EXEMPT INFORMATION
(GOLD PAPERS)**

- 6 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

Recommendation:

That under Section 11A(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following items of business, on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined by Schedule 12A to the Act.

- 7 **Parking Manager** – Report of the Assistant Director (Streetscape)

The Contact Officer for this report is Richard Dobbs (719440).

- 8 **Review of the Development Control Section** – Report of the Assistant Chief Executive and Solicitor to the Council

The Contact Officer for this report is Jeff Brown (719310).

- 9 **Honorarium Payment – Private Sector Team** - Report of the Assistant Director (Housing)

The Contact Officer for this report is Angela Coates (719369).

- 10 **Housing Maintenance Service – Staff Requirements** - Report of the Assistant Director (Housing)

The Contact Officer for this report is Angela Coates (719369).

JERRY HUTCHINSON
Chief Executive

For general enquiries please contact David Harris, Democratic Services Manager, on 01827 719222 or via e-mail – davidharris@northwarks.gov.uk.

For enquiries about specific reports please contact the officer named in the report.

Agenda Item No 5

Special Sub-Group

21 April 2015

Report of the Chief Executive

LEP Funding

1 Summary

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to enable the Sub-Group to consider a request for funding from Coventry and Warwickshire LEP for 2015/16.

Recommendation to the Sub-Group

That the Sub-Group determines the response for the request from the LEP for £20,000.

2 Consultation

- 2.1 The report has implications for the whole Borough and no specific consultation has therefore taken place.

3 Background

- 3.1 Members may recall that, in February 2014, I reported to this Group that a request had been made by the LEP for the Council to provide £15,000 of match-funding, to enable the LEP to be able to draw-down its core funding from Government. The other District Councils had received a similar request.
- 3.2 Members, in considering the request, remained unhappy about lack of representation on the LEP, as well as wanting to be satisfied that LEP activity had benefitted North Warwickshire.
- 3.3 I was able to obtain evidence that North Warwickshire had benefitted from grants totalling £315,000 plus additional work and, on this basis, Members agreed to the necessary contribution to the shortfall being made although, ultimately, this amounted to somewhat less than £15,000.

4 Request for 2015-16

- 4.1 The position this year is that no request for funding was received during 2014, other than a reference in a letter from the Chief Executive of the LEP in early December that there had been a suggestion that a joint secretariat, managed through the CWLEP office, is operated for both the Economic Prosperity Board (EPB)/Joint Committee and the CWLEP Board and that, if accepted,

there would be a requirement for additional support for the CWLEP secretariat which we were asked to consider, in the form of an additional person to carry out administrative work, including organising meetings and taking minutes.

- 4.2 I then received a letter in early February, after Budget papers had gone out, seeking financial support for 2015/16. The justification for that request is set out in the letter dated 5 February 2015, comprising the Appendix to this report.
- ...
- 4.3 The letter provided details of jobs created and grants obtained for North Warwickshire due to LEP activity and this indicates a higher level of grant than last year. It should also be borne in mind that we do have a number of residents who work in other parts of the sub-region, particularly Nuneaton and Coventry, so we do potentially benefit from work that the LEP carries out to attract investment to those area.
- 4.4 I responded to the letter explaining that it was too late in the budget process for the issue to be dealt with immediately, particularly as there had, to my knowledge, been no prior warning for the request.
- 4.5 Having now had time to look at the request, a number of things have changed since last year.
- 4.6 First, and most significantly, there have been changes in the joint operating arrangements for both the LEP and the Joint Committee/Shadow EPB which has created greater opportunities for District involvement in both the influencing and decision-making process.
- 4.7 In particular, Steve Maxey is the key officer point of liaison for the five Warwickshire Districts and Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council and sits as the sole District representative on the Joint Executive Group, as well as on the LEP Bodies dealing with Culture and Tourism and, significantly, European Funding.
- 4.8 This should put North Warwickshire in a good position to be aware of and influence key decisions, although the significant amount of work that Steve Maxey does in this role should not be underestimated.
- 4.9 In addition, the Shadow EPB/Joint Committee is working more effectively now and recent agreement has been given to a fairer geographical spread of District Representation in the LEP and joint bodies.
- 4.10 There is also an opportunity to be involved in the process of bidding for European Funding, so it seems to me that there is a greater reason for optimism that the Borough can benefit more from the LEP in the future than it has in the past.

