
Report to: Cabinet

Date of Report: 25th April 2013

Subject: Coastal Communities Fund Bid

Report of: Director of Built Environment

Wards Affected: The main wards are Meols, Dukes, Cambridge, Norwood, Kew, Birkdale, Ainsdale, Harrington, Ravenmeols, Manor, Blundell Sands, Church and Victoria.

Is this a Key Decision? Yes

Is it included in the Forward Plan? Yes

Exempt/Confidential: No

Purpose/Summary

The purpose of this report is to ask for approval from Cabinet to proceed with the development of an application for Coastal Communities Funding for the second bidding round which has recently been launched. The funds being made available for the CCF Round 2 in England amount to £21.7m.

Recommendations

That Cabinet;

1. Approves the development of a Coastal Communities Fund application for grant funding as described in the report;
2. Delegates approval and submission of the completed funding application to the Director of Built Environment in consultation with the Cabinet Member Regeneration and Tourism;
3. Receives a further report in the event that the bid for funding is successful.

How does the decision contribute to the Council’s Corporate Objectives?

<u>Corporate Objective</u>		<u>Positive Impact</u>	<u>Neutral Impact</u>	<u>Negative Impact</u>
1	Creating a Learning Community		/	
2	Jobs and Prosperity	/		
3	Environmental Sustainability	/		
4	Health and Well-Being	/		
5	Children and Young People		/	
6	Creating Safe Communities		/	
7	Creating Inclusive Communities		/	
8	Improving the Quality of Council Services and Strengthening Local Democracy		/	

Reasons for the Recommendation(s):

To enable progress to be made in respect of an external funding application.

What will it cost and how will it be financed?

Any costs to the Council in preparing a Coastal communities Fund Bid will be met either from the reserves of Economy & Tourism Service or from external funding. There is no call on Council funding.

Implications:

The following implications of this proposal have been considered and where there are specific implications, these are set out below:

Legal None	
Human Resources None	
Equality	
1. No Equality Implication	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Equality Implications identified and mitigated	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Equality Implication identified and risk remains	<input type="checkbox"/>

Impact on Service Delivery:

Not applicable.

What consultations have taken place on the proposals and when?

The Head of Corporate Finance and ICT (FD2223) has been consulted and has no comments on this report as there are no direct financial implications as a result of it.

The Head of Corporate Legal Services (LD1539/13) has been consulted and has incorporated their comments in this report.

Are there any other options available for consideration?

Not to apply for CCF would be to forego a major funding opportunity, at a time of financial constraint.

Implementation Date for the Decision

Following the expiry of the “call-in” period for the Minutes of the Cabinet

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Background Papers:

None

Background

1. In March 2012 the Government launched the Coastal Communities Fund to support economic development projects in coastal areas across the UK. This is being delivered on behalf of the government by the Big Lottery Fund.
2. The Coastal Communities Fund is designed to **support the economic development of coastal communities by promoting sustainable economic growth and jobs**. Capital and revenue grants are available for a wide range of applicant organisations and projects which benefit coastal communities. <http://www.communities.gov.uk/news/corporate/2198622>
3. Previously the Council gave its support to the application by Southport Tourism Business Network for the town of Southport, but also extended along the coast through Ainsdale and Formby to Crosby. This bid was unsuccessful in Round 1.

Proposal

4. An initial meeting and correspondence has taken place between the Economy and Tourism Service, Southport College, Sefton CVS and the private sector representatives of the Southport BID Team. Discussion has covered the fit between Sefton's economic objectives and the objectives of the Fund; the characteristics of bids successful in round 1; and the likely timetable for round 2. Based on this, the Council has invited partners to support an outline model for a similar geographical area to the previous bid, but with a focus on
 - Place Marketing
 - Inward Investment
 - An Enterprise and Business "Growth Hub"
 - Job Brokerage and Skills
5. Partners have agreed to undertake further work over the next weeks to scope and refine the activity, outputs and wider benefits of these four workstreams, as co-ordinated by the Economy and Tourism Service. An indicative size of £1.5 million has been placed on the bid.
6. A successful application could mitigate the impact of the recession, support an emergent Southport Business Improvement District, create jobs, improve skills, help young people and nurture enterprise.