

## CONNECTED COMMUNITIES – BOROUGHWIDE ACTIVITY

**EXECUTIVE MEMBER:** Councillor John Bowman  
**LEAD OFFICER:** Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy  
**REPORT AUTHOR:** Julie Betteridge, Head of Development Strategy

### Summary and Recommendation:

The Council has been successful in being one of the four fast track areas in the North West for the Governments Connected Communities Intensive Local Engagement Initiative. We have now been invited to apply for additional targeted engagement resources to complement our fast track work in North East Copeland in other areas of the borough.

Executive are requested to:

- a) Note the purpose and detail of the additional targeted engagement resources and our partnership approach to assessing and developing local engagement projects;
- b) Approve the spend of external grant of £35,000 in 2009/10 against a package of project activities set out in Appendix A .

## 1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 North West Together We Can, NWTWC, has received funding from Communities and Local Government (CLG) for Targeted Support to complement Connecting Communities Programme in the four fast track areas in the North West of England, including Copeland. The £88,200 grant from CLG for Intensive Local Engagement activities in North East Copeland was agreed by Executive in January 2010.
- 1.2 The additional funding from NWTWC is for activities that will take place between **January - March 2010**.
- 1.3 The aim of Connecting Communities is for service providers and community leaders to work together to engage more deeply with communities in partnership with the voluntary and community sectors, particularly where that has been unsuccessful in the past.

## 2. ARGUMENT

- 2.1 Copeland Borough Council and its Connecting Communities partners have undertaken an assessment of where opportunities and capacity exist to enable some additional activity to be delivered within the aims and tight timescale of the NWTWC funding.

- 2.2 Bids have been developed by Council officers working closely with community partners and made to NWTWC for three areas of activity:

A	Revitalising Community Spaces	£10,000
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8 community spaces /buildings will be enhanced making these more attractive places for the local community. All projects will be community owned and will strengthen confidence and joint working in communities thus underpinning the aims of Connecting Communities and locality partnership developments.

B	Beach Advisory Group Development Project	£5,000
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Working with 5 beach advisory groups in Copeland communities to build capacity within the groups, enable local engagement through beach activity and develop a sustainable support and development network.

C	Youth Engagement Film Projects	£20,000
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Four youth projects around the borough will each work with an independent film maker to reflect youth issues within their specific area / locality. The films will be used to enable further engagement and project development with young people. Each youth project will be allocated a budget of £5,000, £4,000 per film and £1,000 for support and exhibition costs.

- 2.3 The detailed programme against which the money is allocated has been agreed with NWTWC and the delivery detail is being finalised with partners.

### 3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED

- 3.1 Our success in being one of the four fast track Intensive Local Engagement initiatives is now enabling the offer of additional resources for complementary engagement activities outside of the North East Copeland locality. We had two options: a) to bid using the outcome of our partnership approach for projects able to deliver within the tight timescale; or b) decline to engage with the additional resources due to the tight timescale. Our analysis of projects and partners engagement and the

risks on meeting delivery conditions led us to put in three bids as detailed in 2.2 above.

- 3.2 Our bids have been made and we have received an offer letter for all three projects.
- 3.3 The preparations to deliver the projects within the tight timeframe have been undertaken and arrangements and project plans are in place.
- 3.4 The outcomes of the projects are important to local communities and offer:
  - Capacity building within local existing organisations to deliver longer term initiatives and enable greater influence and local engagement;
  - Builds partnership working in communities to engage local people and uses existing agencies active in Copeland localities;
  - Focus on engaging young people through creative routes;
  - Increase opportunities for volunteering;
  - Links to NI4 - % people who feel they can influence decisions in their locality;
  - Links to NI5 – overall / general satisfaction with the area;
  - Share learning with other localities and how existing engagement structures can be refreshed to enable stronger engagement from local people and groups.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is leading this initiative and working closely with partners to deliver the engagement projects and integrate the outcomes into the locality partnership activity.
- 4.2 The Executive are requested to approve the spend detail against the £35,000 grant offer. The projected spend detail against each initiative activity is attached at appendix A.

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

- 5.1 The council has a grant offer for all three projects, ie £35,000. The grant has been provided against the agreed activity elements in appendix A. A standard grant letter setting out conditions and monitoring arrangements is in place between NWTWC (through Stockport Council) and Copeland Borough Council as the responsible delivery body.

## **6. PROJECT AND RISK MANAGEMENT**

- 6.1 Each project is a partnership initiative which will be project managed and co-ordinated by our locality team and community regeneration officer. A risk assessment has been undertaken for each of the projects.

## **7. IMPACT ON CORPORATE PLAN**

- 7.1 Locality working developments will be greatly enhanced by the opportunity afforded by this additional resource to explore and facilitate local engagement projects to connect better with our local communities and residents.

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - Targeted Support funding linked to Connecting Communities - Project Budget Allocation March 2010

**List of Background Documents:** project application forms

**List of Consultees:** Cllr John Bowman, Cllr Elaine WOODBURN, cllr Keith Hitchin, Corporate Team, Jonathan Marriott, Diane Ward, Simon Walker, Sarah Mitchell

### **CHECKLIST FOR DEALING WITH KEY ISSUES**

Please confirm against the issue if the key issues below have been addressed . This can be by either a short narrative or quoting the paragraph number in the report in which it has been covered.

Impact on Crime and Disorder	Activities undertaken will impact positively on community safety activities.
Impact on Sustainability	The initiative is building on mechanisms for sustained community engagement in local areas and communities.
Impact on Rural Proofing	The projects will engage with rural communities.
Health and Safety Implications	Supports
Project and Risk Management	The project is an integrated element of the locality pilot activity and project managed within this framework.
Impact on Equality and Diversity Issues	Fully supports engagement from the wider community and will enable joint working across community interests.

Children and Young Persons Implications	Focus and activity with engaging young people.
Human Rights Act Implications	Supports
Monitoring Officer Comments	Subject to compliance with the grant conditions there are no legal implications
Section 151 Officer Comments	Additional grant funding to be reflected in amended approved revenue budget. Expenditure has to be achieved by 31st March

Please say if this report will require the making of a Key Decision    No

Appendix 1:

Targeted Support funding linked to Connecting Communities - Project Budget  
Allocation March 2010

Project	Detail of spend	March 2010 Budget
Film project x 4 youth projects £5,00 per youth film project	Fees, workshops, follow up events and support to young people	20,000
Beach Advisory Group Development Project	Meetings with each group £ 500 Group set up costs £ 300 Promotional literature £ 700 Beach Activity £2,500 Network/forward planning £1,000	5,000
Revitalising Community Spaces	8 x Small physical community led projects: North East Copeland £4,000 Howgate and Distington £2,000 Millom £2,000 Egremont £2,000	10,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>35,000</b>