- 4.11 Finally, the LEP does have a light staffing structure compared with other LEP areas so, if the structure is now to carry out two functions, the staffing increase seems reasonable.
- 4.12 Bearing in mind that the LEP has, in addition, provided evidence of a higher level of grant coming into the Borough than in the previous year, it would seem reasonable for Members to agree to this request.
- 4.13 Having said that, the timing and transparency of requests does need improving for future years. I suspect that one of the problems that the LEP has is the lateness of receiving grant confirmation but, nevertheless, if partners are to be asked for funding, there needs to be some early indication of the likely level.
- 4.14 Consequently, should Members agree to this request, I would further recommend that the District Chief Executives and the LEP Chief Executive be requested to agree a transparent process for future LEP funding to include:-
- (a) A breakdown of LEP expenditure;
 - (b) A breakdown of financial contributions and other income; and
 - (c) Projected outcomes.
- 4.15 Ideally, this should be on a three year rolling programme and include where the contributions are made in kind.

5 Conclusion

- 5.1 That the LEP request for 2015/16 be agreed as a one-off and that timely and transparent arrangements be put in place for future years.

6 Report Implications

6.1 Finance and Value for Money Implications

- 6.1.1 These are set out in the report.

6.2 Links to Council's Priorities

6.2.1 Local Employment

The Contact Officer for this report is Jerry Hutchinson (719200).

Background Papers

Local Government Act 1972 Section 100D, as substituted by the
Local Government Act, 2000, Section 97

Background Paper No	Author	Nature of Background Paper	Date
None			



Jerry Hutchinson
Chief Executive
North Warwickshire Borough Council

5 February 2015

Dear Jerry

Funding for CWLEP – 2015/16

I am writing in my capacity as Chief Executive of CWLEP to once again seek financial support from your District to the work of the LEP. There are three reasons for this:

1. CWLEP is able to access another tranche of funding from Government for 2015/16. Our understanding is that this will be the last funding that is committed to LEP's although this may change after the May election. The total cash grant that is available is £500k but again is subject to match-funding from local partners. Most districts/boroughs contributed £15k to the match-funding requirement last year, which was very much appreciated, with the balance coming from Coventry City Council and Warwickshire County Council.
2. The second reason for requesting additional financial support is to help the LEP to meet its commitment to provide secretariat services to the Joint Committee/Shadow EPB. There will be a resource associated with this as I highlighted to you in my letter of 4 December 2014. In the absence of anything tangible resulting from my letter we will be recruiting to an administrative post that will, in part, provide the required support.
3. Finally you will know that the new European Programme (known as ESIF) has been facilitated through the LEP. This is not an absolute responsibility of LEP's and there will be no money available to support its administration until Technical Assistance becomes available which probably will not be until 2016. However in the short term there is a lot of work that is required to service the LEP-Area ESIF Committee and to develop open calls so that when the programme starts Coventry and Warwickshire can hit the ground running. Again we will need to find resource to be able to do that.

In view of these resource demands I am asking each of the Districts and Boroughs to contribute £20k for 2015/16 and I hope that this request will be considered favourably. CWLEP provides considerable value for money to Coventry and Warwickshire, both directly and through the Growth Hub, and to help your decision making I have attached a data sheet that shows what we have contributed to the economy of North Warwickshire during 2014.

Unless I hear anything to the contrary I will ask Roger Dowthwaite to raise an invoice at the end of February.

Yours Sincerely

CWLEP Chief Executive



CWLEP Grant Support in North Warwickshire: 2014



£421k
in grants



3
businesses



59
new jobs

Business funding totalling £421k has been awarded to 3 businesses within North Warwickshire during 2014. This will create 59 jobs and lever in £2.4m private investment.

CWLEP operates a single application process that can be used to access all business grant funding, and is constantly seeking new sources of funding for Coventry and Warwickshire businesses. **Every grant application from North Warwickshire-based businesses was approved by the grants panel during 2014, and the panel is keen to receive more applications from the area.**

CW Growth Hub Support to Business

Coventry and Warwickshire Growth Hub has appointed a named account manager for businesses in North Warwickshire District.



Rachael Delich,
CW Growth Hub Account Manager, North Warwickshire

rachael.delich@cwgrowthhub.co.uk

(02476) 823 679

(07791) 858 427

Rachael is currently working with 22 businesses in North Warwickshire and is keen to receive new referrals for businesses in the area. Rachael Delich has 25 years' experience at Coventry City Council most recently working as Business Development Officer. She can also help businesses to access the other specialist support available from the Growth Hub including planning advice and skills.

Case Study: MGB Whitehouse/Aermotive

MGB Whitehouse/Aermotive was awarded a grant of £400k from RGF4 toward the conversion of a residential country manor to offices and other space converted for manufacturing and testing purposes, and will result in the creation of 51 Jobs.