

NEIGHBOURHOOD RENEWAL PROPOSALS

EXECUTIVE MEMBER: Cllr G Clements, Cllr A Holliday
LEAD OFFICER: Mike Tichford
REPORT AUTHOR: Brian Kirkbride

Summary: To present to members the Neighbourhood Renewal Proposals for South Whitheaven and Hensingham and to seek endorsement to advertise for a dedicated Manager.

Recommendation: That Members agree the following:

1. To approve the draft delivery plan outlining the implementation of Neighbourhood Management in the wards of Sandwith, Mirehouse and Hensingham.
2. To appoint a Neighbourhood Manager as detailed in the job profile detailed in Appendix 1.

Impact on delivering the Corporate Plan: Neighbourhood Renewal is an Initiative supported by the Government Office to target investment and public services to address communities in the most deprived wards. The Initiative will help deliver against a number of the councils key objectives.

Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21): The Neighbourhood Renewal Initiative will have a direct impact on addressing Crime, Health and Housing standards within the targeted wards and helping the Council achieve its statutory objectives.

Financial and human resource implications: Approval has been agreed through the Government Office to support Copeland Neighbourhood Renewal 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 £413,000 for 2006/07 has been agreed and offer confirmed to Copeland Borough Council.

This proposal is 100% funded and has no impact on the Council's own finances.

Project & Risk Management: The funding is specifically revenue based and will be managed in line with Copeland's financial regulations. The greatest risk in delivering the Initiative is ensuring that the appropriate and skilled Manager is in post to drive forward the programme over the next 4 years. Risk Management of elements of the project will be undertaken by the Neighbourhood Manager once in post.

Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** Yes The Chair of the Economic Well Being Group has been informed
- **Ward:** N/A

Other Ward Implications: None

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Government Office for the North West announced in 2005 that Copeland would be eligible for elements of Neighbourhood Renewal Funding this was subsequently confirmed in an offer letter dated 21st July 2006. Copeland has been allocated resources from the Safer and Stronger Communities Fund specifically the Neighbourhood Element £1,599,600 and the Cleaner Safer Greener Element £2,100,000. The allocation of these resources has been on the basis of Sandwith Ward being in the top 3% of the Index of Multiple Deprivation and therefore it is expected that the significant resources would ultimately have greatest benefit to this area although it is recognised by Government Office that a wider geographical area would be more pragmatic to administer which is why the proposals include surrounding communities in South Whitehaven.
- 1.2 South Whitehaven Single Regeneration Budget Programme is now entering its final year of delivery and is due to complete on 31st March 2007 following a seven year investment programme. The Neighbourhood Management Initiative in association with the Cleaner Safer Greener investment, previously reported to the Executive on the 21st February 2006, will form the future basis of ongoing investment in Copelands most deprived ward of Sandwith and will enable further targeting of areas known to have localised issues of Crime, Health and poor educational achievement.
- 1.3 It is envisaged that the Government model of Neighbourhood Management will be further developed and will form the basis of future localised delivery of services to meet the demands of communities.

2. DRAFT DELIVERY PLAN

- 2.1 The formulation of a Draft Delivery Plan has been undertaken which identifies the Objectives/Targets and proposed use of resources over the next four years. The allocation of resources is still under review with the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership although it has been agreed that Copeland can go ahead with the appointment of a Neighbourhood Manager as a matter of priority to move the Initiative forward.
- 2.2 Consultation with ward members of the designated areas and the South Whitehaven Partnership are to be held in early June to ensure that all parties are aware of the requirements within the delivery plan and their role in supporting implementation.
- 2.3 It is a requirement of the Neighbourhood Management model that a dedicated board is established to oversee delivery and to ensure that public service resources are targeted in the manner required. It is agreed that the existing South Whitehaven Partnership structure will form the basis of this new board although additional members and key stakeholders will be sought to strengthen the existing governance structure.
- 2.4 A copy of the Draft Delivery plan is available for member to view in the Members Room.

3. NEIGHBOURHOOD MANAGER

- 3.1 In order to ensure delivery a designated Neighbourhood Manager needs to be appointed the post will have direct links to the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership as it is envisaged that Neighbourhood Managers in Whitehaven and Workington will report directly to a newly created officer post on the Strategic Partnership.
- 3.2 In order for South Whitehaven and Hensingham to progress Neighbourhood Management in the interim approval is sought to appoint a designated Manager who would report in the interim to the Community Renewal Manager within the Regeneration Unit.
- 3.3 The detailed Job Profile for the post is attached at Appendix 1, this has been approved by the West Cumbria Strategic Partnership on 27th March 2006.

4 CONCLUSIONS

- 4.1 Funding has been allocated to support Neighbourhood Management starting this financial year in order to commence delivery of Neighbourhood Management a draft delivery plan has been developed and agreement now sought to appoint a Manager.

List of Appendices

[Appendix A – Job Profile for Neighbourhood Manager](#)

List of Background Documents:

Executive Report 21st February 2006 – Cleaner Safer Stronger Fund

List of Consultees:

Corporate Team, Catherine Nicholson, Paul Robson, Hillary Mitchell, Keith Parker