

## **SOCIAL INVESTMENT FUNDING**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor Hugh Branney  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Julie Betteridge, Head of Regeneration and Community  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Julie Betteridge

### **WHAT BENEFITS WILL THESE PROPOSALS BRING TO COPELAND RESIDENTS?**

Social investment resources will be used over five years to fund discretionary services to our residents around discretionary access to leisure and environmental improvements in the first two years (2014-16) and including financial and social inclusion related services in years 2 to 5 (2015-19).

### **WHY HAS THIS REPORT COME TO THE EXECUTIVE?**

(e.g. Key Decision, Policy recommendation for Full Council, at request of Council, etc.)  
Executive are being requested to agree the receipt and conditions of receiving an additional grant amount of £100,000 further to the request to agree the receipt and conditions of £400,000 per year at the March 2014 Executive.

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

Executive are asked to

- a) agree the receipt and approve the spend profile as set out in the report of an additional £100,000 social investment grant each year during 2014-2019 to the Council to deliver social conditions for growth.

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 As reported in March 2014, the Energy Coast West Cumbria (ECWC) Ltd Board agreed at its meeting in August 2013 to set up a Social Investment Fund of £1,000,000 per annum from April 2014. The two West Cumbria District Councils were invited to identify priorities for social investment funding resource to use the annual resource.
- 1.2 A Service Level Agreement was developed by ECWC and Copeland Council to set out the arrangements for the funding to each District Council which the council agreed at its meeting in March 2014. The funding is offered to enable social conditions for growth within each district area to underpin the West Cumbria Economic Blueprint.

## **2 PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 Copeland Borough Council set out their priorities for the social investment linked to three discretionary service areas to ensure social and environmental services that underpin the economic activity for sustained communities, to enable a healthy workforce and provide the conditions that assist companies and workers in recruiting and retaining staff to both live and work in the borough of Copeland.
- 2.2 The Executive at its meeting in March, 2014, received the detail of the Social Investment proposal to the Energy Coast to utilise £500,000 social investment funding and requested £400,000 of this resource to be received by the council for spend on the activities detailed in the paperwork attached to the report which included
  - a) the key data and evidence to support the focus of the social investment funding in Copeland;
  - b) the funding profile over the five years;
  - c) the detail for each of three priority areas including the output and outcomes.
- 2.3 The Council will be working in partnership with a local social enterprise, Works 4 You. The environmental improvements programme within the social investment priorities will be undertaken by Works 4 You offering training and employment opportunities within our disadvantaged communities against a licence from the Council for access to open spaces owned by the Council throughout the borough. Works 4 You currently undertake a range of employment initiatives and environmental improvement activity throughout the borough and will be working with local partners (Parishes, Copeland Council and the locality partnerships) to ensure maximum synergy of activity. All the social investment annual grant needs to be paid to the Council to enable the priorities to be delivered through the range of delivery models set out in the March 2014 Executive report appendices.
- 2.4 The social investment activity provided by the council will be managed in line with the Council's Performance Management systems and monitored on a quarterly basis. These quarterly reports will be provided to the funder along with an annual report on the full use of the social investment funding in Copeland including the environmental works programme.

## **3 CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 As highlighted in the March 2014 Executive report, Copeland Council has used its influence with the Energy Coast West Cumbria Partnership to get agreement to resources for social investment to underpin the Economic Blueprint across West Cumbria. The Copeland Borough Council's proposal for a minimum of £500,000 annual resource will enable Copeland based activities that complement the West

Cumbria Economic Blueprint. Our proposal is for five years in line with the commitments to delivery of social investment activities. The social inclusion activities already provided by the Council will be supported by this fund alongside additional programme activities in year 4 and 5 (2017-19). The annual monitoring and review of impact and delivery outcomes may result in amendments to the proposed use of the Social Investment Fund in Copeland.

- 3.2 The annual resource available will be received in total by the Council and used for Social investment priorities agreed with BEC and approved by the March 2014 Executive Meeting. The Executive are being asked to accept the receipt of an additional social investment grant of £100,000 per year from Energy Coast West Cumbria for the next five years on top of the £400,000 annual social investment grant receipt agreed at the March 2014 Executive Meeting to deliver the full £500,000 social investment activities as set out and agreed in the March 2014 Executive report.

## **5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 The social investment grant to the Council will be received as an annual grant in one sum at the beginning of each year. The reporting requirements are covered in 2.4. The grant will be used to resource discretionary services in support of social conditions for growth which in turn underpin the West Cumbria Economic Blueprint.

## **6. STATUTORY OFFICER COMMENTS**

- 6.1 The Monitoring Officer's comments are: No comments
- 6.2 The Section 151 Officer's comments are: The consequences and risks associated with the acceptance of these monies is discussed and commented upon in the Part 11 report.
- 6.3 EIA Comment: The Social Investment priorities for the Council will enable access to leisure and social inclusion support throughout the borough and to all residents alongside the delivery of an environmental improvement programme with employment and training outcomes for Copeland residents. There are specific measures already in place, for example, through the BeActive Plus card for Leisure, to enable residents on low incomes to access resources and services.
- 6.4 Policy Framework Comment: The Council through its policy led budget process in 2012/13 identified discretionary services essential to the economic and social wellbeing of residents. This funding programme enables resources to assist discretionary services seen as a priority for residents by Copeland Borough Council

to continue to be provided to underpin the social conditions for growth set out in the Economic Blueprint endorsed by the Council.

- 6.5 Other consultee comments, if any: Priorities have been identified by the Council's internal Change Board and supported in consultation with the Executive and Full Council as part of the budget setting process for 2014/15.

**7. HOW WILL THE PROPOSALS BE PROJECT MANAGED AND HOW ARE THE RISKS GOING TO BE MANAGED?**

- 7.1 The services provided by the Council will be managed through the existing routes and corporate framework. Services and strategic risk registers are in place and will be used to manage and mitigate risks.

**8 WHAT MEASURABLE OUTCOMES OR OUTPUTS WILL ARISE FROM THIS REPORT?**

- 8.1 The Council through its priorities for social investment resources from Energy Coast West Cumbria will be able to maintain discretionary service delivery in the three investment areas detailed above across the borough. This is directly in support of the social conditions which enable sustainable communities, deliver services which make the area more attractive to investors and workers locating and staying in the borough and support economic growth.

**List of Appendices**

None

**Background Documents**

Social Investment Fund 25<sup>th</sup> March 2014 Executive Report and minutes