

<b>Report to</b>	Cabinet
<b>Date of meeting</b>	25 <sup>th</sup> May 2021
<b>Lead Member / Officer</b>	Cllr Hugh Evans/Graham Boase
<b>Report author</b>	Emlyn Jones Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services
<b>Title</b>	UK Government Levelling Up funding – Clwyd South Constituency

## **1. What is the report about?**

1.1 This report relates to United Kingdom (UK) Government ‘Regeneration’ funding called Levelling Up. The purpose of Fund is to invest in infrastructure that improves everyday life, including regenerating town centres and high streets, upgrading local transport, and investing in cultural and heritage assets.

## **2. What is the reason for making this report?**

2.1 A decision is required to provide delegated authority to the Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm and Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, Monitoring Officer and the Leader, to agree a Levelling Up bid to be submitted to UK Government from Denbighshire County Council in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council for the Constituency of Clwyd South. This will be following discussions with local Dee Valley Members.

## **3. What are the Recommendations?**

3.1 That Cabinet provides delegated authority to the Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm and Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services in consultation with the Section 151 Officer, Head of Legal, HR and Democratic Services and the Leader, to agree a bid to be submitted to UK Government from Denbighshire

County Council in partnership with Wrexham County Borough Council for the Constituency of Clwyd South. This will be following discussions with local Dee Valley Members.

## 4. Report details

- 4.1 The Levelling Up Funding will be delivered through local authorities. Areas within the UK have been placed into Category 1, 2, or 3, with Category 1 representing places with the highest levels of identified need. Denbighshire is Category 1.
- 4.2 Each LA can have a number of bids in line with the number of MPs in that area i.e. the funding is for MP constituency areas, not LA areas. If the constituency covers more than one LA area then a decision is needed on which LA will Lead. Each constituency area bid can be up to a max of £20m of Capital funding. Bids can be for single projects or a package of “related” projects but they need to be coherent.
- 4.3 MPs should be consulted, and should support the bids. The amount of funding each area receives will be determined on a competitive basis to ensure value for money.
- 4.4 £125k capacity revenue funding will be allocated to each LA to support the develop of bids.
- 4.5 The Fund is a one off i.e. one application per constituency area, and any successful bid must be delivered by March 2024. There is an initial deadline of 18 June 2021 to submit a bid, although it is clear that other deadlines for submission will be published in due course, although the delivery date of March 2024 will be retained.
- 4.6 Denbighshire has 3 MP constituency areas within the County i.e.
  - Vale of Clwyd (James Davies MP)
  - Clwyd West (David Jones MP)
  - Clwyd South (Simon Baynes MP)

Two of the constituencies are cross border. In terms of Clwyd South we will need to work in partnership with Wrexham CBC, with the largest part of the constituency being in Wrexham CBC

### Clwyd South Constituency

- 4.7 The Leader and Senior Officers have met informally with all 3 MPs together and individually.
- 4.8 Senior officers from DCC and WCBC have met on several occasions to develop a joint bid. There is a strong desire in Wrexham CBC to submit a bid of circa £20m by 18 June 2021. This is an extremely challenging deadline, however we are confident that we can meet the deadline.

4.9 We have met with various officers across DCC services to identify potentially eligible projects within the Llangollen and Corwen area. We have also had meetings with the local Members and Llangollen Town Council to date.

The Clwyd South MP (Simon Baynes MP) has a clear strategic vision for what he wants, and it is shared by Wrexham CBC.

4.10 From the work done to date, we are confident that we have projects that are a 'strategic fit' with the vision for the joint bid. Many of the projects are well developed, have already had local Member and community involvement and we are confident that we can submit a developed bid in partnership with Wrexham CBC.

4.11 Due to the extremely challenging timescales, we are requesting that delegated authority be provided to the Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm and Head of Planning, Public Protection and Countryside Services in consultation with Head of Legal Services, Section 151 Officer and Leader to approve the Levelling Up bid to be submitted to UK Government for the Clwyd South Constituency. This will also be following engagement with the local Dee Valley Members. If the bid is approved by UK Government a report will be presented to Strategic Investment Group (SIG).

4.12 We have more time to prepare a bid for the Clwyd West and Vale of Clwyd constituencies, which will be submitted to UK Government at a later deadline and will follow our usual corporate/Member approval processes in accordance with the Council's constitution.

## **5. How does the decision contribute to the Corporate Priorities?**

5.1 This decision will contribute to many of the Council's corporate priorities as well as other corporate strategies.

## **6. What will it cost and how will it affect other services?**

6.1. Capacity revenue funding is being provided by UK Government to help Councils develop bids and projects. If funding bids are approved, further capacity funding may be required to further develop and implement any approved projects.

## **7. What are the main conclusions of the Well-being Impact Assessment?**

7.1. A wellbeing impact assessment will be submitted with the bid.

## **8. What consultations have been carried out with Scrutiny and others?**

8.1. Consultation has taken place with Lead Member for Economy, various DCC Services, Local Members, Wrexham CBC, Simon Baynes MP

## **9. Chief Finance Officer Statement**

This is clearly an unusual situation with extremely tight deadlines. Failure to engage with the Clwyd South Constituency Bid could result in loss of investment in our communities and reputational damage to the Council. The proposal in this instance is supported. As highlighted in Section 4 it is important that the bids for the Clwyd West and Vale of Clwyd constituencies, which will be submitted to UK Government at a later deadline will follow our usual capital approval processes, including taking bids to SIG prior to submission. This report will be shared with SIG if approved to keep them informed of the position.

## **10. What risks are there and is there anything we can do to reduce them?**

10.1. The risks are limited and managed. An alternative, robust decision making process will be put in place to approve the bid including agreement from key senior officer and Leader.

## **11. Power to make the decision**

### **Sub-heading (delete as needed)**

11.1.s111 Local Government Act 1972

s2 Local Government Act 2000