

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Cabinet

### Date: 16 January 2017

#### ITEM 6c

Title: North of Tyne  
Fisheries Local Action  
Group (FLAG)

Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor

Cabinet Member(s): Mrs N Redfearn

#### Report from Service

Area: Business and Economic Development

Responsible Officer: Paul Buie - Head of Business and Economic Development (Tel: (0191) 643 6091 )

Wards affected: Tynemouth, Riverside and Cullercoats

### PART 1

#### 1.1 Executive Summary:

The European Maritime and Fisheries Fund (EMFF) in England is funding up to 6 Fisheries Local Action Groups (FLAGs) to deliver fisheries focused Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) in England.. This will be done through a Local Development Strategy (LDS) designed by each of the FLAGs. Key focuses of FLAGs under EMFF will be supporting fishing communities to adapt to the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP) and supporting sustainable economic growth. This is unaffected by Brexit.

This Report outlines the progress of the successful North of Tyne Fisheries Local Action Group (FLAG) bid, which was led by Northumberland County Council (NCC) as the Lead Authority, and requests Cabinet to note the funding awarded to Northumberland County Council, as Lead Authority, so that it can benefit North Tyneside's two fishing communities: North Shields Fish Quay and Cullercoats.

#### 1.2 Recommendation(s):

It is recommended that Cabinet note the success of North of Tyne Fisheries Local Action Group EMFF bid to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the potential benefit the award from the Fund will provide to the North Shields and Cullercoats fishing communities.

#### 1.3 Forward Plan:

Twenty eight days notice of this report has been given and it first appeared on the Forward Plan that was published on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2016.

#### 1.4 Council Plan and Policy Framework

This report relates to the following priorities in the 2014/18 Our North Tyneside Plan:

## **Our economy will**

Grow by building on our strengths, including our existing world-class companies, and small and growing businesses

Have the right skills and conditions to support investment, and create and sustain new, good-quality jobs and apprenticeships for working-age people

## **We will know we have been successful when**

There has been an increase in business start ups and inward investment

More jobs have been created, including apprenticeships

Local employers find it easier to recruit the skilled workforce that they need from the local area

## **1.5 Information:**

### Background

- 1.5.1 Fisheries areas across the EU are facing significant challenges. The continuous decline in income and employment in the fishing sector has underlined the need for innovative responses that are both sustainable and inclusive.
- 1.5.2 Community-Led Local Development (CLLD) is a tool that enables local fisheries communities to address these challenges at a grass-roots level using the knowledge of local stakeholders to tackle local issues.
- 1.5.3 The budget available is €6.4m which represents over 9% of the total EMFF Budget available in England. To focus the benefits of this approach FLAG Local Development Strategies will be delivered over a maximum of 3 years.
- 1.5.4 The Authority made a joint bid with Northumberland County Council, on behalf of the North of Tyne Fisheries Local Action Group, which covers the north of Tyne stretch of coastline from the North Shields Fish Quay up to Berwick. Stage 1 approval was given by the Marine Management Organisation (MMO) in spring 2016 and we were invited to submit a Stage 2 bid, which focused on the production of a Local Development Strategy. Stage 2 approval was awarded by the MMO on 1 November 2016
- 1.5.5 Stage 2 and the selection of the Local Development Strategies looked at key areas including:
  - The extent to which the local area will be affected by the reformed CFP and how an LDS will mitigate these issues;
  - How sustainable economic growth can be developed and enhanced at the local level;
  - Ways in which the EMFF funding can be used to leverage other investment into the area; and
  - The capacity and capability of the group to deliver the LDS

- 1.5.6 The North of Tyne FLAG has been given an allocation of £0.800m of funding based on our strategy. The budget covers three years. NCC is the accountable body and will administer the fund.
- 1.5.7 Individuals or groups from the fishing or aquaculture sector and their supply chains can bid into the available EMFF / North of Tyne FLAG fund and a Programme Officer employed by Northumberland County Council and through the fund will lead on ensuring these bids are suitable and maximise improvements to the areas fishing communities.
- 1.5.8 Building on the Stage 1 application, the overall goal of the Strategy is to foster a vibrant fishing industry and fishing communities whilst promoting environmentally sustainable, socially responsible and smart sustainable growth within fisheries and aquaculture in the North of the Tyne area.

This translates into *four objectives*:

- i) Engaging with the fishing industry and communities to produce projects that support the sustainable development of fishing and aquaculture.
- ii) Bringing together a partnership of public, private, voluntary and community sector representatives to support the delivery of the Strategy – delivering a community-led local development approach in the context of fishing and aquaculture.
- iii) Ensuring the economic viability of fishermen's livelihoods, supporting the diversification of local economies dependent on fisheries and aquaculture into other sectors of the marine economy, and driving sustainable economic growth.
- iv) Fostering implementation of the reformed Common Fisheries Policy (CFP).

