

By: Chief Fishery Officer

To: Kent & Essex Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority
– 16 September 2020

Subject: **Fish Local update**

Classification Unrestricted

Summary:

This paper updates members as to the ongoing progress with the Fish Local project and reviews progress made in securing external funding.

Recommendations:

To use £7,000 of underspend from this financial year to keep the current Fish Local project running and 'ticking over' until London Gateway can confirm if they are willing to help financially support the project.

Update

To keep the project running KEIFCA officers have worked with Band Agency to continue to promote the project with regular posts on the website and Facebook site and officers have undertaken a survey of the fish shops in the district to get feedback and comment about the project as well as ideas on how the project could develop in the future.

Since the last meeting KEIFCA officers have worked with members of the industry and Band Agency to continue the Fish Local campaign and worked together to explore possible funding options and develop funding proposals. Leads have been followed up with both Crown Estates and London Gateway and we are in advanced talks with London Gateway as to the possible funding of a yearlong pilot project (Appendix 1). As the project has developed, we have also started working more closely with Thames Estuary Partnership. Thames Estuary Partnership have now come on board as a partner in the Fish Local project and, depending on how the project develops, could be the organisation to lead the

project in the future as they are already an independent community-based charity.

Next steps

After a series of meetings, London Gateway has shown an initial interest in funding the project and are in the process of taking the project through their internal project funding process. Costs and delivery times for the project have been discussed, however any project funding would most likely be from the 1st January 2021 (this is the beginning of London Gateways next financial year). It is thus proposed to a portion of the KEIFCA (£7,000) underspend from this financial year to keep the current project running and 'ticking over' until London Gateway could help fund the project. Maintaining the project through this period could provide support to the industry during any potential Covid 19 second wave as well as help the local seafood sector navigate through the outcomes of a post Brexit trade deal. Seafish are in the process of launching a nationwide UK seafood promotion and the Fish Local project could help cross promote this in our district.

Recommendations:

To use £7,000 of underspend from this financial year to keep the current Fish Local project running and 'ticking over' until London Gateway can confirm if they are willing to help financially support the project.