

**EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVES FUND**

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Cllr Elaine Woodburn  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Fergus McMorrow, Corporate Director (Economic Prosperity and Sustainability)  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Fergus McMorrow

**Summary:** To advise members of BNG Community Fund allocation to support Town Centre Programmes and Projects.

<b>Recommendation:</b>	The Executive is recommended to agree: <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. to note the receipt of the funding and the criteria for use.</li><li>2. to agree the allocation between towns.</li></ol>
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**Impact on delivering Copeland 2020 objectives:** Key objective in this year's Corporate Plan is increasing job numbers in our town centres.

The principle aim of the MTIs and town-based regeneration programmes is to stimulate Economic Regeneration principally focusing on creating jobs, Enterprise Development Business Growth, Built Environment Improvements and skills development, all of which complement the Council's Regeneration Strategies.

**Impact on other statutory objectives (e.g. crime & disorder, LA21):** Improved economic prosperity has an indirect impact on health and crime and disorder and sustainability.

**Financial and human resource implications:** This is additional funding to supplement existing sources of funding adding value to the existing and emerging regeneration initiatives. It will be linked to helping to lever other sources of money for projects already seeking funding complementing funds already approved or being applied for from West Lakes Renaissance, ERDF and through the Market Town Initiatives programme (in the case of Millom and Egremont).

Development and delivery of specific projects will be the responsibility of designated Council staff - the MTI Managers for Millom and Egremont and the Manager at The Beacon. In the case of Cleator Moor this responsibility will rest with the newly appointed Regeneration Manager.

For these reasons there will be little additional human resource requirement to achieve the additional expenditure and there will be a time saving in the need to find alternative funding sources.

**Project & Risk Management:** As per relevant existing programmes. The BNG funding needs to be spent by April 2007. Only projects that are deliverable within this timescale will be proposed for support.

## Key Decision Status

- **Financial:** Yes
- **Ward:** None

**Other Ward Implications:** None

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Following proposals made to BNG to use an element of their Community Fund to support projects in town centres. An amount of £200,000 has been secured and deposited in the Councils Employment Initiatives Fund. This report advises members of latest developments.

## 2. FUNDING ALLOCATION

- 2.1 It has been agreed with BNG as part of the negotiations that the funding will be split four ways with £50,000 being allocated to support projects in each of, Whitehaven, Egremont, Cleator Moor and Millom.
- 2.2 At this stage proposals for use of the funding in Egremont and Whitehaven are well-developed . (Egremont Gateways and The Beacon). Proposals for specific projects in Millom and Cleator Moor are less well-defined at this stage but it is anticipated that they will be forthcoming shortly following further consultation with their respective regeneration partnerships.
- 2.3 The agreed criteria for the use of this funding is as follows:

Leverage of other funds must be demonstrated

The funding must be spent this financial year.

The projects must be part off the overall economic regeneration of the towns and should comply with existing Programmes and strategies

The money should be spent on job creation or infrastructure projects that supported future economic development or job creation.

We will need to prepare an end of year report, (by the middle of March) setting out how the objectives above have been achieved especially outputs and leverage.

- 2.4 There is a report on this agenda setting out proposals to use the Whitehaven allocation to fill a Beacon funding gap and the Egremont allocation will be presented to the Executive on the 5<sup>th</sup> September as part of the funding package that is being assembled to deliver the Egremont Gateways project.

## List of Appendices

### List of Background Documents:

### List of Consultees: