

Business & Property Committee

Report title:	France (Channel) England Annual Update
Date of meeting:	5 March 2019
Responsible Chief Officer:	Tom McCabe – Executive Director, Community and Environmental Services
Strategic impact	
<p>The County Council has a strategy of drawing down funding to support the economic growth aspirations of the county. By managing the France (Channel) England INTERREG programme, the Council is able to secure additional funds for the county and raise the Council's profile with the UK and EU authorities.</p>	

Executive summary

This report accompanies the presentation on the France (Channel) England Programme (FCEP), an EU INTERREG programme, which is worth **€209m** over seven years.

The County Council successfully bid to manage the FCEP and is the first Managing Authority (MA) in England for European Territorial Cooperation programmes. The team works closely with the national bodies for the UK and the EU.

Part of the rationale for bidding was that, historically, the MA has been able to shape the programme and draw down significant amounts of funding. The programme pays up to 69% of the cost for "common projects" and management costs are covered by the programme.

The FCEP has an emphasis on impact and being able to measure the long term economic impact of projects, of delivering change. Some examples of live projects are included in the presentation.

The programme can commit funding until the end 2020 (the final bidding round is likely to be June 2020) and projects can run through to 2023.

Brexit is clearly a concern, and we are working closely with the UK and EU authorities to:

- Develop large-scale targeted projects that will maximise drawdown of funding as quickly as possible
- Plan for exiting the EU, both with and without a deal.

Recommendations:

Members are invited to ask any questions on the presentation and to determine whether there are any issues they would like to explore further.

1. Proposal

- 1.1. The attached slides provide an overview of the France (Channel) England programme performance to date, including steps being taken to maximise spend to 2023 and mitigate risks, such as Brexit.

2. Financial Implications

- 2.1. None as a result of this report.

3. Issues, risks and innovation

- 3.1. The programme prioritises Innovation as one of its key themes and the presentation touches on some examples of innovative projects.

In terms of risks, the Council maintains a detailed risk FCE register, which is regularly reviewed.

4. Background

- 4.1. Presentation to Economic Development Sub-Committee, November 2016.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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