

SOUTH WHITEHAVEN NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGEMENT

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr E Woodburn
LEAD OFFICER: Mike Tichford
REPORT AUTHOR: Brian Kirkbride/Eric Poole

Summary: To present to members the agreed Neighbourhood Management Governance Board and seek agreement for delegated authority to the Board for management of the programme.

Recommendation: That Members agree:

1. To approve the Governance Structure as agreed by partners identified in Appendix A.
2. To endorse the delegated member representation on the Board as detailed in item 2.2.
3. To approve delegation of authority to the Executive Member of Environmental and Cultural Services in the capacity of Chair of the South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management Board for management responsibility of the programme (including financial profiling of the Delivery plan) to ensure delivery is achieved.

Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: Neighbourhood Management is an Initiative supported by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to target investment and public services to address neighbourhoods that experience the greatest disadvantage. The Initiative will help deliver against a number of the councils key objectives including Partnership working, Community engagement and Regeneration.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): The Neighbourhood Management Initiative will have a direct impact on addressing Crime, Health and Housing standards within the targeted neighbourhoods and helping the Council achieve its statutory objectives and support wider Objectives of other partnering agencies.

Financial and human resource implications: Approval has been agreed through the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister to support Copeland Neighbourhood Management as follows:

2006/07	£412,800
2007/08	£516,000
2008/09	£412,800*
2009/10	£258,000 *

*Subject to spending review

Cumbria County Council are the Accountable body for the Initiative, the allocation of £412,800 for 2006/07 has been agreed and offer confirmed to Copeland Borough Council.

The delegation of authority to the Management Board to control the programme will give greater flexibility to ensure that decisions can be made quickly to maximise spend within the limited time that remains for 2006/07.

Project & Risk Management:

The funding is significantly revenue funding with elements of capital funding and will be managed in line with Copeland's financial regulations.

The Neighbourhood Manager (Mr Eric Poole) is now in post which addresses an initial risk to the programme, the delegated authority sought from this report to the South Whitehaven Board will allow risk management to be addressed quickly and effectively to meet Government and Financial year deadlines.

All projects will be appraised as part of the formal process for projects being supported by the Neighbourhood Management Initiative, Risk analysis is undertaken at this time.

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** Yes
- **Ward:** N/A

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 A report was presented to the Executive on the 13th June 2006, which sought endorsement of the Neighbourhood Management Delivery Plan and agreement to appoint a Neighbourhood Manager and to endorse the geographical boundary for investment of the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund. It was agreed at the Executive that the appointment of the Neighbourhood Manager could proceed and this post has now been filled with the appointment of Mr Eric Poole. The Geographical boundary for investment was subsequently approved by the Executive on the 25th July 2006.
- 1.2 The final Delivery plan for South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management has been submitted to the Government Office a copy of the document has been circulated to members. A meeting was subsequently arranged on the 20th September 2006 between the South Whitehaven Partnership and members of the wards identified for support (Both Borough and County) and other interested parties.
- 1.3 It was subsequently agreed by all present that the form of Governance for the newly established South Whitehaven Governance Board be made up as identified in Appendix A. A further delivery structure would be established with key partners, which would operate to deliver the objectives of the South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management Board and would report to the Board through the Neighbourhood Manager.

2. GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE

- 2.1 Formulation of the new Governance Structure is required to enable local control and governance of the delivery plan and subsequent resources to address floor targets for improvement.
- 2.2 The board is to be made up of a member from each of the wards represented in the area and 2 County Council representatives for the area (Still to be nominated). The Ward members nominated for representation on the board of the South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management Board are:

- Cllr A Holliday (Kells Ward) **Chair of the Board**
- Cllr P Tyson (Sandwith Ward)
- Cllr E Brennan (Mirehouse Ward)
- Cllr G Garritty (Hensingham Ward)
- Cllr A Bradshaw (Harbour ward)
- Cumbria County Council member x 2 (To be determined)

2.3 The further positions on the Board are to be made up of the following sectors which are expected to be initially sort from representatives of the South Whitehaven Partnership who already had representatives within the majority of these sectors:

- Voluntary sector
- Private sector (Copeland Homes representative)
- Resident representative
- Community representative
- Faith representative

