

WORKING NEIGHBOURHOOD FUND

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Councillor Cath Giel, Portfolio Holder
LEAD OFFICER: Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy
REPORT AUTHOR: Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy

Summary and Recommendation:

The delivery against our working neighbourhood fund allocations is progressing effectively.

Executive are asked to approve the spend profile of an additional £85,126

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Council has previously agreed to the use of working neighbourhood fund to deliver some key priority areas of regeneration activity to enable increased opportunities for local residents to engage and participate in activities to enhance their prosperity and that of the borough's communities. These priority areas are:
- Regeneration plan developments (200k);
 - Locality working (£500k);
 - Addressing worklessness (£1m);
 - Community Initiatives (£280k);
 - South Whitehaven Neighbourhood Management (£720k).

2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 The Department for Communities and Local Government announced in December, 2009, the final allocations of Area Based Grant for 2009/10. Copeland will receive an additional £85,126 (in addition to the £1,000,000 included in the Council's Revenue Budget) in respect of the Working Neighbourhood Fund. There are a number of opportunities that have been assessed to best ensure maximising the additional benefit to our existing programme from this additional grant resource.

(a) Our worklessness interventions, particularly the Copeland future jobs fund initiative are developing well. A further £50,000 into the worklessness fund to commission additional activity for 2010-12 will boost the work with local residents as recession continues to impact on our unemployment numbers.

(b) In line with our joint health improvement post and work in localities there is a strong argument to focus community safety attention both internally to enable the council to fully embed its section 17 commitments to community safety considerations particularly in frontline services and to expand the existing external activity in communities working closely with the police and local communities on some key target areas set out in the CDRP workplan namely reducing burglary, anti social behaviour and domestic violence. The proposal is to intensify the activity of the community safety officer in Copeland to full time for one year only ie 2010/11 at a cost of £20,000. This will be reported to Resources Planning Working Group in January 2010 for inclusion in the revenue budget proposal for 2010/11.

(c) We continue to deliver on our regeneration plan priorities and continue to require feasibility and small project resources to enable local developments. It is proposed to add an additional £10,000 to this resource.

(d) Finally, we have not set aside any resource to assist us run a series of evaluation activities and events at the end of the Working Neighbourhood Fund programme, ie September 2011 to March 2012. We propose the modest sum of £5,126 with the use of existing officers to project manage and write up the evaluation findings.

3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Executive are asked to agree to the spend profile for the additional grant sum as outlined in 2.1.

4. CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 The council has set out its commitment to the underlying principles of using the working neighbourhood fund to deliver projects within its communities in particular in general neighbourhood renewal and specific skills and work and improving conditions to assist residents improve their job prospects and quality of life. Allocating this additional resource as proposed continues with this commitment.

5. FINANCIAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOURCES OF FINANCE)

- 5.1 The additional Area Based Grant award for 2009/10 will be reported through the Quarter 3 budget monitoring report to Executive. The Area Based Grant is not determined by government as a ring-fenced revenue grant and can be used by the Council to support revenue activities as it determines priorities. The Council has set aside specific earmarked

reserves to support working neighbourhood activities, to match the WNF allocation as part of its medium term financial planning, and the application of the additional grant as set out in this report is consistent with this prioritisation.

- 5.2 The Community Safety Officer is employed by Cumbria County Council but is currently working half time in Copeland through an annual financial commitment from Copeland Borough Council. This arrangement will continue but with the worker based full time within Copeland for 2010/11.

6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 The project of delivering the working neighbourhood fund is within the Copeland Regeneration Plan programme and project delivery framework.

7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN

- 7.1 Continues to deliver on the two key strands, improving quality of life and promoting prosperity. The additional resources will specifically impact on assisting residents access skills and work opportunities and enable communities to actively engage in local initiatives and shape service delivery.
- 7.2 The council has a commitment to value for money and aims to evaluate and understand its activities impact within its community which the evaluation element will offer.

List of Appendices

Appendix A: Existing WNF commitments table

List of Background Documents: WNF previous exec reports

List of Consultees: Cllr Cath Giel, Cllr Elaine Woodburn, Cllr Norman Williams, Corporate Team,

CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES

Impact on Crime and Disorder	WNF will be used to support community safety initiatives in local neighbourhoods in 2010/11.
Impact on Sustainability	Supports sustained activity in our disadvantaged neighbourhoods.
Impact on Rural Proofing	Resources will be used throughout the borough localities.
Health and Safety Implications	Supports

Project and Risk Management	The WNF is within an existing project and risk management framework.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Fully supports in line with a level of targeting to communities at most disadvantage.
Children and Young Persons Implications	Supports
Human Rights Act Implications	Supports
Monitoring Officer Comments	Proposals are in line with the position described in 5.1.
Section 151 Officer Comments	As set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report.

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision YES

Appendix A Existing WNF commitments

Overview

<i>Detail</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>Actual</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>	<i>Budget</i>
		<i>2008/9</i>	<i>2009/10</i>	<i>2010/11</i>	<i>2011/12</i>
	£	£	£	£	£
Regeneration Strategy Development	200,000		121,610	52,195	26,195
SWNMI	720,000	460,000	260,000		
Locality Working	500,000		111,278	248,797	139,925
Worklessness Fund	1,000,000		220,000	700,000	80,000
Community Initiatives Pot	280,000		134,000	134,000	12,000
10% Management Fee	300,000				
Total	3,000,000	460,000	846,888	1,134,992	258,120