
Subject: 'STEPPING STONES' – APPLICATION TO THE INTERREG CHANNEL PROGRAMME

Meeting and Date: Cabinet – 10 September 2018

Report of: Richard Haynes, Natural Environment Manager

Portfolio Holder: Trevor Bartlett, Portfolio Holder for Property Management and Environmental Health

Decision Type: Non-Key Decision

Classification: Unrestricted

Purpose of the report: To seek Cabinet approval to be the applicant and lead partner in a c. £450,000 bid to the Interreg Channel Programme for Micro Project focusing on increasing the skills of local people in the countryside and parks and opens spaces sector.

Recommendation: That Cabinet agrees for Dover District Council to be the applicant and lead partner in the above project and, if successful, agrees to accept the offer of grant funding.

1. Summary

One of the priorities of the Up on the Downs Partnership's legacy work was to focus on projects to increase the skills of local communities, within the context of the environment and heritage sectors. Initial scoping work has led to the development of a cross-channel partnership and the preparation of an application to the Interreg Channel Programme for a Micro Project – Stepping Stones – up to the value of c. £450,000. If successful, the project will provide training and personal development for people from disadvantaged backgrounds in the Dover district.

2. Introduction and Background

2.1 Please see appended report - *Stepping Stones Micro Project Risk Report* the PowerPoint *Stepping Stones Micro Project*.

3. Identification of Options

3.1 Option 1 – not to authorise the application to the Interreg Channel Programme for the Stepping Stones project.

3.2 Option 2 – to authorise the application to the Interreg Channel Programme for the Stepping Stones project but not to accept any subsequent grant offer to deliver the project.

3.3 Option 3 - to authorise the application to the Interreg Channel Programme for the Stepping Stones project and to authorise officers to accept any subsequent grant offer to deliver the project.

4. Evaluation of Options

4.1 Option 1 – this is not recommended as it would miss an opportunity to benefit some of our residents from disadvantaged backgrounds with minimal risk to or investment

from DCC. It would also cause some reputational damage with the partnership that's been developed.

4.2 Option 2 – this is not recommended as it makes no sense.

4.3 Option 3 – this is the recommended option as it will allow DDC/WCCP to lead a positive project in the district that will not only benefit residents but provide resilience to the White Cliffs Countryside Partnership (WCCP) core team.

5. **Resource Implications**

5.1 If the application is successful, WCCP will receive 8,000 euros as reimbursement for time given to the application process.

5.2 If successful all services and capital purchase will be funded at 80% by Interreg, with new and existing staff time funded at 95%.

5.3 The bulk of our proposed budget will be existing staff time, meaning we will get 95% of their salary paid, mostly for work, more or less, they already do.

5.4 It is anticipated that the project will be cost neutral to WCCP but any deficit incurred would be met by WCCP reserves.

5.5 As lead partner, DDC will not be liable for any default etc. by the other partners.

6. **Corporate Implications**

6.1 Comment from the Section 151 Officer: The Section 151 Officer and the Accountancy Section have been consulted on the report and have no further comments to add. (LS)

6.2 Comment from the Solicitor to the Council: The Solicitor to the Council has been consulted in the preparation of this report and has no further comments to make.

6.3 Comment from the Equalities Officer: This report does not specifically highlight any equality implications, however in discharging their duties members are required to comply with the public sector equality duty as set out in section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2010/15>

6.4 Other Officers (as appropriate): None.

7. **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Stepping Stones Micro Project Risk Report

Appendix 2 – Stepping Stones Micro Project

8. **Background Papers**

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