This enabled the identification of the following four priorities:

- i) Development of small scale infrastructure at ports and harbours,
- ii) Marketing, branding and processing
- iii) Training, retention, recruitment, diversification and CFP reform, and
- iv) Collaborative and applied research between fishermen and scientists.

The Authority's coastal fishing sector could benefit from the available £0.600m worth of funding across the whole FLAG area, with no financial contribution from the Authority and minimal officer time. The total funding available for the North of Tyne FLAG area is £0.8m with £0.2m of this allocated to administration costs and £0.6m available to fishing communities throughout the area.

## **1.6 Decision options:**

The following decision options are available for consideration by Cabinet:

### Option 1

Note the success of North of Tyne Fisheries Local Action Group EMFF bid to the European Maritime and Fisheries Fund and the potential benefit the award from the Fund will provide to the North Shields and Cullercoats fishing communities.

### Option 2

Request Officers to investigate other options in relation to fishing communities in North Shields and Cullercoats.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

### **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

Option 1 is recommended for the following reasons:

The fishing sector communities in North Tyneside could benefit significantly from the Fund through the provision the economic development opportunities.

### **1.8 Appendices:**

Appendix 1: [North of Tyne FLAG LDS, Northumberland County Council, 05.08.16]

Appendix 2: [Award letter and framework agreement from the MMO, 31.10.16]

### **1.9 Contact officers:**

Graham Sword, Senior Regeneration Manager, Business and Economic Development, tel. (0191 643 6421)

Daniel Wise, Regeneration Officer, Business and Economic Development, tel. (0191 643 6427)

Alison Campbell, Senior Business Partner, Finance, tel. (0191 643 7038)

### **1.10 Background information:**

The following background papers have been used in the compilation of this report and are available at the office of the author:

- (1) FLAG application form and guidance notes  
(<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/european-maritime-and-fisheries-fund-emff-fisheries-local-action-groups-flags>)
- (2) North Shields Fish Quay Conservation Area Character Statement  
([http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/minutes/cabinet/2006\\_05\\_16/new%20quay%20fish%20quay%20character%20statement.pdf](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/minutes/cabinet/2006_05_16/new%20quay%20fish%20quay%20character%20statement.pdf))
- (3) Fish Quay and New Quay Conservation Areas Management Strategy 2007  
([http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC\\_PSCM.PSCM\\_Web.download?p\\_ID=512140](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=512140))
- (4) North Shields Fish Quay Neighborhood Plan (April 2013)  
([http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse-display.shtml?p\\_ID=529555&p\\_subjectCategory=32](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/browse-display.shtml?p_ID=529555&p_subjectCategory=32))
- (5) North Shields Fish Quay Coastal Community Team Economic Plan 2016  
(<http://www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/coastal-teams/north-shields/>)
- (6) North Tyneside's Economic Regeneration Strategy 2006-2020  
([http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC\\_PSCM.PSCM\\_Web.download?p\\_ID=27073](http://www.northtyneside.gov.uk/pls/portal/NTC_PSCM.PSCM_Web.download?p_ID=27073))

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1 Finance and other resources**

NCC is the accountable body and will administer the fund.

The Authority is not required to provide any match funding and all staff (Programme Officer) employed through the fund will be employed by Northumberland County Council. Therefore there is no employment liability for the Authority.

The funding has no financial implications for the Authority.

### **2.2 Legal**

There are no direct legal implications for the Authority arising from this report. However, should the Authority directly receive future grant funding from the fund, the potential for state aid implications would need to be addressed.

State aid is any advantage or benefit provided by a public body or using state resources to any undertaking and can include grants loans, financial guarantees or disposal of assets at an undervalue. The European Commission has powers to monitor, control and restrict the forms and levels of 'aid' provided.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

#### **2.3.1 Internal Consultation**

- The Elected Mayor
- Deputy Mayor
- Councillor Brian Burdis (North Tyneside's representative on Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NIFCA))
- Ward Councillors (Riverside, Tynemouth and Cullercoats Wards)

#### **2.3.2 External Consultation/Engagement**

- Fishing communities of North Shields and Cullercoats, including fisherman and fish processors
- Northumberland Inshore Fisheries and Conservations Authority (NIFCA)
- North Shields Fish Quay Coastal Community Team, including Folk Interested in Shields Harbour (F.I.S.H.), Fish Quay Development Company (FQDC) and the Old Low Light.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equality or diversity implications arising from this report.

### **2.6 Risk management**

There are risk management implications arising from this report.

## 2.7 Crime and disorder

There are no crime or disorder implications arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

Environmental and sustainability implications will depend on what projects are brought forward by individuals or groups applying for the fund and appropriate assessments will be made on a project by project basis.

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive  X
- Head(s) of Service  X
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  X
- Chief Finance Officer  X
- Monitoring Officer  X
- Head of Corporate Strategy  X