

**CONNECTED COMMUNITIES  
INTENSIVE LOCAL ENGAGEMENT – NORTH EAST COPELAND**

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

**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. This offers additional focus and resource to underpin our direct work to engage our residents and communities in their locality issues and with service providers.

Executive are requested to:

- a) Note the aim and progress in delivering an intense partnership approach to local engagement in one of our locality pilot areas; and
- b) Approve the spend of external grant of £88,200 against a package of activities set out in appendix A including grant payments to local partners.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 Copeland Borough Council and Cumbria County Council actively pursued Connecting Communities funding in order to carry out a period of Intensive Local Engagement (ILE) in Cleator Moor and we have been selected as one of four fast track areas in the north west of England.
- 1.2 The aim of Connecting Communities is for service providers and community leaders to work together to engage more deeply with communities, particularly where that has been unsuccessful in the past.

**2. ARGUMENT**

- 2.1 Copeland Borough Council deliberately engaged with this initiative to enable some additional attention and resources to underpin the locality working pilots and enable the Regen Partnership in North East Copeland (RNEC) to creatively engage with communities and residents on a range of issues within the locality. Through this intensive engagement process, and the learning it provides, the locality plan for North East Copeland will

be updated and expanded, to cover needs and aspirations across the board.

- 2.2 CBC, CCC and RNEC will be working with a range of local partners, particularly third sector groups, including for example, Phoenix Youth Project, Home Housing and Cleator Moor Credit Union, who are both participating with and leading elements of a package of activities. These activities will build on existing arrangements to provide a mix of events, participatory actions to encourage active engagement, and discussions along with advice, training and good practice sharing to look at improvements and new ways of engaging and delivering.
- 2.3 The detailed programme against which the money is allocated has been agreed with GONW and the delivery detail is being finalised with partners. The activities focus on:
  - Young People
  - Employment
  - Financial inclusion
  - Health
  - Housing
  - Built and Green Environment

### **3. OPTIONS TO BE CONSIDERED**

- 3.1 Our success in being one of the four fast track Intensive Local Engagement initiatives has provided additional resources to deliver the initiative. This has two elements: a) a one off grant of £88,200 against our stated requirements set out in our funding application, and b) the support of up to four Local Improvement Advisors to be provided through a mechanism set up by GONW.
- 3.2 The programme is starting with early discussions with identified partners and is co-ordinated by our locality team, drawing in other relevant staff around themed engagement. A number of the activities will be led by local partners and they will be provided with the relevant budget. Connecting Communities will run until March 2010.
- 3.3 The outcomes of the initiative will offer learning to other localities and is expected to explore how existing engagement structures can be refreshed to enable stronger engagement from local people and groups. A full report of the outcomes will be produced at the end of the initiative.

#### **4. CONCLUSIONS**

- 4.1 The Council is leading this initiative and working closely with county officers to look at the way that the County and Borough Councils with partners in parishes and other service providers communicate with customers and engage and encourage participation in a range of activities including locality governance, community planning and service and project development and delivery.
- 4.2 The Executive are requested to approve the spend detail against the £88,200 grant received, including a mix of up front grants to local partners to deliver activities and project management of other elements by our locality team. 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 is already in receipt of the £88,200. The grant has been provided against the agreed activity elements in appendix A which also details where this activity will be managed by a local partner through receipt of the relevant grant in advance to fund this activity. A standard grant letter setting out conditions and monitoring arrangements will accompany the paying of forward activity grant payments.

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

- 6.1 This is a partnership initiative project managed and co-ordinated by our locality team. A joint North East Copeland County and District members panel will meet three times during the initiative to oversee the project detail and enable effective working linkages and sustainability of activity through existing mechanisms. A risk assessment has been undertaken for the initiative.

#### **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 intensive local engagement to connect better with our local communities and residents.

#### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A - **\_Connecting Communities - Project Budget Allocation Jan to June 2010**

**List of Background Documents: TAAP**

**List of Consultees: Cllr John Bowman, North East Copeland  
Councillors, Corporate Team, Jonathan Marriott,**

**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 the locality.                   |
| Impact on Rural Proofing                | The town and parish councils are engaged with the initiative.  |
| 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             | The terms of the grant letter will need to be considered by legal services.                                    |
| Section 151 Officer Comments            | The grant has been received by the Council in line with the grant letter.                                      |

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

**Appendix A Connecting Communities - Project Budget Allocation January to June 2010**

| Project  | Detail of spend  | Budget        | Jan-Mc        | Apr-Jun       | Notes   |
|--|--|---------------|---------------|---------------|---|
| Film project   | Fees, equipment, workshops   | 11,000        | 8,000         | 3,000         | Equipment assets (eg hand held video cameras) to benefit Copeland nfp orgs<br>Commissioned activity   |
| Youth Forum  | Event and Evaluation   | 3,000         | 1,000         | 2,000         | Local provider - grant  |
|  | Survey work  | 15,000        | 7,500         | 7,500         | consultancy work - half in advance, half on completion. Local provider - grant  |
| Jobs Fair  | Event and publicity costs  | 5,000         | 3,000         | 2,000         | Potential for follow up fair or to tour to other areas later in year. Sum may be high, if so, additional funding for CMCU project below. Local provider - grant |
| Enhanced Health Impact Assessment                    |  | 10,000        | 5,000         | 5,000         | consultancy work - half in advance, half on completion. Commissioned activity   |
| Supporting Parishes                                  | To enable parish gathers for refreshing of plans                           | 10,000        | 10,000        |               | Grant to parishes on agreement of costed proposals.   |
| Neighbourhood Forum                                  | 2 Events and materials   | 3,000         | 1,500         | 1,500         | Split over two N Forums CCC lead  |
| Joint locality level communication publication trial | Additional start up costs to existing separate provision                   | 15,000        | 7,500         | 7,500         |   |
| Financial Inclusion                                  | Support for Credit Union Activities  | 5,000         | 5,000         |               | Grant to CMCU to create a digital access point and to train clients. See Jobs fair above  |
| Focus Groups   |  | 1,200         | 600           | 600           |   |
| Training and Facilitation                            | Across target issues, figure may vary once details of LIA package is known | 10,000        | 4,000         | 6,000         | Commissioned activity, local provision where possible.  |
| <b>TOTAL</b>   |  | <b>88,200</b> | <b>53,100</b> | <b>35,100</b> |   |