3. DELEGATION OF AUTHORITY

- 3.1 Government require the Neighbourhood Management Initiative to be facilitated through local governance structures. It is therefore expected that the South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management Board will have direct involvement in the management and coordination of the Delivery Plan for South Whitehaven to support the direction of resources to improve the quality of life for communities.
- 3.2 In order to be reactive to local situations within South Whitehaven it is requested that the Board is given delegated authority to oversee delivery and allocation of funding against the Delivery plan in line with similar responsibilities passed onto the South Whitehaven Partnership when they administered the SRB programme.
- 3.3 This will give enhanced control to changing circumstances within the locality and enable decisions to be made through local representatives, Council officers will support the Board to advise and direct in regard to financial accountability and project appraisals to ensure that the Council is not opened up to liabilities.
- 3.4 The Council are responsible to Cumbria County Council to ensure that the programme and resources are spent appropriately therefore reports will be presented to the Executive on a quarterly basis to inform of progress and allocation of resources. An end of year report will also be produced to summarise activity and overall impact of the Neighbourhood Management over the year.
- 3.5 The first meeting of the new Governance structure was held on the 10th November and considered a number of projects for approval to ensure that spend can be committed this financial year. The projects to be presented to the Board for a decision are as follows:

- Community Engagement Officer – To create a new post to support Community engagement within the South Whitehaven area that will support community interaction with the Board and identify local issues and aspirations for improvement. The post will be managed by Cumbria County Council but will be directly linked to the Neighbourhood Manager in regard to developing their work programme and community engagement strategy.
- Community Pot – This is a delegated fund to support a range of Community projects, which will support delivery of the Neighbourhood Management floor targets and will be considered through the Neighbourhood Management Board supported by the Neighbourhood Forum structures and Cumbria County Councils Neighbourhood development team.
- Community Wardens – A team of 3 neighbourhood wardens and a supervisor will be created for the South Whitehaven Area appointed and managed by Copeland Homes. The team will have a dedicated roll to serve the South Whitehaven area and work in partnership with the council's enforcement team, Community Safety Officers appointed through the Local Constabulary and residents.
- Appointment of support staff to the Neighbourhood Manager – Subject to consideration by Personnel Panel
- Baseline data research and support to a dedicated post across West Cumbria to advise on baseline data and monitoring

3.6 Currently the Council only has an approval for resources in 2006/07 of £412,800 and can therefore only give approval for this years expenditure and agree in principal future years allocations subject to Government approval annually. It is expected that the approval of the projects detailed above will generate expenditure in excess of £200,000 further consideration is being undertaken to maximise the remainder of expenditure but is subject to discussions with partnering organisations and Government Office.

3.7 The Neighbourhood Element of the Stronger and Safer Communities Funding has been delayed Nationally in being implemented and this has been further exasperated by a clear lack of guidance to Copeland Borough Council in regard to the administration and implementation requirements. The Community Renewal Team within Regeneration were given the role of developing the Delivery Plan and subsequently supporting implementation in July 2006 and have worked with partners and organisations to move the programme forward and to establish a local Governance structure as detailed within this report. The Community Renewal Team and the Neighbourhood Manager will continue to drive the programme forward to try to maximise expenditure.

4 CONCLUSIONS

4.1 The evolvement of the South Whitehaven Governance Board will provide a new community partnership structure that will be crucial to the delivery of the Safer and Stronger Communities funding and will give local accountability for decisions being made. The structure will allow a greater coordination of a range of resources within South Whitehaven and ensure that the greatest impact can therefore be achieved for all communities.

4.2 A meeting with members and partners will be held in the near future to raise overall awareness of the differing activities that are targeting South Whitehaven (Housing Market Renewal, Cleaner Safer and Greener Funding, Neighbourhood Element, Whitehaven Regeneration Programme) and the partnering arrangements that are in place.

List of Appendices

Appendix A – Governance Structure

List of Background Documents:

Executive Report 21st February 2006 – Cleaner Safer Stronger Fund

Executive Report 13th June 2006 – Neighbourhood Management Proposals

Executive Report 25th July 2006 – Neighbourhood Management Boundary

List of Consultees:

Corporate Team, Catherine Nicholson, Paul Robson, Hillary Mitchell, Eric Poole, Keith Parker, Joanne Walker
Cllr A Holliday