

WIRRAL COUNCIL

CABINET – 20th JUNE 2007

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY CHIEF EXECUTIVE/ DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE SERVICES

LOCAL ENTERPRISE GROWTH INITIATIVE (LEGI)

1. Executive Summary

1.1 This report advises Members on the latest situation regarding the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) and requests authorisation for the appointment of consultants to develop a Round 3 Application.

2. Local Enterprise Growth Initiative

2.1 LEGI is a joint initiative between the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG), HM Treasury and the Department for Trade and Industry. It seeks to promote business growth in areas which have a long standing dearth of inward investment and high levels of unemployment.

2.2 The Government is expected to announce the funding available for LEGI Round 3 in the Comprehensive Spending Review 2007 (CSR 2007), which is not expected until the autumn 2007.

2.3 However, building on experience gained from Round 2 of LEGI, in which Wirral's application was unsuccessful, there is a clear requirement to work closely with the Private Sector to strengthen a Round 3 bid. This was the advice received in the formal feedback from the North West Development Agency.

2.4 The benefits of appointing Consultants to write this application is to build on the evidence base that has been developed for Wirral's Full Employment and Enterprise Strategies and commission them to facilitate a number of seminars to ensure that Wirral submission is in full partnership with the Private Sector and also our Voluntary and Community Sector.

2.5 The Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services will lead on the procurement of the LEGI application which will be done in line with the Investment Strategy and other Action Plans.

2.6 Further reports will be brought to Members updating on progress.

3. FINANCIAL & STAFFING IMPLICATIONS

3.1 The cost of the commissioning Consultants to prepare the LEGI bid will be fully funded from the monies made available by the CLG for LEGI development purposes.

3.2 Members are advised that the only risk involved in the commissioning of this work is that there is a possibility that LEGI Round 3 may not figure in CSR 2007. In which case, the LEGI work would be utilised in further work.

- 3.3 However, a successful LEGI bid will allow Wirral Council and its partners to lever in additional funds by utilising LEGI as match funding for the new European Programme.
4. **Local Member Support**
- 4.1 There are no implications for individual wards arising directly from this report.
5. **Equal Opportunity Implications**
- 5.1 There are none arising directly from this report.
6. **Human Right Implications**
- 6.1 There are none arising directly from this report.
7. **Local Agenda 21 Implications**
- 7.1 There are none arising directly from this report.
8. **Community Safety Implications**
- 8.1 There are none arising directly from this report.
9. **Planning Implications**
- 9.1 There are none arising directly from this report.
10. **Background Papers**
- 10.1 Further information on LEGI can be obtained by contacting Alan Evans in the Economic Policy Team on 0151 691 8426.
11. **Recommendations**
- That officers be authorised to appoint consultants to develop a Local Enterprise Growth Initiative Application.

J. WILKIE

Deputy Chief Executive/Director of Corporate Services